

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Sage O'Donovan <sageodonovan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 11:09 AM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** H7727, AGAINST

Hello,

I am a nonbinary resident of Rhode Island submitting testimony against the discriminatory bill H7727. I am a trans adult now, but I also used to be a trans child.

A variety of bills designed to limit how trans youth and adults can exist within public life have been put forward in the past couple of years, and every single one of them does incredible harm to a vulnerable group of youth. Bathroom bills and sports bills often go hand in hand and have the same motive (Murib, 2019), to increase stigma against trans people and create a sense of criminality within our schools--creating a hostile environment for kids who just want to engage in sport and hobbies like any other kid, while also having the freedom to be themselves and feel comfortable in their own skin.

The social climate is hostile towards trans youth already, and bills like this increase that hostility even more, leading to segregation and a sense of otherness which not only infringes upon the civil rights of trans youth (Sharrow, 2021) but is deeply damaging to the wellbeing and safety of those youth (Schanzle et al., 2023). At a time when republican congressmen are calling for legislation to remove the existence of trans kids through sports bans (Reed, 2023), it is beyond me how you can conscionably invite that into our Rhode Island schools. If you want to protect the children, trans children are also included within that, and we Rhode Islanders will always stand between any legislation that seeks to cause them harm.

Best wishes,  
Sage O'Donovan (They/Them)

References:

Murib, Z. (2019). Administering biology: How “bathroom bills” criminalize and stigmatize trans and gender nonconforming people in public space. *Administrative Theory & Praxis*, 42(2), 153–171.

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Schanzle, J., Kennedy, J., Rahman, F., & Hill, S. (2023). anti-trans legislation in the US: Potential implications on self-reported victimization and suicidality among Trans youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 72(3).

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Sharrow, E. A. (2021). Sports, transgender rights and the bodily politics of cisgender supremacy. *Laws*, 10(3), 63.

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