



April 10, 2024

Chair Joseph M. McNamara
House Education Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Opposition to H-7727 and H-7781

Dear Chair McNamara and Members of the House Education Committee:

The Rhode Island Chapter of the National Organization for Women (RI NOW) firmly opposes H-7727 and H-7781. The purpose of these bills appears to be meant to bully transgender kids and repress self-expression of LGBTQIA+ youth. RI NOW opposes all efforts to create an unequal educational system for LGBTQIA+ students.

LGBTQIA+ students are individuals who deserve respect and dignity as much as anyone, and schools have as much responsibility in fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment for them just as for all their students. Children should not be the target of extreme discriminatory policies, yet there is a concerning movement targeting youth who are simply trying to live their lives.

H-7727 is purely discriminatory and specifically targets transgender girls based on their gender. At the same time, it also threatens cisgender girls by subjecting them to invasive questioning about their bodies. This bill has nothing to do with making women's sports fair and it is constructed specifically to exclude and marginalize transgender girls and exert control over cisgender girls who may not conform to expected gender norms.

These bills are designed to foster hate and division and will harm students and intimidate teachers who strive to create an inclusive and engaging learning environment for all the students in their care. RI NOW stands in firm opposition to H-7727 and H-7781 and we ask you to reject these bills and protect Rhode Island children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Lesley Bunnell
President
RI NOW



Giona Picheco
Legislative Chair
RI NOW

Rhode Island National Organization for Women (RI NOW) is a membership-based advocacy organization with hundreds of members and supporters throughout the state of Rhode Island. Our mission is to take action to bring women into full participation in all aspects of public and private life without experiencing barriers based on gender. Our key issue areas include economic equity, ending violence against women, reproductive health and justice, 2SLGBTQIA+ civil rights, and ending racism.