

Lindsey Causer

From: Tristan Cameron <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, April 22, 2023 11:30 PM
To: House Education
Subject: House Bill 105

Honorable members of the House Education Committee, My name is Tristan Cameron and I oppose House Bill 105. Our schools need equipment, teachers, and in some cases heaters or water, let alone unenforceable mandates on teachers. Please prioritize the Base Student Allocation and teacher retention rather than an unfunded mandate.

Thank you,

Lindsey Causer

From: Sierra Coleman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, April 22, 2023 11:26 PM
To: House Education
Subject: I oppose House Bill 105

Honorable members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Sierra Coleman and I oppose House Bill 105.

Our schools need equipment, teachers, and in some cases heaters or water, let alone unenforceable mandates on teachers. Please prioritize the Base Student Allocation and teacher retention rather than an unfunded mandate.

Thank you,
Sierra Coleman

Lindsey Causer

From: Didi Peters <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:15 PM
To: House Education
Subject: H.B.#105

Hello Representatives,

I'd like the opportunity to speak out against H.B.#105. It is one of hundreds of anti-trans bills in states throughout our country, all of which terrorize, but H.B.#105 is the one I take issue with today.

My name is Didi Peters, my pronouns are she/hers, I graduated with honors from Kenai Central High School, and I live in Kenai on the unceded land of the Dena'ina People.

It's very important to me that you know my story. I am a transsexual woman who is happily living a life in which my subconscious sex matches my gender presentation. The courage to do so in my life was unattainable before I heard clear-words-of-support for transgender Americans from people of status in the world of sports and in the U.S. Congress. They told me there wasn't anything wrong with me outwardly being true to who I knew myself to be. The example they set should be coming from people like yourself. You have a responsibility to announce that Alaska's schools are safe for LGBTQ students, but the parental rights bill does the opposite.

I'd like to also say that in my experience, it can be frightening to use a restroom when you no longer look like the sex you were born as. If an institution has a rule mandating that one's bathroom selection is determined upon birth, then one's life is plagued by anxiety.

As an adult, I opted to work for a company that would give me the dignity to use the women's restroom because I am consistent in my female gender presentation. Alaska's students deserve no less, but they can't shop around for a friendly place to spend 7+ hours a day. They're just kids! They'd be at the mercy of your decisions. Their need to discretely flush waste is a necessity, and it is likely to be on their minds, disrupting their concentration in the classroom, and adversely affecting their academic performance and diminishing their interest in extracurriculars.

It doesn't have to be so hard for them! A vote to stop this bill's advancement would be good for their mental health and send a clear message that the politicians in Alaska are leaders for everyone, regardless of sex.

Lindsey Causer

From: Tia Thompson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:57 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105

Dear members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Tia Thompson and I currently reside in the community of Wasilla with my wife, Jeannie.

I grew up in Bristol Bay and have always been proud to call Alaska home. Growing up in such a small community, school was everything. It was a familiar environment, the place where I could see all my friends daily, and we would often stay late into the evening playing basketball until the last of the staff was leaving the building. School truly was the safest place for me to be.

I grew up in a home with two absent parents - my mom struggled with mental health and lost custody when I was in the 8th grade, and my father was a functioning alcoholic who spent four or five nights a week at the bar. Due to the lack of interaction/emotional neglect at home, I made it a point to be at the school as long as I could each and every day. I would ride into school most days with a former teacher who doubled as a good family friend, and would ride home at the end of the day with my basketball coach and his daughter who was also on the team. My teachers and the rest of the staff at Bristol Bay Borough High School gave me more emotional support than either of my parents were capable of during my high school years. It was within those walls that I felt the most safe.

Due to the size of the community, and the homophobic slurs heard commonly at home in regards to LGBTQ news, I chose to not tell my family I was a lesbian until I left home. When I eventually decided to tell my family and friends, I found myself very fortunate to be amongst a circle of loving and accepting people, even my father. But not everyone was on my side; I have aunts and cousins who refuse to talk to me simply due to the fact that I would rather marry someone of the same sex. When I was preparing invites for my bridal party, I had childhood friends tell me that they would not be standing by me on my wedding day, because I was marrying a woman. But let me remind you, I am proud to be from Alaska, and happy to reside in a state that legally recognizes my marriage.

HB105 is a direct attack on LGBTQ youth, kids who were once just like me. Scared, afraid to be their authentic selves. Not every queer kid in America has been as lucky as me. Queer youth are amongst the highest at risk for suicide. Queer youth are more likely to attempt suicide when they feel isolated in their schools and communities. LGBTQ youth are NOT prone to suicide risk because of their identity, but because of the stigmatized society we live in. Passing this bill would increase internalized self-stigma and put transgender kids at a greater risk for self-harm and suicide.

It also saddens me to read so many testimonies with hatred towards teachers across the state of Alaska. I have family members and close friends who chose to pursue teaching in Alaska because they truly love engaging with kids and want to have a positive impact in their lives. And in response to parents wanting to know what their kids are learning in school - curriculum has always been made available to the public and can be found on each school district's website. Teachers are already under-appreciated, and grossly underpaid. With lack of support/funding/resources needed to be a successful educator, this state is going to see more burn-out in teachers because of bills like these that add unnecessary stress to an already stressful career.

I am asking you to please oppose HB105, and to stand up for transgender youth.

Thank you,

Tia Thompson

Lindsey Causer

From: Ingrid Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:58 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105 2023 Testimony
Attachments: 1524838017728708-1.pdf

Hello House Education Committee,

I called in yesterday morning (4/24/2023) to give my testimony during your hearing on HB 105 but was told that public testimony was canceled. This was a little frustrating as I restructured my morning to call in, and observed mostly at ease time during the first half hour of the meeting. In any case. My name is Dr. Ingrid Johnson, I live in South Anchorage, and I am representing myself.

I am opposed to House Bill 105 and I would like to share some research findings to contribute to this discussion. I will focus on the results of a 2017 peer-reviewed, systematic review published in the top-tier journal *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse* by McKay et al. that reviewed over 100 studies from over 20 years on violence and LGBTQ+ communities (from volume 20, issue 5; attached to this email). Systematic reviews are the most objective and comprehensive reviews of research findings because the authors must clearly lay out their search terms for identifying relevant research, which databases they searched, and their criteria for inclusion of studies. Thus, systematic reviews do not allow for conscious or unconscious cherry-picking of research findings.

In relation to the concern that House Bill 105 would require teachers to forcibly out LGBTQ+ children to abusive parents, the McKay et al.'s review found that, quote: "Sexual minority individuals are more likely than heterosexuals to be victims of childhood physical and sexual abuse" and "Preliminary research suggests experiences of childhood victimization may be common among gender minority individuals as well." To put this in an Alaskan perspective, the 2013-2015 BRFSS surveys found that 2 in 5 Alaskans have experienced emotional abuse, 1 in 5 physical abuse, and 1 in 7 sexual abuse before the age of 18. These rates are unacceptable, and given the two sets of research findings together, we know that the rates are even higher among our LGBTQ+ youth.

House Bill 105 would also require schools to segregate bathroom use based on biological sex, purportedly to address "physical safety" of students. In relation to this, McKay et al.'s review found that, quote: "Sexual minority youth are more likely than heterosexual youth to be victims of bullying" and "Physical and verbal victimization of sexual and gender minority students during the school day is commonplace." Thus, the children at risk of being victimized in our schools are not the sexual and gender majority, but our LGBTQ+ youth. Further stigmatizing and isolating LGBTQ+ youth does nothing to change this, and puts trans-girls at risk of being attacked in boys' bathrooms and trans-boys at risk of being attacked in girls' bathrooms.

In closing, I encourage you to prioritize childrens' well-being and safety over parental rights when the two conflict (as they do in this bill). If you are truly concerned about the safety of youth in schools, I encourage you to consider who is actually at risk of violence and design legislation intended to protect them.

Thank you,
Ingrid Johnson, [REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Lindsey Hajduk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:45 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Do not pass HB 105

Dear House Education Committee,

I do not support the adoption of HB 105, since if enacted it will be harmful to all students. I urge the Education Committee to reject this bill.

Schools need to be safe learning environments, where all students are able to show up authentically to learn. Having supportive adults in a child's life is an important protective factor that supports them to make good and healthy decisions for themselves, and that often means teachers or coaches to most youth. This is especially important if a person does not receive that positive support in the home.

On that note, this bill claims to tout parental rights, but neglects the many kinds of caregivers that care for many students, like grandparents or other legal guardians. My husband and I have been fortunate to briefly serve in this way for young people who needed safe homes away from their biological parents. Their gender identity, expression, and chosen pronouns were not supported in those homes, and put them at risk for many things, including not completing school or getting the medical and behavioral health care that they needed.

Forcing "so called" parental consent on youth to safely exist, will mean putting many youth in unsafe home and school environments. All students need to learn about healthy human reproduction, gender identity, and sexual matters. Requiring written notice to only parents for just one important subject area, rather than applying it to all subject areas, shows how onerous and unnecessary a requirement like that will be.

This bill is ideological, rather than rooted in the best interests of youth. I urge the Education Committee to reject this bill.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Hajduk, she/her
Anchorage Resident

Lindsey Causer

From: Allegory Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:20 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Opposition to HB 105

Hey folks,

Thanks for doing what you do.

I'm Allegory Smith, living on Lower Tanana Dene Land, and I'm speaking in opposition to HB105. I feel the needs it's trying to meet are the security, comfort, and influence of parents: I agree that these are important, and also that however much precedent there is for demanding that children be used to meet their parents' needs, it is a hegemony that I can't support in continuing. Parents already have their rights thoroughly affirmed (especially if they're white heterosexual men), and so far this has included the right to contribute to high rates of suicide attempts among their trans and gender-diverse children, and the right to restrict access to age-appropriate sex education. This bill serves merely to reinforce these, along with our cultural discomfort with the inevitability of change, and therefore children: this bill is an adult who was hurt as a child and not yet realized that they didn't deserve it. Before they, before we, hurt themselves or others again, we have an opportunity to interrupt a cycle of cultural violence. It's hard enough being a kid, so next time I hope you consider championing their rights instead. Thank you.

A

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Allegory S.
they/them

Of Danish, English, Gwich'in, Irish, and Swedish ancestry, I live and work in the traditional and unceded territories of the Chena Dene Peoples, whose ancestors have lived here for millennia, and who continue to respectfully steward and defend these sacred lands with place-based knowledge and traditions.

Lindsey Causer

From: Storm Harding <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 12:26 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Concerning HB 105

Dear representatives or to whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 105, which seeks to amend various aspects of parental rights in a child's education. This bill is a direct attack on the rights of parents to make informed decisions about their child's education and goes against the principles of parental responsibility and authority.

Specifically, I am deeply concerned about the provisions related to sex education, human reproduction education, and human sexuality education. By requiring parental permission before a child can participate in any activity, class or program involving gender identity, human reproduction or sexual matters, this bill would make it nearly impossible for schools to provide comprehensive and medically accurate sex education to students.

Furthermore, the provision allowing parents to withdraw their child from any standards-based assessment or test required by the state is incredibly troubling. These assessments are crucial in ensuring that students receive a quality education and are able to compete in the workforce. Allowing parents to opt-out of these assessments is a disservice to students and undermines the efforts of educators and policymakers to improve our education system.

The provisions in this bill related to access to school records and disciplinary and safety programs also raise significant concerns. Parents should certainly have access to their child's records, but selectively withholding information regarding a child's physical, medical, or mental health from a parent, foster parent, or guardian is not in the best interest of the child. Additionally, the provision allowing parents to withdraw their child from any activity, class, program, or standards-based assessment or test required by the state for a religious holiday, as defined by the parent, is unacceptable.

I urge you to vote against this bill and to instead support policies that promote parental involvement in education while also ensuring that students receive a comprehensive and medically accurate education that prepares them for the future.

Sincerely,
Marcus Harding

Lindsey Causer

From: Jen Psenak <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 12:12 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105

To Whom it Concerns,

I am a mother of school-aged children. When I heard the news that this bill (hb 105) was being considered, my very first instinct was honestly sadness when I read about the outright objection to it by activists and in the media. Why should this be divisive? Shouldn't the very basic rights of parents, laid out in HB 105 be so deeply agreed upon by all Alaskans? In particular, parents? We don't live in a rational society at the moment, which is evident by the fight surrounding this bill. We live under postmodern rules of the day. Postmodernism is antithetical to logic, and it is profoundly authoritarian in nature. The fact that there are educators, calling to keep parents in the dark and believing they deserve to be the ultimate authority of children, should make EVERY parent grab their glasses and look very, very hard at the seriousness of the rot in our education system in this state. As parents, we shell out way too much money for failing schools in the first place, now we should just be shoved to the side and told to settle down while activist educators tell us our concerns have no merit, and we ought to trust them with the hearts and minds of our children? The fact that this is even a fight is what concerns me immensely. I know how this works. Activists always win, don't they? Please do not let them. I would not be surprised that the opposing side has called in by a much wider margin than parents. Do you believe, as Alaskan legislators, that parents agree with them? Or do you recognize that parents are busy. We are busy keeping our homes running and our children loved and cared for. Many of us didn't even know such hearings were taking place, and that there would even be an opposing side? We are not activists, we are parents. I fully understand the weight of parenthood. I have hearts, minds, and souls to steward, and it isn't lost on me how blessed I am to have the greatest and most important job in the world. Please, I urge you, understand that the vast majority of Alaskans, and particularly parents, KNOW it is anything but controversial to say we have a right in our children's education. Do not bow to the threats of those looking to sow confusion and division by opposing this bill. This bill is nothing but common sense. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Psenak

Lindsey Causer

From: Scott Miller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:37 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105

I am writing in opposition to HB 105.

I am appalled that this Lower 48 nonsense is rearing its ugly head in Alaska.

This feels to me like the governor flexing his conservative credentials.

It is an attack on an already vulnerable and marginalized group of children. It is an attack on the Parental rights of the parents of these children.

Please, stop the hate and oppose this bill.

Scott Miller

Homer, AK

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Joey Hess <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:14 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please oppose HB 105/SB 96, an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and sex ed

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please oppose HB 105/SB 96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth and sex ed.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB 96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mr. Joey Hess
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Mary Bell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:28 AM
To: House Education
Subject: House Bill 105

Please DO NOT let this bill pass!! I graduated in 1968 from West High and all 5 of my children graduated from Kenai Peninsula schools. This bill takes away parental rights in raising their children. They do not need this sexual orientation in school. Students need to learn reading, writing and math. This indoctrination in schools must stop. Alaska is on the bottom of the education ladder of the 50 states. When I was in school, we were on the top. What happened?? Please do not let this bill pass!!

Mary Bell
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Rose Hart <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:22 AM
To: House Education
Cc: Rep. Justin Ruffridge; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Mike Prax; Rep. CJ McCormick; Rep. Thomas McKay; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Alyse Galvin; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
Subject: Please oppose HB 105

To the House Education Committee and my district delegation,

I am writing in opposition of House Bill 105.

I have been a resident of Alaska for three years, currently residing in House District 14 / Senate District G, but I grew up in a small suburb of Los Angeles. When I was in 7th grade, a classmate and friend of mine, Robyn Milton, died by suicide. I remember the weeks leading up to her death, bullies at school spread rumors about whether or not Robyn liked girls. She was only 12 years old.

While we will never fully understand the extent of why this tragedy happened, or if Robyn, *a child*, was forcibly outed by other kids who weren't taught better, I have no doubt it is in part because our society, with its generational and institutionalized stigma and debate over identity and pronouns and comprehensive sex education (sex ed), failed Robyn, her family, and her classmates.

Robyn was pure light. She had the most beautiful, soulful voice in our choir, a contagious smile and laugh, she was funny, she gave the biggest, warmest hugs that would always crack your back. We should have grown up together and our community should have seen her grow up into an adult and witness the capacity of her spirit and love.

Emerging into adulthood, many friends of mine have come out at queer, trans, bi, gay, and gender fluid. These are people who I also grew up with and cannot imagine my life without. Many of them did not come out until college or later because they did not feel safe or represented in the community we grew up in. How could they feel safe when the kids who did not conform to socially constructed gender roles or presented differently were relentlessly bullied by their peers or disowned by their parents? There was no education about sexuality or gender identity to help my friends understand who they were and that it was okay for them to question and discover their identities. There was no education to normalize the expansiveness and intersectionality of the human experience. There was no early education or celebration of LGBTQ+ leaders or queer joy. The same is true for previous generations who were not prepared to support and protect their kids when they came out. We can and must do better.

In Alaska, Governor Dunleavy has said he wants our state to be the most pro-life state. However, bills like HB 105, that would forcibly out children without any kind of LGBTQ+ inclusive comprehensive sex-ed, are antithetical to that goal.

Requiring a parent to opt-in two weeks in advance of a lesson regarding human reproduction, sexuality, or gender studies is a disservice to our students and our educators, who are responsible for preparing our children for their future in a rapidly diversifying world. It is also harmful and emotionally distressing to require written permission from a parent before public schools can honor and use either a student's pronouns or new name, or risk legal action. These policies outlined in HB 105 are discriminatory and abusive towards children, especially queer youth and families. All children should have access to early, prolonged, LGBTQ+ inclusive comprehensive sex ed, and should not need their parents permission to be educated on the facts of human biology or to validate their identities. The more we gatekeep and stigmatize sex and gender, the more likely we are to cause harm and even loss of life to our youth. It doesn't have to be this way, though.

Recent research by Goldfarb and Lieberman (2020) analyzed 3 decades of comprehensive sex ed programs nation-wide and concluded that these programs have led to an appreciation of sexual diversity, dating and intimate partner violence prevention, development of healthy relationships, prevention of child sex abuse, improved social/emotional learning, and increased media literacy. Results of this research provide evidence for the effectiveness of approaches that take positive, affirming, inclusive approaches to human sexuality. Thus, if we care about child life and want to encourage safe and supportive parental involvement in their child's life, we must shift our attention to comprehensive sex-ed that is multi-tiered, LGBTQ+ inclusive, and begins in early education.

We have a responsibility to properly educate our children and protect queer youth and queer families. I am asking you in honor of my friend Robyn's life, and all of the other young people who didn't survive and who are fighting to survive, please do not support HB 105 and instead choose to protect and support the LGBTQ+ community by passing HB 99 / SB 108.

With gratitude,
Rose Hart

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Erica Klementson
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:19 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please oppose HB 105/SB 96, an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and sex ed

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please oppose HB 105/SB 96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth and sex ed.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB 96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms Erica Klementson
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Mercedes Arciniega <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:17 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Testimony - Oppose HB 105

Good morning Committee Chair & Members,

My name is Mercedes Arciniega, I'm from Anchorage, and today I write to express strong opposition to HB 105. My following points lay out why I oppose HB 105:

* Children deserve access to a full, well-rounded education when it comes to gender identity, sexual matters, and human reproduction. This coded language in the bill signals that kids need to be "sheltered" from sex and queer education; additionally, the fact that this bill is even being considered means some legislators and bill supporters inherently find human sexuality and LGBTQ+ matters to be wrong. These are natural and normal things, and to call human sexuality and LGBTQ+ matters unnatural and abnormal is prejudiced and absurd. In 2023, it's completely archaic to withhold information from children that they will eventually either seek out themselves or later discover in life, whereas they could be learning in a safe, thoughtful, and informed environment. As it is, parents normally can sign something saying they want their child to opt out. There's no logical reason to change this so that parents need to provide permission; you're citing a problem that needs fixing when there isn't a problem at all. Reasoning to provide permission is rooted in discrimination veiled under the guise of "parents' rights."

* It's been stated multiple times that this bill does not out children to their parents...I'm reading this bill thoroughly and I can't see how it doesn't out them. Section 1.7, 1.8, and 4 is, again, under the guise of parents' rights and protecting their children. A lot of times, school is the one safe place for kids to be themselves and live authentically, especially when they come from a household that is unsupportive, abusive, and harmful. I can't tell you how many times that I've heard the horror stories of kids being outed to their parents before they were ready to share that information where those kids were disowned, kicked out of their homes, physically/verbally abused, forced into harmful practices (i.e. conversion therapy, religious groups to "pray the gay away", etc.), attempted and sometimes completed suicide, developed severe depression and anxiety, and overall were endangered. These sections of the bill are opening Pandora's box and putting kids in harm's way. Queer kids deserve to come out at their own time, especially when it comes to their safety and security. And while not all households would treat their kids this way if they were outed, the point here is that it is up to the student to own when they come out and not be forced to come out based upon legislation. I also have to add that this type of governmental interference does not have a place in our society. I would think that conservative thinkers would be against this type of government overreach.

* Section 5 is wildly disturbing in that sex, human sexuality, and human reproduction education would not be taught below grade 4. This would make it perfectly acceptable to keep children from learning things like consent, boundaries, and healthy relationships of any sort. Why would you not want children to start learning these very important lessons early on? There's been the argument that parents don't want their kids learning about sex at too young of an age or to be exposed to some sort of depraved behavior, but let's be clear: I went through the Anchorage public school system. At every point that I was learning sex education, it was age-appropriate, taught in terms that I understood, taught without personal/political/religious/philosophical bias, and it wasn't some sort of crass indoctrinating educational unit. It wasn't like we were discussing content that is not meant for the classroom or for that age. These type of health units cover so much more than just reproduction and sexuality, hence why it's important to not keep students under grade 4 from this type of education.

* Section 6.10 might be the most disturbing of the proposed amendments. You put trans youth in such a vulnerable and dangerous place by forcing them by law to use locker rooms and restrooms against their gender. There is nothing

protective about this section and point, and rather it puts trans youth at risk of being physically and verbally abused. You are not protecting them. I can't help but take away from this section that folks think that trans kids are going to harm cisgender kids, which is so sad and maddening to me. If you really care about kids and their safety, you would not put trans youth in harm's way and force them to use spaces that endanger them. If you cannot understand that, then I would implore you to listen to every single horror story of trans youth and what they experience daily in regard to their security, safety, and well-being, and specifically how that relates to being forced into locker rooms and restrooms against their gender. You are increasing risks of not only directly endangering trans youth in these spaces, but also increasing the likelihood of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide. If that's what you really want for Alaska's children, then you really do not care about "protecting the children."

This bill is unnecessary, harmful, and rooted in deep prejudice against the queer community and also in this weird obsession that sexuality is wrong. Don't put our youth in danger, please oppose this bill and let it die. It has no place in our state laws and in our society at large.

Sincerely,
Mercedes Arciniega

Mercedes Arciniega



Lindsey Causer

From: Alex Strickland <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:54 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Oppose HB 105

My name is Alexander Strickland, I live in Fairbanks, and I OPPOSE HB 105.

There are many legitimate problems facing this state (houselessness, food insecurity/SNAP backlog, etcetera), and I suggest time and effort would be better spent on legislation addressing *those* problems than by legislation that risks putting LGBTQI+ children in danger.

Thank you.

Lindsey Causer

From: Penny Goodstein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:17 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please do NOT pass HB 105

this proposed legislation, HB 105, is a way to prevent protection of LBGTQ youth. Although couched as a parental rights bill, that does not seem to be its true purpose. Its true purpose appears to harm youth who do not conform to gender norms and may not have support from families.

A youth in high school is certainly old enough to decide preferred name and pronoun. Even elementary school aged youth often know who they are at an early age. This bill would prevent them from accessing their true identities.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS TRAVESTY OF A BILL.
thank you.

Penny Goodstein

Lindsey Causer

From: Laura Buchheit <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:17 AM
To: House Education; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Justin Ruffridge;
representative.andi.stori@akleg.gov; governor@gov.state.ak.us
Subject: support equity - oppose House Bill 105

To Alaska State House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 96, Governor Dunleavy's proposals to suppress the rights of LGBTQ+ youth. These bills promote misunderstanding, fear, and prejudice towards people who have already been marginalized by our system. These measures limit the rights of trans youth, suppress the voices of LGBTQ+ youth, and discriminate against people in expressing their gender identity. These measures put prejudice into state power. The conversations should be different. The state's time and energy should be directed towards supporting schools, advancing understanding and care, and honoring individuals. Conversations honoring and upholding diversity would serve to greatly diminish the struggles for power, the occurrence of bullying and the high suicide rate of marginalized youth.

As a parent, I want as many places safe for my children as possible, especially in the school system. To some, that may mean excluding those who are different. For me, that means supporting diverse views and perspectives, including supporting trans youth in sharing their gender identity with teachers and peers, trans youth choosing the facilities and sports that align with their gender identity. It takes courage to express one's true self, especially in a historically repressive system. I urge you, as representatives of our state, to have the courage to support youth in discovering and expressing themselves, to be inclusive instead of exclusive, to stand up for human rights.

Trans rights are human rights. While I'm appalled by the anti-trans sentiment expressed in our state, I hope that the conversations will shine light on unwarranted discrimination and serve to uphold the humanness of our trans neighbors and family.

Thank you for hearing me, and for your work to advance equality in our state.

Please contact me with any clarifications or questions.

Sincerely,
Laura Buchheit

[REDACTED]
official residence: [REDACTED]
current residence [REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: R Moorman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:56 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105 - OPPOSE

My name is Rebecca Moorman, I live in Anchorage, and I oppose HB 105.

- This bill would be a danger to children rather than protecting them.
- Banning sexual education in elementary schools would deprive children of reproductive health knowledge if they don't learn it at home.
- Forcing schools to "out" transgendered kids to unsupportive families puts kids at risk of abuse and suicide.
- Forcing schools to "out" transgendered kids by forcing them to use bathrooms based on biological sex will put kids at risk of being bullied and shamed by other kids.

Thank you for listening, and please VOTE NO ON HB 105.

Rebecca Moorman
Anchorage

Lindsey Causer

From: Sara Hoedel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:50 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Testimony - Opposing HB 105

Dear House Education Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to HB 105. It undermines the role of the safety net that public schools play as young people move toward independence. Progressing toward adulthood, we expect children, especially teenagers, to individuate, which includes thinking more about themselves, what makes them unique, their relationships, and their place in the world. As a parent, I am thankful that trained educators can provide information and respect my children's understanding of themselves and their bodies. It is natural for children to begin to seek information from those outside their immediate family and schools provide a safe place to do this. I find HB 105 requirements for parental notification intrusive. I strongly dislike the idea of our State micromanaging the communication between my children and me. The expectations I have for my children sharing their questions and preferences with me are those I prefer to discuss with my children independently.

In addition, I strongly oppose HB105 because of its thinly veiled targeting of marginalized populations, namely our LGBTQ+ youth and those that do not receive comprehensive health information at home. Under this bill, they would be supremely disadvantaged by the lack of information at school should parents not know to "opt-in."

Thank you for your time,

Sara Hoedel
Anchorage, AK

Lindsey Causer

From: John Barefoot <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:48 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105

To the Alaska House Education Committee,
My name is John Barefoot of Fairbanks and, for all the good it will do, I oppose HB 105.
-jb

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:37 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105

Hello,

My name is BreeAnn Davis and I was born and raised in Alaska. I am the mother of 4 children who are third generation Alaskan born. I am writing today in opposition of HB105. I believe this bill is hurtful to all children and families. All children deserve to be able to use the bathroom safely and without fear. All children deserve to be active, play sports and participate without fear, judgement or being forced to discuss or disclose their genitalia to school employees. Please oppose this bill for all Alaskan's in the name of equality, children and Alaska.

Sincerely,
BreeAnn Davis
Anchorage, AK
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Emily Kane <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:35 AM
To: House Education
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: testimony on HB 105

Good morning Chair Allred and committee

I'm Dr Emily Kane, primary care x 30 years in Juneau. It must be clear that the propensity of public testimony on HB 105 has been against this hateful bill. I don't believe government officials have any business in deeply private matters such as who people love or how many children they have or how they educate them. The rancor against transgender kids in some quarters seems to be based in fear, as though transgender people pose a threat. How are they hurting you? Or more to the point, why are you willing to hurt them? Hating on trans kids will absolutely increase the suicide rate in this population. They have as much right as any of us to live to their full potential, to express their unique selves, without fear of societal rejection and harm

Why would you pass a law that would criminalize teachers for helping their students to discover who they really are, in a safe space? I believe the duty of legislators is to protect people, and pass laws which keep them safe, keep them fed, housed and educated.

Take the issue of K-12 sports. Kids in school play sports to have fun, develop a fitness habit, and most importantly to learn to work as a team. The point is inclusivity, kindness and group effort. These kids are not usually training to become professional athletes. It doesn't make sense to deny them this experience because they identify differently than their birth sex.

This bill represents posturing to some antiquated notion of what America is-- and it's tone deaf. We are not a nation of pilgrims any more. We are a diverse nation. This is our strength. Let's promote freedom of expression instead of pretending queer people don't exist. Please, quit hassling trans kids and their teachers and kill this bill today.

Besides, it won't pass the Senate.

Sincerely,

Dr. Emily Kane
Juneau AK

Be well!

www.DrEmilyKane.com

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:32 AM
To: House Education
Cc: SANDY HARPER
Subject: Submitting my testimony by E mail as I was just informed that is the only choice...

MY NAME IS SANDY HARPER AND I AM A MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER FROM ANCHORAGE SUBMITTING MY OPPOSITION TO HB 105.

I CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF FEELING SAFE FOR ALL STUDENTS BUT ESPECIALLY LGBTQ YOUNG PEOPLE AS CRUCIAL FOR BEING AVAILABLE TO LEARN WHICH IS WHAT SCHOOL IS ABOUT.

IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO BOND AND TRUST THE MENTORS AND ADULTS IN YOUR LIFE SUCH AS TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS TO BE THERE TO TREAT YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT AND PRIVACY AND PROTECTION FROM NOT BEING VULNERABLE TO POTENTIALLY TRAUMATIC FAMILY SITUATIONS BEFORE IT IS SAFE. THIS BILL PUTS TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS IN AN UNDESIRABLE AND IMPOSSIBLE POSITION. THE TASK OF BEING WHO YOU ARE TAKES TIME TO UNDERSTAND AND MOST IMPORTANT THAT WHO YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE AS A PERSON IS OK.

THIS BILL IS USING OLD BELIEFS IN ORDER TO POLICE AND IN FACT, ERODE TRUST AND IS NOT LIFE AFFIRMING OR HELPS INDIVIDUALS BE THEIR BEST SELVES WITH COMPASSION AND GRACE. IT CERTAINLY IS CONTRARY TO THE ASPIRATIONAL CONCEPTS OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AS THE PILLARS OF A CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY.

I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADD MY VOICE TO WHAT SEEMS TO BE A OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF CITIZENS WHO HAVE ALREADY TESTIFIED THAT HB 105 IS NOT A CONSTRUCTIVE IDEA.

SANDY HARPER
<[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]

PLEASE CONFIRM THAT MY TESTIMONY HAS BEEN RECEIVED. I CALLED 907 563 9085 THIS MORNING TO GIVE MY TESTIMONY AS PART OF THE PROCESS BUT WAS TOLD I NEEDED TO SUBMIT MY OPPOSITION VIA E MAIL INSTEAD.

Lindsey Causer

From: M. Silvia Capezio <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:31 AM
To: House Education
Cc: Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Rep. Donna Mears
Subject: Opposition to HB105

To the Chair and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Maria Capezio Crookes, I live on E 17th Street in Anchorage (99504) and I am writing today to **oppose** HB105.

As a mother of two children who have friends that are not out to their parents, I worry for what this bill means for their safety.

Our schools should be safe space for children to be who they are. As adults, we should be making sure ALL kids are safe, not only the ones that fit our perceived notion of what a kid should be.

Also, if a parent wants to know what is being taught, they simply need to open their emails. Teachers and schools communicate plenty with us.

This bill will only harm children. And a third hearing with public testimony is a waste of money.

-Maria Capezio Crookes
Deaconess
Every Nation UMC (Anchorage, AK)
Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner

Cc Sen. Forrest Dunbar and Rep. Donna Mears who are my representatives in Juneau.

Lindsey Causer

From: David Ket'acik Nicolai <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:27 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105 written testimony

Good Morning House Education Committee members, and staff, and Representative Laddie Shaw

Thank you for the opportunity for written testimony of House Bill 105, "An Act relating to parental rights in a child's education; relating to access to school records; relating to sex education, human reproduction education, and human sexuality education; relating to school disciplinary and safety programs; and providing for an effective date."

This bill hurts and harms Alaskans. I do not support the passage of this bill. Note that parents already have control over content (including sex ed content) their children see in education - the only thing this bill does is hurt fellow Alaskans.

Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you
David Nicolai
District 26-E resident
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Logan Bugayong <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:26 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105

To the House Education Committee,

I strongly oppose HB105. This bill endangers transgender students that are not able to safely come out to their parents and will worsen the mental health of a population that is already facing hardships. As a transgender person, I can attest that being transgender is not a choice. It is not a trend, it is not a fun thing to do to be different or rebellious. It is difficult, and it is arduous and having to hide your true self out of fear is something that a person can only handle for so long before they can't take it anymore. You cannot stop someone from being transgender in the same way you cannot stop them from being gay and transgender people will either find a space where they are able to grow and be their authentic selves, or they will suffer until they can't take it anymore. I have known several students who have been able to come out at school and use the name and pronouns that are comfortable for them and being able to do that has saved their lives.

This bill says that parents should be able to make the decision for their student when it comes to this. Parents are not always right. Parents, unfortunately, do not always make the best choices for their children and it is the kids that are in a home where it is not safe for them to come out that are most in need of a safe place to be themselves.

When I was in high school I had friends that were left homeless because they were outed. Someone close to me was beaten by her mother until the most believable story she could tell people was that she had a horrible bike accident, because she was outed. She had been pulled from the athletic team we were on and punished severely.

I have had friends and have known students who have lived in households that are unsafe, abusive, and inescapable. I have had teachers that offer to students the opportunity for a bad test score to not be posted to the online grade book that parents have access to because they understand that households exist where a poor exam score can be dangerous to a student's health. These teachers provide space to discuss the score and ways to improve it.

With the state that our schools are in, the mental health of Alaskans and the high suicide rates of our state, I implore you to not pass this bill as it will be nothing but detrimental to students and teachers everywhere.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsey Causer

From: Anne Ver Hoef <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:25 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Testimony on HB105

Dear House Education Committee,

I tried to call in this morning, but did not get to testify. I strongly OPPOSE HB105. I am a speech-language pathologist and work with adolescents and adults of all backgrounds and identifies. While I do not work in the schools, nor have a child in the schools, I would urge toward MORE open, honest and SAFETY-HEALTH infused education to all grade levels. This is about safety and health of all students and their families. Use evidence-based and well-researched (unbiased) information: children know their identifies often at a young age. Just let them be who they are and let schools be a safe, healthy place for ALL children to focus on education. Our world needs to be more inclusive, not less. One cannot just ignore that we are interconnected in a global community - it is at our fingertips. We are all human beings who deserve the same respect and kindness, unless someone specifically demonstrates they do not deserve that respect and kindness by their own actions and words. The LGBTQ+ community is, obviously, made up of individuals, most of whom are kind and respectful of others. Please treat them in the same way.

Very sincerely,

Anne Ver Hoef, MA, CCC-L-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist, Certified, Licensed
Anchorage, AK