

Lisa Cataldi

From: Alice Ellis <ace25799@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 2:56 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: H7781, H7727

My name is Alice Kasumi Ellis of Woonsocket, RI SSD50, and I am writing in oppositional testimony against bills H7781 and H7727 due to the concerns for safety and violation of privacy for Trans, Gender-diverse, and Intersex students.

H7781's language could violate the autonomy of students who do not wish to inform parents of their gender identity, expression, and/or sexual orientation, or wish to study materials that their parents disapprove of. Students should have the right to empowerment and autonomy, and it should be noted that general guidelines for dealing with LGBTQIA+ students privacy encourage having students notify their parents unless those students do not consent to release of that information.

H7727's language is inherently inflammatory with the inclusion of phrases like "Men who Identify as Women" as opposed to Transgender Women or Trans-Feminine People. The enforcement of disputes of a student's identity may pose a great risk of invasion of privacy, and will affect any student who does not conform to traditional norms of Gender and Sexuality. Not to mention there being zero mention of how this will affect Trans-Masculine and Intersex individuals, effectively erasing Trans-Masculine and Intersex students from the conversation.

These bills will only further stigmatize LGBTQIA+ students in our state's schools and violate their rights to autonomy and privacy, they are not based in fairness, but in stereotypes of Transgender people and of Gender and Sex more broadly. Please consider removing this bill from Committee.