

Marcillene Dover
Opposition Testimony HB2791
2/29/2024

As a teacher, I need to accept all students that walk through my door, and their families and our communities. Throughout the years the demographic of that population has changed, but my acceptance and caring for them has not changed.

Just last year, a teacher friend of mine was given “guidance” by admin very similar to HB2791. This bill is an act concerning “...restricting use of state funds to promote gender transitioning”. This can and will be interpreted to mean not allowing state funds, such as those that go to public schools, to go toward any gender-affirming care, including name and pronoun preferences.

The bill also states that “A state employee whose official duties include the care of children shall not, while engaged in those official duties, provide or promote the use of social transitioning, medication, or surgery as a treatment for a child whose perceived gender or perceived sex is inconsistent with such child's sex.”

My friend, who works in another district, was being told by admin to not allow use of name and pronoun preferences that crossed genders. My friend and I reeled from having to imagine harming our trans and nonbinary students by deadnaming them, or using pronouns that are not of their gender identity.

Gender-affirming care is life-saving care. Medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe—which is why every major medical association advocates against bills like this.

As a teacher, I am tasked with not only educating my students, but caring for their wellbeing. I cannot, in good conscience, follow the guidelines that this bill will be used to enact. I tell my students every year that I love all of them and that I would gladly take a bullet for any one of them. At first they laugh it off as if I couldn't possibly mean it, but then I spend the rest of the year trying to prove it.

As someone who has dealt with the complex wording of laws being used to restrict medical care providers, I can tell you that the legislature really needs to leave these kinds of decisions about life-saving care up to the professionals. As a teacher, I have no place telling a doctor what best course of treatment to follow for a patient, and as legislators, neither do you all.

Thank you for your time.

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