

Lindsey Causer

From: Annie Pfahl <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:24 AM
To: House Education
Subject: oppose HB 105

Hello, I am writing to ask you to please oppose HB 105. I am a family physician practicing in Anchorage. Full access to sex education is vitally important for our youth, as is their safety in expressing their gender identity in school.

Sincerely,
Anna Jo Pfahl, MD



Lindsey Causer

From: Laura Vachula <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:18 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Testimony to oppose HB 105

Hi House Education Committee,

My name is Laura Vachula, and I live in Healy, Alaska in the Denali Borough. I'm writing today to let you know that I **oppose HB 105**.

HB 105 creates unnecessary paperwork and mental load for our teachers as they try to remember what they are or are not allowed to call a student.

Additionally, it's a sad reality, but some children are safer at school than at home. If a child feels more comfortable expressing their true identity at school without their parents knowing, there is no reason for the government to be involved. If anything, parents who are concerned that their child might be one to hide their true identity from them need to look inside themselves and figure out why their child feels unsafe with them. The alternative is requiring that children pretend to be someone they're not until their 18th birthday, which can be extremely damaging to a person's well-being and mental health.

Please let children be who they are and let teachers do their jobs without having to be involved in family drama.

Please squash HB 105.

Sincerely,
Laura Vachula

[REDACTED]
Healy, AK 99743

Lindsey Causer

From: Elise Rae <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:17 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Testimony: Pass HB 99/SB108

Good morning,

My name is Elise Schapira, I have lived in this state my whole life and I am trying all I can to make sure my home is a safe and welcoming place to **ALL** individuals. This is my SUPPORT of House Bill 99/SB 108. LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, just as much as everyone else in this great state. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors we share fresh fish with, the family we hike this land of potential with, and coworkers we swap moose stories with. They are us. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against. I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Together we can make Alaska stronger. Thank you for listening to me and taking the time to understand the impact of this bill.

Sincerely, Elise Schapira

Lindsey Causer

From: Rachel Crosley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:16 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105

My name is Rachel, i live in Anchorage, and i oppose HB 105, the so called "parental rights" bill. This bill is not only dangerous to our youth but also infinges on their rights. Childhood is a critical time in a persons life when they are trying to figure out who they are and what their place is in this world. This bill would make children live in fear potential backlash for any kind of expression of themselves that deviates from the percieved norm. This bill will lead to children feeling more isolated and alone, in an already isolating world. It would also lead to more abuse from abusive parents who do not believe that their children should be able to express themselves outside of percieved norms.

The sex education part of this bill is also absolutly ridiculous, as Alaska already has laws stating that parents may opt their children out of any sex education curriculum. The laws regarding teaching sex education in alaska are already very thorough and transparent for parents to understand what their children would be learning.

This bill would be awful for Alaskan youth, as you have already heard from dozens and dozens of others from our community. This kind of infringement on our childrens rights is not something Alaskan stand for.

Rachel

Lindsey Causer

From: Larry & Dahna <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:15 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105

My name is Dahna Graham, I reside in Anchorage and had hoped to testify on HB 105 this morning. I'm deeply disappointed that testimony was cancelled. I plead with the committee to dismiss this misbegotten piece of legislation quickly and firmly. I am a registered nurse whose career has been chiefly in school nursing at the middle school level among adolescents I respect and admire. Young people do not need to be bullied, harassed, or discounted...they deserve adult support, acceptance, and encouragement as they mature. This bill is far from its title as a "rights" instrument. It is, in fact, an attack on the rights of LGBTQ+ students and the teachers, counselors, and nurses who seek to promote their health and wellness. I implore you to vote NO on HB105. Our young people deserve elected representatives who remember how important adult approval was when they themselves were young and are now willing to help and assist today's youth with compassion and concern. Do the right thing and scuttle this attack on your young constituents. Thank you.

Dahna Graham
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Lindsey Causer

From: Jeannie Jurasek <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:12 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Testifying for Bill HB105-House Education Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jeannie Thompson. I am an educator and resident within the Matanuska Borough area and I am writing to oppose Bill HB105. As a member of the LGBTQ community, I am deeply saddened by this new legislation that seeks to silence an already at-risk population of students from expressing their gender identity (and by that anyone who identifies as queer and more specifically trans and non-binary people) and prevent important education about sex health and reproduction.

As a teacher, I also deeply care about children (and all young people) and want the best for their education and overall well-being. I work tirelessly to ensure they are prepared for their future and will be successful in their endeavors. However, I also want my students to feel accepted, supported, and generally cared for that way they are able to flourish and grow. Unfortunately this bill looks to stigmatize and keep students from having any conversations about sex and gender identity from the safety and security of a school environment. And schools should always be a safe place for young people to express themselves and ask questions about sensitive topics without fear of judgment. Otherwise, we are putting a whole population of people (queer or not) and their social, emotional, and physical health at risk.

In addition, this bill will prevent basic access to bathrooms or locker room areas for those trans and nonbinary students. This is detrimental to those students who already deal with gender dysmorphia and are subject to more hostility and ill-treatment simply because they are living their most true and authentic selves.

Please do not pass this bill for the sake of all students across Alaska. Please have empathy for people that are different than you and show compassion for all young people as they navigate their bodies and relationships. Please support our youth and their health.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jeannie

Lindsey Causer

From: andrew pace <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:11 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105

Good morning & I hope this finds you well. I was quite disappointed upon trying to do my civic duty to protect your constituents from HB105 this morning. It seems you opted, after explicitly not listening to opponents of the bill, to turn to toying with them & disregarding their efforts entirely.

What I would like to say is that I would urge you to focus your time & energy on what is constructive & compassionate to all. Specifically, as representatives of your entire constituency &- I hope- people with some modicum of decency, I would hope you would busy yourselves with opportunities to expand Alaskan freedoms & celebrate our differences & what they contribute to our communities rather than making yet another attempt to force those with whom you disagree into disappearance via bullying, suicidal ideation or cultural shunning. Shame on you for how ruinous your flippant hate is on the lives of vibrant, brave children. It is a disgraceful misappropriation of your duties & our taxes.

Please concern yourself with something of value & stop fretting over other people's genitals.

Andrew Pace
Palmer, AK

1/1
1/1

Lindsey Causer

From: N Thom-Tronnes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:09 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105

Hello.

I am an Alaska resident. I lived the first 10 years of my life in Palmer and the next 12 in Anchorage.

I have seen firsthand the way a school system refusing respect its students causes that school system to fail—I was never truly respected.

HB 105 contains legal provisions banning schools from respecting their students on a fundamental level, likely to cause a rise in self-harm, suicide, and likely also child abuse and neglect.

Parents have a right to direct the education of their children, but that does not trump the rights of the children themselves.

Voting for HB 105 is voting against the interests of children. Voting against the interests of children is voting against the interests of adults. Voting against the interests of adults is against the interests of someone who wants to be reelected.

Vote against HB 105 now, or be replaced by someone who will vote to repeal later.

--

N E Thom-Tronnes (they/them)

Lindsey Causer

From: Kristin Pace <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:05 AM
To: House Education
Subject: House Bill 105

Hello-

My name is Kristin Pace and I live in Palmer, Alaska. I **oppose** House Bill 105. I am the mother of two school age children and I am sick and tired of bills like this one flooding state governments across the country. Do something that actually protects children- ALL children- and keeps them safe in school. Trans boys are boys. Trans girls are girls. Trans children are children. And school should be a place where all children feel safe and free to be who they are.

Kristin Pace
Palmer, AK

Lindsey Causer

From: Elise Rae <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:03 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Testimony: House Bill 105 - OPPOSITION

Good morning,

My name is Elise Schapira, and I called-in this morning to testify in opposition of House Bill 105. I was redirected to reach out via email. I have lived my whole life in this State, and it is my love for Alaska's wellbeing that I am writing in to make sure my voice is heard. This is my testimony to OPPOSE and emphatically reject HB 105.

Alaskan youth deserve a good education that prepares them for the real world. This includes recognizing that queer and trans people exist, have always existed, and will continue to exist. We cannot erase queer existence by forbidding teachers to discuss it with children. Moreover we should not attempt this - queer existence is not a problem that needs to be eradicated. It is a part of the human experience.

This bill will only endanger children, out to them to their parents, deny them a safe space to discuss their experiences, and hamper the learning of all alaskans.

Today is the third hearing that has been present on the issue of HB 105. It is not a coincidence that phone-in public testimony has been cut short- the response by the public is overwhelmingly loud. This bill is unpopular among Alaskan citizens and no matter how many hearings there are on the issue. We should NOT pass this bill, and instead focus our efforts on advocating bills that will actually help Alaskan youth.

I am proud to be an Alaskan in a state that supports LGBTQIA+ rights and especially the youth.
I am proud to be an Alaskan testifying to a committee where I can trust my voice will be heard. Thank you for listening to me. Sincerely,

Elise

Lindsey Causer

From: Ian T Zacher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:03 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105 testimony

Since I was told, you were NOT going to take public testimony I am emailing you my thoughts on HB105.

I want to express my utter contempt and disapproval of the Governor's HB 105 "Don't Be Gay Bill". This does nothing but continue the marginalization of an already marginalized group. It is despicable, cruel, and dehumanizing. This bill would not only cause student's to not trust educators, but it would increase suicide and homeless rates among students that identify as LGBTQ. This bill is a dog whistle for the continuing demonization of children...children, with a façade dressed up as parental rights. This is a hateful bill spearheaded by a religious minority and embraced by this Governor and Attorney General.

Most Alaskans want protections for LGBTQ children and adults and this bill is in flagrant opposition to the will of our state to appease a bigoted and vocal minority. We need to keep bills like this out of our state and keep the lower 48 out of our politics. We should be nurturing and caring for these kids and not abandoning them to a group manufacturing hysteria.

Lindsey Causer

From: Ken Miller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:02 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105

To the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB105.

I am a veteran, I served during the “don’t ask, don’t tell” era; and I saw the damage caused to young Soldiers in training when they couldn’t trust the institutions responsible for their safety. Students are even more vulnerable, and forcing schools to “out” the most vulnerable is just cruel.

Additionally, requiring advance notification to opt-in to any sex-ed related discussions will stifle critical discussion in the classroom, making all of our kids less safe.

I talk to my children about what is going on in their lives, and in their classrooms. It works, and it’s sufficient. More rules aren’t needed.

Ken Miller
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Jules <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:00 AM
To: House Education
Subject: My opposition to HB 105 - Denali Park
Attachments: hb 105 by jules.m4a

Hello, my name is Jules DeNoto. I live in Denali. Calling on behalf of myself. First time caller for this bill. **I strongly oppose hb 105.**

I've listened to the testimony the past two times and found myself thinking some things I'd like to say today. Sometimes kids need to hide their true selves at home for safety reasons. This bill would have teachers tell parents things that a student is choosing to keep private. The people calling in to say they support this bill say they'd want to know if their child was using different pronouns or names at school- do they want to know so they could tell their child how much they accept them? It's scary to imagine how these people would react or what they would do.

To the people who support opting in for sex education- it's very scary to imagine adults having to OK their children learning things about sexual abuse. The people who don't want their kids to have knowledge about what sexual abuse and consent is, that's a huge red flag. You have to ask yourself, why do these parents not want their kids to know. Finally, stop trying to keep things so rigid and binary. We've heard lots of testimony from nonbinary and trans people. These people were once kids. Let's support nonbinary and trans students in what they need. They are valuable members of society. Let's not waste their precious time on earth with all this bullshit. Let's do everything we can to make their lives easier, not harder. Do the right thing. Thank you. Let's do better, now that we know better. Thank you to everyone who called in in opposition to this bill, your voices give me hope. To the others, Be careful who you hate, it could be someone that you love.

- Jules DeNoto, Denali Park

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of rae Young
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:59 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,
Miss rae Young
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Putt Clark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:57 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Being disconnected - trying to testify on HB 105

In case I continue to be disconnected from the call-in number for Fairbanks to testify, I am including my testimony here:

To the Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Putt Clark, I am from Fairbanks, I am a 55 year old born-and-raised Alaskan, and I am testifying on behalf of myself against HB 105.

Governor Dunleavy's bill is a continued attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards transgender youth in particular.

First, the Governor slyly removed a policy from the state Human Rights Commission website that included protections for LGBTQ Alaskans from most forms of discrimination. In early March, some observant folks discovered the policy was quietly removed months before, without ANY discussion on the matter from the Governor's office.

Next, he introduced bills HB 105 and SB 96, relating to "parental rights" and diminishing LGBTQ student's rights.

He also directed his State Board of Education to pass a Resolution called "Preserving the Opportunity for Student Athletes", which discriminates against trans-gendered (more specifically, trans-female) athletes. My daughter has given up her hopes of competing in track this year because of this.

The actions of this Governor are an orchestrated assault against our vulnerable youth. As the parent of a trans-female high school Senior, I recognize this legislation to be nothing short of bigotry, and it puts trans-teens at risk.

My daughter has chosen to continue to use the boys bathroom at school to reduce controversy and complaints. However, this has put her at risk. Recently she was harassed by a group of boys in the bathroom, and one of them tried to get the others to join him in "jumping" her. Fortunately, the other boys didn't, and she managed to escape.

While this legislation has the appearance of being benign and about the safety of children, the undercurrent of its intentions are more insidious. They are about controlling **other** people's rights and serve to unravel the safety nets for vulnerable youth. Call these "parental rights" but really, they are "bullying rights".

Our house has been a safe house for a number of vulnerable young people. Recently we took in a youth who was kicked out of her home for telling her parents she was gay. There are too many parents out there who put their belief systems **BEFORE** their own children. Giving more control to parents over their teens lives while at school will only tighten the noose these young, almost-adults, are feeling.

I suspect that those who support this legislation support Alaska's youth conditionally: they're all about protecting them as long as they're straight and narrow. However, if the youth are part of the LGBTQ community, they would rather just see them all "go away".

Those who would vote for HB 105, I ask that you consider the health and safety of ALL students. Please vote against this bill.

Thank you for your time, and I encourage any of you to ask me questions.

Elizabeth Putt Clark

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Jules DeNoto
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:57 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.

Hello, my name is Jules DeNoto. I live in Denali. Calling on behalf of myself. First time caller for this bill. I strongly oppose hb 105.

I've listened to the testimony the past two times and found myself thinking some things I'd like to say today. Sometimes kids need to hide their true selves at home for safety reasons. This bill would have teachers tell parents things that a student is choosing to keep private. The people calling in to say they support this bill say they'd want to know if their child was using different pronouns or names at school- do they want to know so they could tell their child how much they accept them? It's scary to imagine how these people would react or what they would do.

To the people who support opting in for sex education- it's very scary to imagine adults having to OK their children learning things about sexual abuse. The people who don't want their kids to have knowledge about what sexual abuse and consent is, that's a huge red flag. You have to ask yourself, why do these parents not want their kids to know.

Finally, stop trying to keep things so rigid and binary. We've heard lots of testimony from nonbinary and trans people. These people were once kids. Let's support nonbinary and trans students in what they need. They are valuable members of society. Let's not waste their precious time on earth with all this bullshit. Let's do everything we can to make their lives easier, not harder. Do the right thing. Thank you. Let's do better, now that we know better. Thank you to everyone who called in in opposition to this bill, your voices give me hope. To the others, Be careful who you hate, it could be someone that you love.

- Jules DeNoto, Denali Park

Sincerely,
Mr. Jules DeNoto
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Ashley Hepler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:56 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105 Testimony

My name is Ashley Hepler, I live in Anchorage, and I strongly oppose HB 105.

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Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Stefanie Davis
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:51 AM
To: House Education
Subject: 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. Stefanie Davis

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Zach Babb <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:46 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105

My name is Zachary Babb. I was born and raised in Fairbanks. I left Alaska for college and military service and returned fifteen years ago. I currently reside in Anchorage.

I believe transgendered people are fully human and thus I cannot support HB 105.

Stop trying to use the heavy hand of government to "fix" a problem that does not exist except in the vapors of extremist media. Stop trying to use trans kids as scapegoats and as a way to get your base excited. It's the lowest form of politics and it is utterly transparent. Leave this garage in the Lower 48.

The third time is not a charm.

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Meli Syphus
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:26 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,
Mx. Meli Syphus

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Heidi Frost
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 5:35 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. Heidi Frost

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Steven Frost
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 5:34 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.

Greetings!!

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. Steven Frost

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of N Thom-Tronnes
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 10:41 PM
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.

HB 105/SB96 poses a dangerous threat to queer youths, who from a significant percentage of all children. The rights of parents are important, but not more so than the rights of children.

Vote no.

Sincerely,
X N Thom-Tronnes
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Syrilyn Tong <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:17 PM
To: House Education
Subject: No on HB105

I would like to voice my extreme displeasure against the additions to HB105 due to its inherent discrimination.

Section 1(a)(3) adding "gender identity" to the subjects that parents must be pre-notified and approved is discriminatory and hurtful to those students who face gender dysphoria every day. Gender Dysphoria, as defined by the Mayo Clinic, is the feeling of discomfort or distress that might occur in people whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth or sex-related physical characteristics. It is a valid diagnosis in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), where the diagnosis refers to the discomfort as the problem, not the identity.

Why is Gender Identity being added as a topic that requires parental permission? Why not add depression, or ADHD? It is a known fact that young adults with Gender Dysphoria have one of the highest suicide rates of all young adults. Not being able to address or discuss it only stigmatizes it further, driving those students further into despair.

I also am opposed to the language that specifies that parents give their permission for a change to the use of a student's name or pronoun, especially in the older students (junior high and high school aged students), as this is a deeply personal decision that may not be supported by a parent or guardian. Oftentimes, a student is closer to their peers at school than their parent or guardian at home - and to not have this most important avenue available can be tremendously detrimental.

For these reasons, I do NOT support the additions to HB105.

Lindsey Causer

From: Amy Hogue <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 8:36 PM
To: House Education
Subject: No on HB 105

To the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 105. As a public-school employee, I work every day to help everyone respect differences and get along. It is frustrating when proposed legislation like HB 105 comes along and at its core is discriminatory to a portion of the population. HB 105 does the exact opposite of what we are trying to do in public education, teach students to work together and accept differences in others. HB 105 says you are different, you do not get a say in how you are treated and that you should be treated differently.

I have several students who identify as LGBTQ+. Some of them come from homes that are accepting, other do not. I have had students that have been thrown out of their home due to expressing who they are. They are good students with dreams of the life they want, who are now homeless, more likely to drop out, at higher risk to be abused and at higher risk to commit suicide. These problems are being created by adults who find it difficult to be accepting of other differences. We can do better and need to do better for children. We should be pushing for legislation that is supportive of everyone regardless of individual differences. LGBTQ+ students want to come to school to learn, be treated with respect, prepare to enter the work force and be able to live their life, just like their peers.

In public education we must work to protect students from so many things, drugs, abusive relationships, bullying, and yes, poor family situations. HB 105 restricts our ability to do this. I would like a concrete example of what "result in child abuse or neglect" means? Can you give specific examples of what this looks like? No, you cannot because there are many variables that come into play. My job is not to determine if the student is in a situation of abuse or neglect but to report the possibility of such based on what the student says or is revealed to me. We as educators work to understand where students are coming from and try to connect them with services to assist them and their family. We need to be focused on increased funding for services that lift families up, improve parenting skills, provide mental health counseling, more after school programs, more early childhood services, more mentors, more financial assistance for struggling families, support for grandparents raising their grandchildren, drug and alcohol rehab programs, stable housing programs, I could go on and on.

I strongly encourage you to vote no on HB 105. We should be fostering acceptance not divisiveness.

Sincerely,

Amy Hogue
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Hannah S <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 8:16 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Oppose HB105

I am writing that I oppose HB105 as it is part of the national trend of legislators wanting to curb civil rights against a community of people who deserve respect. I cannot call in tomorrow so I am emailing to be put on the record.

Thank you,
Hannah Summerfelt

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Janetta Pritchard
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 3:41 PM
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.

We have grandchildren in the school system that tell us about the bullying and harassment that goes on. One grandchild has decided to do online schooling due to the harassments. We believe she is missing out on many positive things she would have been exposed to while learning in school such as working with others, being exposed to new life lessons and getting along with others and large groups. This bill would make her feel even more unsafe in the school. We believe this is a bill that would make many children at risk and subject to even more bullying. I don't want to see our schools become an even more dangerous situation for any child.

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

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Janetta Pritchard
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Rebecca Siegel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:29 AM
To: Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Justin Ruffridge
Subject: HB 105 Testimony

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Allard and Representative Ruffridge,
My name is Rebecca Siegel. I live in Brevig Mission, Alaska. I am representing myself. I am writing today as a LGBTQ person and as a teacher. I strongly oppose HB 105. The [CDC](#) notes that transgender, LGBTQ+, and gender-nonconforming youth are a vulnerable population, with transgender youth being more likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender peers. This vulnerability is entirely due to the fact that they experience social stigma, including bullying and harassment. This bill would enshrine such bullying into law. As a teacher, it is my duty to ensure that every child is safe in my classroom and my school. This bill will make it impossible to do that. Furthermore, as a democracy, it is our responsibility to make sure that all people are treated equally. This discriminatory bill would do just the opposite.

Thank you,
Rebecca Siegel
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Savannah Forsythe
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:32 AM
To: Rep. Jamie Allard
Subject: Please Protect Alaskan Youth

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Jamie Allard,

Hello,

I am writing to oppose HB 105. I am against this bill, as it will be detrimental to queer and trans children in the state of Alaska. As a former educator who sponsored the GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance) in my school, and as a queer person myself, I can say for a fact that what is being proposed in this bill will cause direct harm to the mental and physical health of queer and trans students in the state.

We should be protecting this population, not putting bills into place that will out them before they are ready, take away representation, and villainize their community.

LGBTQ+ Children who have a supportive adult in their lives are far less likely to attempt suicide. Teachers and other adults in a school building are often the first adult these students feel they can confide in about their queerness. Sometimes this allows them to get input on how to come out to their parents in a safe way, and sometimes it means getting help from a school counselor until they feel comfortable talking to their parents - in their own time.

Suicide rates among queer youth is far higher than their straight peers. Why would the state of Alaska want to put a bill in place that would take away access to the support these students need? I fear that if this bill is put into place, we will see an increase in suicide attempts among LGBTQ+ youth in the state, as well as other mental health crises.

Please do not let this bill pass. As a concerned Alaskan and an ally to LGBTQ2 youth, I strongly urge members of the committee to oppose Governor Dunleavy's HB 105.

Thank you,

Savannah Forsythe
[REDACTED]
Eagle River, Alaska

Sincerely,
Ms. Savannah Forsythe
[REDACTED]