



Dear Skyler Wheeler,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HSB 664. This bill is being presented as a protective measure, but in reality, it is distraction politics designed to point the finger at a marginalized group while ignoring the massive, tangible crises actually harming Iowans.

The Real Threat to Development: Iowa's Water Quality

It feels like these bills are trying to distract us from the fact that our state is facing a public health crisis. While the legislature focuses on policing the identities of trans youth, our water quality is plummeting.

- Federal Violations: Iowa's waterways frequently test above the federal safety guideline of 10 mg/L for nitrates.
- In Utero Impact: If the goal is to protect children and ensure healthy development, we must look at the environment that shapes us from the moment of conception. High nitrate levels are scientifically linked to birth defects, preterm births, and pediatric cancers.
- True Stewardship: We cannot claim to care about how children develop "from when we are born to when we die" if we are poisoning the very planet and water supply that sustains that development. Targeting trans people does nothing to improve public health; cleaning up our water would save lives.

These Bills Do Not Solve Iowa's Economic Problems

As a taxpayer, I expect the legislature to focus on issues that impact our daily lives. HSB 664 does none of the following:

- It does not lower taxes or allocate our taxes that help the public.
- It does not fix our roads. Resources spent policing local ordinances are resources not spent on our crumbling infrastructure.
- They do not improve public schools. Instead of funding facilities or supporting teachers, HSB 664 creates an atmosphere of fear, distracting from quality education.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness for ALL Citizens

We speak of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" as unalienable rights, yet these bills imply these rights only begin at age 18. Children are citizens, too.

- Liberty: True liberty is the freedom to exist without government interference in one's personal identity. HSB 664 invites the government into more rooms by mandating specific identities be the only ones allowed to be expressed, protected, and validated.
- Pro-Life Consistency: Being "pro-life" must mean valuing the quality of that life. It is contradictory to claim to protect children while removing the safeguards that allow them to live authentically. A child who is simply trying to live their life without harming others deserves the same pursuit of happiness as any adult.

Safety and Reality: Addressing the Myth of Danger

The rhetoric surrounding these bills relies on the unfounded fear that transgender individuals pose a threat. The data proves otherwise.

- The Reality of Crime: The vast majority of violent crimes and predatory behaviors are committed by cisgender individuals. Legally targeting a tiny minority under the guise of "safety" ignores where danger actually comes from.
- Victimization: Transgender individuals are statistically far more likely to be the victims of crime than the perpetrators. HSB 664 does not make women and children safer; it only makes trans Iowans—our neighbors and family members—less safe.

Conclusion

If you truly wish to protect Iowans and ensure healthy development for future generations, **vote NO on HSB 664**. Please stop using trans Iowans as a scapegoat and start focusing on the real issues—like the quality of the water we drink, the roads we drive on, and the public schools that have educated and will continue to service generations of Iowans.

Sincerely,

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