

From: Lena Merrell
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 4:54 PM
To: House Education
Subject: OPPOSED TO HB 382

Dear Members of the House Education Committee; Monday I attended the joint session to override Governor Dunleavy's veto of 140 to fund education. And some of you spoke of being dedicated to improving academic outcomes and funding education more effectively. Then today, I see that you are hearing HB 382, which will force the outing of LGBTQ+ youth and further burdens our already strained and underpaid teachers. This is yet another bill pandering to hate and fear, without any acknowledgement of how vital having a safe space for kids to be themselves is for their mental health and physical safety. Requiring schools to notify parents if a kiddo wants to use a different name or pronoun is a forced outing of that student. It does not make schools safer; rather, they remove schools as the only safe space for many LGBTQ+ youth. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. This bill will severely harm the mental health of LGBTQ+ students by denying their existence and perpetuating stigma and discrimination, which puts LGBTQ+ youth at greater risk for bullying, depression, and suicide. HB 382 would require school governing bodies to adopt procedures that prohibit students from using facilities aligned with their gender. This is not only a blatantly discriminatory provision that makes schools unsafe for LGBTQ+ youth, but also will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing peers, educators, and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not. Much like HB 183- this creates a slippery slope inviting wildly inappropriate adult/child interactions and policing of childrens' genitals IN SCHOOLS. All youth deserve to feel safe at school with adults they trust. Hopefully their parents are part of the team supporting each and every child, but in situations where that isn't the case, teachers, counselors and coaches play a vital role in supporting our children.

Please spend your precious time and energy on appropriately funding education, which hasn't been done for years, instead of spending time on hateful, flawed and legally questionable bills that attack a minority and do nothing to improve education outcomes.

Thank you,
Lena Merrell, Juneau Alaska

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Lexi Curtis

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:17 PM

To: House Education

Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

I am a graduate student who is aspiring to be a school counselor here in the state of AK.

HB 382 would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room.

Furthermore, it is completely unethical to tell anyone what has been spoken about in confidence in a counseling setting, and the revealing of private conversations of a student with a trusted adult would break so much trust and confidentiality.

No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. Please oppose HB 382.

Sincerely,
Lexi Curtis

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Rebecca Fitz-Gibbon

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:21 PM

To: House Education

Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

HB 382 would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. Please oppose HB 382.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Fitz-Gibbon

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Lola Guritz
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:26 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

As an LGBTQ+ individual in high school, this bill would make it so much harder for youth today to be safe from harm. It is already difficult enough for people to come out, and students like me should be able to count on someone to keep us safe if our parents cannot.

HB 382 would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. Please oppose HB 382.

Sincerely,
Lola Guritz
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] behalf of Colin Fitz-Gibbon
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:27 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

HB 382 would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. Please oppose HB 382.

Sincerely,
Colin Fitz-Gibbon
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 8:00 PM
To: House Education
Subject: VOTE NO HB 382

Hello,

My name is Lisa Gonzales, I am a resident of Girdwood, AK, and I am writing in opposition to HB 382. No young LGBTQ+ person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their identity with their family in their own time. Please vote no on HB 382.

Thank you,
Lisa Gonzales

From: Lin Davis <[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 8:29 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 382 Strongly Oppose

Dear Education Committee:

Thank you for taking public testimony.

Let's stand back and observe HB 382 and the huge national effort to move this exact proposal through most state legislatures.

Can HB 382 improve Alaskan education? Targeting a small group of kids will not improve any educational outcomes.

In states moving forward with this kind of government control, we see trans youth vilified. There has been a student death and many unanswered questions in Oklahoma regarding Nex.

HB 382 is extreme government control over a few students. But.....it menaces everyone- trans kids, LGBTQ+, all female athletes and the extra scrutiny they will always face.

Studies show youth despair on the rise. We all worry about increasing suicide. Cruel and mean, government control like HB 382. Nothing educational, nurturing or inspirational about HB 382.

HB 382 will bring a venomous environment to parents of trans girls, and friends of trans girls. Kids can't learn when they don't feel safe and when they can't talk confidentially with teachers or school counselors.

It is likely that our AK school districts and their leaking roofs and laid off teachers will incur expensive legal challenges if HB 382 becomes law: the Alaskan Constitution provides strong rights to privacy. Also equal protection. Schools may also be liable for unreasonable search methods. Title 9 infractions may also cost school districts.

Please focus on student learning. Just say no to extreme ideas that have nothing to do with excellent K-12 education.

Lin Davis
Juneau

From: Maureen Longworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 8:50 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Oppose HB 382

As an Alaskan physician of over thirty years the National Academies of Family Physicians and Psychiatrists and Pediatrics and OB/GYN's and Internists AND the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians have all voted based on research, experience and scientific evidence in support of health in our communities to always vote for equality and normalization and support of students, youth and adults in all our communities and support equality and diversity. So I strongly oppose HB 382 and ask that you do the same.

In addition our education funds are so limited let's not tie more state money into divisive illegal practices that will surely take precious state dollars to defend in the courts. Your job is to be fiscally responsible to our students' education. Don't waste their money chasing this discriminatory endeavor.

Thank you,
Maureen Longworth, MD
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99702
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Maureen Longworth
Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Monica Claridge

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 8:53 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

Children that are a part of the LGBTQ + community are at a much higher risk for suicide than their peers. HB 382 would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. This could be a matter of life or death. Please oppose HB 382.

Sincerely,
Monica Claridge
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Sandra Garity [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:14 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

HB 382 would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. Please oppose HB 382.

It is your responsibility to protect these people, not make their lives worse.

Sincerely,
Sandra Garity

From: Sandra Garity [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:46 PM
To: Rep. Cathy Tilton; House Education; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. Justin Ruffridge
Subject: HB382

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB382.

I find this another attack on the LGBTQ+ youth that are just trying to live their lives.

It seems you keep stacking issues on them, it is no wonder they find suicide as their way out.

Please oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Sandra Garity

Homer, AK

From: RJ Fontaine [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:26 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Writing to Oppose HB 382

Hello,

My mother told me stories growing up about her childhood in Soviet Russia, where the government would require citizens (like teachers, or care workers) to breach each others' privacy & sell each other out in order to stay alive. The trauma from those experiences, seeing peers go missing or get abused or commit suicide over things the Soviet regime deemed unacceptable - that trauma is deeply ingrained into my upbringing. The antidote, for my mom, was America. But now your behavior echoes the Soviet government that she came here in hope of escaping from. I am an American citizen born and raised in Alaska. If I did not have privacy to ask questions in school, confide in a professional counselor, feel safe to develop my identity (CRUCIAL IN ADOLESCENCE) when I was growing up in Wasilla, I wouldn't be alive today. I am a successful woman who works in service of my the community here. Do you serve the community, or just your church or just your political next step or just your personal agenda? Alaska needs EVERYONE to have the chance to become a resilient adult. Look at our workforce. Whatever will motivate you to listen. Please let me appeal to your most baseline kindergarten lesson: kindness. Be kind. Stop wasting time and energy on harming children with discriminatory, unconstitutional and un-Alaskan, un-American HB 382.

OPPOSE HB 382 please. You're setting a dangerous and insidious precedent with this.

-RJ Fontaine-McHendry
Anchorage, AK

From: M. Silvia Capezio [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 6:52 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Opposition to HB382

My name is Maria Capezio Crookes, I am a resident of Anchorage (ZIP 99504) and I am emailing today in opposition of HB 382.

Forcefully outing children to their families is dangerous. Disclosing information that a person is no ready to offer, is a violation of there personhood. So many LGBTQ kids are verbally and physically abused by unsupoorting families! And some are not ready.

We need to stop trying to regulate things that we don't like or don't agree with. As a parent, I am tired of defending mine and my children's rights from this "parent's rights" bills.

Focus on funding our schools.

Please, vote no on HB382.

Maria Capezio Crookes

UMC Deaconess
Anchorage

From: Allison Paskin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 7:19 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Opposition of HB 382

Dear Alaska Representatives,

My name is Allison Paskin. I am a resident of JBER and I am writing in opposition to HB 382.

In a perfect world, children would talk to their parents about everything in their lives and would feel safe and nurtured. Sadly, that is not the case. Many LGBTQ+ young people face violence at home and are threatened or actually kicked out of their houses because of the extreme hate and ignorance towards LGBTQ+ people.

Trans kids with at least 1 supportive person in their life have a 40% less chance of attempting suicide. Educators have the ability to save lives, just by letting these students be themselves.

Forcing educators to “out” students WILL KILL THEM. Plain and simple. Don’t let that blood be on the hands of our Alaska educators.

And another bathroom bill? Come on. Enough. You know what happens in school bathrooms? Violence, vandalism, vaping. You know what doesn’t happen? Transgender students causing problems. Let trans kids go to the bathroom where they feel safe. It has never been a problem and it will continue not being a problem.

Leave our LGBTQ+ students alone. Let them thrive and learn and grow.

Thank you,
Allison Paskin

(she/her)

From: Mary Szatkowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 7:44 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Oppose HB 382

I am writing in opposition to HB 382. HB 382 would forcibly out LGBTQ students, violating their basic right to privacy and putting many in danger. How, when, and to whom somebody comes out is incredibly personal. Unfortunately for many students, coming out to their parents can lead to hostility, abuse, or homelessness. Being able to confide in trusted adults, such as coaches or teachers, helps LGBTQ students build a network of support and confidence as they navigate through adolescence.

Mary Szatkowski, Fairbanks.

From: Susan A <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 7:51 AM
To: House Education; Rep. Frank Tomaszewski; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: HB 382

HB 382

I strongly oppose the harassment, discrimination, violations of privacy rights, the refusal of healthcare, the refusal of mental healthcare, and bullying of children.

That is exactly what this bill does, and it sets up parents for having children removed from their homes NOT protected.

I am continually disgusted and disappointed in the choices of inequality and inequitable spreading across Alaska. We do not make laws on beliefs. Policies like this are exactly why families are fleeing this state, and I do not blame them.

Thank you
Susan Allmeroth
Two Rivers
Myself

From: Danika Ulrich [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 7:52 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Hb 382

Dear Elected Officials,

My name is Danika Sanders from Palmer, Alaska. HB 382 threatens student trust and safety by mandating notification for student mental health discussions by those that might not be invested in their wellbeing. School counselors provide crucial confidential support, especially for our LGBTQ+ youth. Additionally, HB 382 mandates that school governing bodies prevent students from using facilities that match their gender identity. This is point blank discriminatory, endangering the safety of LGBTQ+ youth and violating privacy by requiring school staff to check if students are transgender. We must prioritize students wellbeing and uphold their right to seek help without fear. Oppose HB 382 and protect our children's right to a nurturing and inclusive environment.

Best wishes, warmest regards

Danika Sanders

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Jessica VanAusdal [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 9:41 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 382

My name is Jessica VanAusdal and I reside in Palmer.

I am writing in opposition to HB 382.

There are several concerning things in this bill. The first is the forced outing of trans student to their parents. The second is the forced notification of parents if students talk to school counselors about their mental health. The third is forcing schools to implement bathroom bans.

As much as we would like to pretend otherwise, not every home is a safe place for students. Students deserve privacy, even from their parents. If a student wishes to discuss their gender identity or mental health with their parents, they are free to do so. If they wish not to, that wish should be honored.

Studies have shown that the sooner a trans person is able to transition (which can mean simply going by a different name and pronouns), the better mental health they will have throughout their life. Sometimes, school is the only place where a student can be themselves. And having supportive adults in their life is also a benefit to their mental health. Teachers and councilors can serve as supportive adults who honor their student's identities.

If a student doesn't want their parents to know about their gender identity or mental health, there is usually a very good reason, and their wishes should be honored, not circumvented.

Also, students should also be able to use the bathroom without having their bodies policed. Bathroom bans inevitably lead to the policing of bodies, especially girl's bodies that don't appear to be feminine enough. Let students pee in peace.

Please, for the good and safety of our students, vote no on HB 382.

From: K Chavez
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 10:06 AM
To: Rep. Ben Carpenter; House Education; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Justin Ruffridge; Rep. Cathy Tilton
Subject: OPPOSE TO HB 382

I vehemently oppose HB 382. It will INTENTIONALLY and severely harm the mental health of LGBTQ+ students by denying their existence and perpetuating stigma and discrimination, which puts LGBTQ+ youth at greater risk for bullying, depression, and suicide.

Not only is it harmful to our youth it is hateful.

All children deserve to feel safe in school.

[School Hate Crimes Tripled in States with Anti-LGBTQ+ Laws](#)

School Hate Crimes Tripled in States with Anti-LGBTQ+ Laws

Amy Rock

In states that have enacted restrictive laws, there were more than four times the number of reported LGBTQ+ hate...

[How Anti-LGBTQIA+ Legislation is Affecting Students and Teachers in 2023](#)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Zoe Cramer

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 11:11 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

WHO does HB 382 help?? There are no systemic threats of LGBTQIA2S+ teens existing and being respected. Instead of helping anyone, this bill. would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. Please oppose HB 382. Please stop wasting our tax dollars and do something that will actually actively HELP your constituents.

Sincerely,
Zoe Cramer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Austin Fortune [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 11:12 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

Nobody will benefit from HB 382. It would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. Please oppose HB 382.

Sincerely,
Austin Fortune
[REDACTED]

From: Carole Bookless [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 5:03 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 382

Dear Education Committee,

I was before you today speaking about the LGBTQ students having access to gender neutral bathrooms and exploring the use of non-binary pronouns in schools. My suggestions were to require every school to have a non-gender specific bathroom/change-room available and to use non-gender specific pronouns for everyone.

I think the first idea is very doable with little expense to districts. The second would require more of a mind shift but prior to the 1600's we had gender specific nouns in English (meaning a chair might be considered feminine and a tree masculine, like in French or Spanish) and we, as a society, were able to make that shift.

It is hard to condense everything I wanted to say into 2 minutes. I hope you will accept this additional true narrative.

Recently in Juneau, I was in the Dimond Park Swimming Pool locker room when I noticed, what appeared to be, a young man about high school age was also there. He had on long board-short type of swimming trunks and was bare chested. I was perplexed. I didn't know what to do. I asked him what was up. I was still suited up thankfully.

That is when his mom, who was in a toilet stall, tried to explain. I couldn't really understand what she was saying but the young man filled me in. He said that he was assigned female at birth so that is why he was in the women's locker room. I surmised he was transitioning. (Maybe the mother and son were trying to make a point because there are private family change rooms at Dimond Park.) I don't think the authors of this bill realize that they are entrenching these kinds of encounters.

I am acquainted with a young man who transitioned after being assigned female at birth. He appears as much male as any other man. He has facial hair for instance. I know his story, but if I didn't, I would be pretty upset at finding him in the women's bathroom/locker room.

With this bill, people will have to get used to seeing men in the women's locker rooms. School aged trans men will have no choice, because they were assigned female at birth. Trans men appear as any other men.

This bill will have the opposite effect of what it probably wants to achieve.

And vice versa, there will be trans women, whose appearance is similar to other women, in men's locker rooms because they were assigned male at birth.

Is that what we want? I don't. But, if this bill passes, there is no other choice. This is so dangerous.

Carole Bookless

Douglas, Alaska

From: Tess Giant [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 6:19 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Oppose HB 382

Hello,

I strongly oppose HB 382. This bill targets a small and vulnerable population of children who need support from adults. This bill will further put trans youth at risk by outing them to potentially unsupportive or unsafe parents, rather than allowing for the child to find the right time to have this discussion. It is a violation of privacy on many levels. All youth deserve safety, especially at school. Please protect trans kids and stop creating bills like HB 382. Alaska's youth matter.

Gunalchéesh,

Tess Ramsey
Juneau, AK

From: Heidi Heimerl [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 11:54 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Oppose HB382

Hello,

My name is Heidi Heimerl and I reside in the Anchorage Municipality. I'm writing to urge you to strongly oppose HB 382. All young people deserve to feel safe and supported in our community and especially at school where youth spend the majority of their time. May I remind you of the research around LGBTQ+ youth (Trevor Project, CDC, etc.):

- The rate of attempting suicide among LGBTQ+ youth is more than FOUR times the rate of suicide attempts among all US youth, due to the societal and relationship challenges these young people face.
- Challenges may include stigma, family rejection, bullying, threats of injury, violence, and increasingly limited access to healthcare.
- Higher rates of depression among LGBTQ+ population leads to higher rates of substance misuse and addiction as a form of self-medication or coping for their mental health.
- Research has consistently shown that support and acceptance from caregivers leads to better mental health, greater self-acceptance, and enhanced well-being among LGBTQ+ youth.

All the bills going through the Alaska legislature targeting youth and people who may be "different" from you only impacts the most vulnerable among us. How about making decisions about funding education or ways to decrease stigma for mental health or substance misuse or homelessness or increasing compassion on how to support one another vs. creating more fear around something you may know nothing about? There are far more productive ways to use your time in the legislature. This bill and all others impacting LGBTQ+ individuals continues to threaten the health and safety of our LGBTQ+ neighbors and does nothing for "parental rights."

Again, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 382 and all others targeting the LGBTQ+ community.

Heidi Heimerl
99502

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 5:13 AM
To: House Education
Subject: r HB 392

Greetings House Education:

What parental involvement do you see missing? Parents have long had an opportunity to participate in their children's Public School Education as well as alternative educational options they choose in such ways as instructing, helping with homework; discussing school events; attending school functions, including parent-teacher meetings; and volunteering in classrooms, along with PTA and active participation sitting on school parent boards, panels and committees. What other ways are you proposing for parents to be involved? What do you see that's missing? Thank you for your response

From: Macy W [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 9:26 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Opposition to HB 382

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Kenai and on behalf of a household of nine regarding the proposed legislation, HB 382. We strongly oppose HB 382. Among other rulings, HB 382 mandates schools to disclose to parents if their child is referred to by their preferred name or pronouns, allows parental access to a student's health records without consent, and requires schools to inform parents if a student discusses their mental health with a counselor or teacher. This bill poses a significant threat to the well-being, safety, and privacy of students.

HB 382 undermines students' privacy by forcing schools to out students to their parents without the students' consent. This not only destroys the trust between students and educators but also ignores the complexity of family dynamics. A student may not be out to their parents about their preferred name or pronouns because it is unsafe for them to do so at home. While we all wish that every child is safe to be themselves in their own homes, oftentimes that is not the case. By compelling schools to notify parents about their child's preferred pronouns and names, HB 382 disregards the potential for negative, even hostile, family reactions. Disclosures like this could endanger a student's emotional and physical well-being and lead to increased instances of anxiety and depression among transgender youth.

Furthermore, the requirement to disclose mental health conversations with school counselors or teachers to parents further destroys the trust between students and educators. Students should feel secure in confiding in teachers, and especially counselors, without fear that their privacy will be violated. If a student does not feel secure in confiding, it will deter the students from seeking the support they need during a vulnerable or critical moment of their life. Students may be turning to school staff about their mental health issues because they do not feel safe to do so at home. These provisions in HB 382 can prevent students from getting the mental help they need to thrive, or even just to survive.

Schools should be environments where students can feel included and supported, because this fosters the best learning for youth. All students need a supportive learning environment, but students who may be struggling at home especially need their school to be a safe place, where their privacy and rights may be respected and where they can get help for their mental health if needed. The safety of all children, regardless of their gender identity, should be a large priority of educational institutes. This bill goes against this priority. Oppose HB 382 and keep our schools a safer place for all students.

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Sonia Kumar [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 3:14 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

HB 382 would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. Please oppose HB 382.

Sincerely,
Sonia Kumar

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Emily Kloc
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 10:48 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please OPPOSE HB 382, which would forcibly out LGBTQ+ youth

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 382.

HB 382 would make school less safe for students who need trusted, confidential support from teachers and counselors. It would put LGBTQ+ students at risk by forcing schools to notify their parents of their preferred name, pronouns, and bathroom and locker room. No LGBTQ+ young person should be forcibly outed or lose the opportunity to share their LGBTQ+ identity with their family in their own time. Please oppose HB 382.

Sincerely,
Emily Kloc