

Lisa Cataldi

From: Carol Czaja <czajacarol@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:16 AM
To: House Education Committee
Cc: Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan
Subject: NO to H7727 and H7781

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

As an educator of children who were classified as "protected" by Federal Law and for whom laws continue to provide fully inclusive opportunities for participation in public school activities, it's greatly disturbing to learn that the ugly head of exclusion is rearing once again in the public school sector. This time the targets for exclusion are transgender students.

If passed, H7727 would prohibit transgender students from playing on the school sports teams with their peers and subject transgender female students to the horrific possibility of unnecessary medical exams. In addition to the exclusionary effects on transgender youth, who just want to participate in school sports like their peers, the emotional, victimizing effects on transgender youth risk becoming catastrophic to their lifelong health and well being. Consider the corollary effects on parents and siblings as well. Consider how you would feel if it was your child, brother, sister or friend, whose right to be a full participant in the public school community, was being denied.

Furthermore, Title IX, the landmark federal civil rights law enacted as part of the 1972 Education Amendments, prohibits gender-based discrimination in any school or another education program that receives funding from the federal government. Should not Title IX render H 7727 moot anyway?

Like H 7727, H7781 is another attempt to control the rights of the LGBTQ+ transgender youth in a setting that should be value neutral and welcoming to all students. The attempt to legislate, through threat of penalty against those teachers and schools that don't comply with restrictions 1) placed on lesson plans, 2) on school staffs' ability to support the LGBTQ+ transgender students and 3) mandate forced outing of LGBTQ+ youth all without regard to student safety and well-being is clearly predicated on bias alone. Passage of H7781 would be legislating an example of dangerous educational practice and a slippery slope to be avoided.

As in the area of medical practice, public education institutions should be places where "do no harm" should be the motto.

I urge you to say NO to H7727 and H7781.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Carol Czaja
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