

Comment Report

SF 159

A bill for an act relating to education, including modifying the responsibilities of the state board of education and school districts, prohibiting instruction related to gender identity or sexual orientation in school districts and charter schools in kindergarten through grade eight, modifying provisions associated with the human growth and development instruction and health screenings provided in school districts, charter schools, and innovation zone schools, and providing civil penalties.

Subcommittee Members: Salmon-CH, Evans, Quirmbach

Date: 02/09/2023

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Room G15

Name: Deana Sorgen

Comment: Schools have no right to teach controversial subjects like the LGBT agenda. Kids that young dont even think about these things until someone teaches it to them. And Teachers have no right to keep secrets from parents. They are our kids. We do not coparent with the government.

Name: Patty Koester

Comment: Please allow our children to go an excel at math and reading and science . Lets focus on these not one ideology . Please vote yes !

Name: Erica Gilmore

Comment: Schools have no right to teach the sexual identification material and they need to stick to teaching the five main subjects . Math, language , history done correctly , math, English , etc. parents absolutely need to know about anything medically done or said to their children , and any gender education or lgbtq books shared with your children need to be approved by their parents first

Name: Carrie Wright

Comment: I am in favor of this bill. These subjects dont need to be introduced on a broad scope to all kids at this age.If needed, parents should be the ones to decide what to say in accordance with their beliefs.

Name: Courtney Collier

Comment: Please pass SF 159.I am the mother to three children currently in public schools. I am disgusted by the gross overreach and intrusion by the school system, as well as the trash they are calling curriculum today.We do not surrender our parental rights at the school door. Our children are given to us and it is our God ordained responsibility to direct their upbringing. We do not send them to school to learn a worldview, a belief system or a religion. We expect our universal good character traits to be encouraged, like kindness, respect, self responsibility and good work ethic. We send them to school to learn how to read, write, spell, to explore science and history and most importantly to love learning and to learn how to think NOT what to think.Today, schools are overstepping and attempting to replace parents and their family values by teaching children they may have been misgendered by their parents, and encouraging secrecy between school and student while edging parents out. This is devastating and beyond wrong.Schools are surveying our children frequently about their personal and family beliefs and worldviews, and their personal physical and mental health. This is wrong and is an intrusion without parent involvement and consent. Most parents have no idea this is taking place because the school is not informing parents or

requiring parent consent. This must stop. If surveys are going to be given, they must first be provided to the parent to review and consent. The results of the survey should also be provided to the parent. Additionally parents should be informed about who receives this data about their child, where it is stored and for how long. In addition to the surveys that are being given without parent notification and consent, Schools are also providing on site physical and mental healthcare services while at school to minor age students. This again is a major violation of parent rights. This is incredibly dangerous and wrong and it must stop. No student should ever be given classroom instruction or discussion about sexual orientation and or gender identity. Prior disclosure and parent written consent should be required to opt their student into such instruction. Child predators and Groomers talk to other peoples children about sexual topics not teachers. It is absurd that we even have to have this legislation, but it is clear that there are some very powerful forces who have hijacked American education system seeking to influence our innocent and impressionable children as well as to undermine the important and irreplaceable role we have as parents. The family unit is the foundation to success of every great nation. It is terrifying that our education system in America has been hijacked by some very evil entities who evidently seek to destroy our nation through corrupting the mind of our children. Its time we stand up and say no more!

Name: Mandy Gilbert

Comment: Thank you for recognizing the issues in education and the need to protect children against ideologies that deny science. Back to the basics in Iowa education.

Name: Will Jess

Comment: Neither the government nor the school district has the right to raise my children. Period. Nor do either have the need to hypersexualize a childs world. Nature will take care of that in its own time for each individual as they mature. Stick to scholastic education and setting a model of empathy and kindness among teachers for the children to look up to.

Name: Scott White

Comment: I encourage you to pass this bill. Schools are not a place to teach our children about sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Just a reminder: biology doesnt lie. The path for success in education does not bear on personal pronouns, or the notion of gender dysphoria. If we start on that path, it does not end well. Classical education should teach U.S. history (not the revisionist sort), english, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, physics) and government. It is alarming how many children of high school age are utterly ignorant of our countrys legislative system.

Name: Ashley Petersen

Comment: As a parent of 2 elementary students within the public school system, I fully support this bill (SF159) that would prohibit LGBT instruction in grades K8. Please vote YES on SF159.

Name: Ashleigh Sheehy

Comment: Please vote Yes to Bill SF 159. Prohibiting the inclusion of gender identity or sexual orientation in school instruction for K8 children is extremely important. School instruction is for learning the core subjects, not agendas. Including civil penalties and strict regulation around these matters will be vital to its success.

Name: Pam Gronau

Comment: I am in support of this bill. Schools have got to recognize our parental rights. We know our children best and should never be kept in the dark. In addition, gender identity has no business being taught in schools. Schools need to get back to the basics. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Name: Patty Armstrong

Comment: Please vote Yes to Bill SF 159. Prohibiting the inclusion of gender identity or sexual orientation in school instruction for K8 children is extremely important. I have grandchildren in public school and truly believe school instruction is for learning the core subjects, not agendas. Including civil penalties and that strict regulation around these matters will be vital to its success.

Name: Vinnie Smith

Comment: must pass.

Name: Heath Long

Comment: Yes for this bill. It is not the role of the state to indoctrinate our youth into strange and dangerous ideologies. Take a look around. How has it been working out? Let's get back to math, english, history and civics. Leave the parenting to parents. I say this as a homeschooler with empathy for those who are being damaged in our schools.

Name: Denise Mitchell

Comment: This bill must be passed for the sake of Iowas school children and their parents!The subject of LGBT should NOT be addressed in our schools curriculum but in the home. Parents MUST NOT have information regarding their children kept from them under any circumstances.I am in full support of SF159!

Name: Mandee S

Comment: Please pass this bill!

Name: Angela Wenell

Comment: Please pass SF 159. The right of parents to raise their children and instill their values is sacred. There is a fine line between education children and indoctrinating them. The public school system has overstepped their role. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Name: Katie Brown

Comment: My children's identity is found in Christ. Teaching them about gender identity is completely against our religious beliefs, and SHOULD NOT BE DONE IN SCHOOLS! I also don't need the schools help teaching about kindness,empathy, or how to treat others we use the bible for that as well! Leave parenting to parents!

Name: Amy Grask

Comment: This bill must be passed. Schools need to stay in their lane and stop the indoctrination attempts on our children. As a mom of 4, the difference between our experience with our oldest child who is now 25 and our youngest who is 13 is absolutely appalling. We send our children to school to learn reading and math and history. It is our right and responsibility to raise them with the values we want. I do not want some liberal agenda shoved down their throat. For those who scream about acceptance and tolerance there seems to be none for those with conservative and Christian values. We raise our children to treat everyone with kindness and respect but we also teach them truth. Additionally, our personal medical decisions as parents for our children are solely our concern and none of the school's business. A FIRM boundary must be put in place to stop the overreach.

Name: Loree Horn

Comment: I support this bill; however, I would suggest this be extended through grade 12.

Name: Patty SeregAlexander

Comment: On behalf of children, parents, families and teachers, please pass this bill.

Name: David Alexander

Comment: I support this bill. Children deserve their childhood. They trust us to protect their innocence. Pass the bill.

Name: Vanessa La Mar

Comment: Please do not allow this to pass. My family has a third and sixth grader. It is bad enough that the catholic school in which we are attending is running my children out because of my identity, but now republicans want to remove the right to even bring a picture of our family to whatever neutered public school we take them to next. You aim to punish my children for my identity. What the heck is wrong with you?

Name: Jocelyn Krueger

Comment: Do not pass SF 159. I am an Iowa parent of four and I am also transgender. There are several LGBTQ members of our family and extended family. We, our family is not evil or bad or dangerous, as other commenters to this and other legislation have stated or implied. LGBTQ identities are not a mental illness. LGBTQ people are not mentally ill. This bill is ill. It is a sick attack on some of the most vulnerable members of our community. LGBTQ identities are going to come up in the classroom because there are LGBTQ people there with LGBTQ families. Children learn to write by writing about their families. They solve story problems about people and families. They share what they did over the summer with their classmates. Our 2nd grader shared about our family camping trip, our pets, and going to the bouncy house and fair at the Pride Festival. Kids ask each other questions about all their various stories and families. Not allowing some children to talk about their families or themselves excludes those children from a gateway to learning, as they are unable to make a connection between their stories and writing, or their stories and math, or any number of subjects. Do not pass SF 159 for this bill is also sloppy and written in a way that would leave unintended consequences even for its supporters. As written, a school, say a private school, could not say there are only two genders as that is also instruction on gender identity. A school could not correct or insist on any pronoun use in the classroom, as that is instruction on gender identity. Identities that are not trans identities are also gender identities. Teachers would not be able to mention to mention their partners, not just LGBT teachers, but strait teachers too. Oppositesex attraction is a sexual orientation. If programs, curriculum, material, tests, surveys, questionnaires, activities, announcements, promotion, or instruction on LGBTQ identities are not allowed, than programs, curriculum, material, tests, surveys, questionnaires, activities, announcements, promotion, or instruction on heterosexuality or a binary gender system are not allowed either. Do not pass SF 159 and put LGBT Iowans at risk. As debate over this and similar legislation has come up over the last couple of years, as a transgender Iowan, I have seen and had directed at me an increasing amount of hate and an increasing violent tone to that hate. I have fellow Iowans just down the road from me watching this debate, watching you legislators for answers, and telling me that they are ready to come get, come take care of the LGBT people in their, our communities, and that they are just waiting for the word. While I hope that you do not pass SF 159 or other legislation targeting trans people, I have no allusions that you will listen to me. Yet maybe those neighbors down the road implying violence will listen to you. If youre going to pass this bill, can you at least say these three things and help tone down the violence and violent threats directed at transgender Iowans. Can you tell them, can you say, There are transgender Iowans. Transgender Iowans belong in our communities. Dont kill your trans neighbors.

Name: C Muta

Comment: Please do NOT pass this bill. School is a place where kids learn what life is like for others, how to work together, and how to treat people who are different than they are. School is an early, and safe, lesson into what community and society are like. This legislation takes that away. This legislation disregards the rights of our kids to learn

who they are, to experience those who are different than they are, and the develop empathy and kindness and respect for others. It discriminates and endangers those who are in the LGBTQ community. Kids always ask questions. They love to talk and share stories. They will do this whether there is a law or not. How can you expect a child with two dads to not talk about their family? How can you expect a child not to ask about their friends transgender sibling? How do you stop kids from asking their teacher about their family? And why is it ok that someone with a traditional family can draw a picture of their family but a child with LGBTQ family members cannot? We live in a society with diverse families. They cannot and should not be silenced. For those families who feel differently, we live in a state where choosing private school or homeschooling is an option. What is the option for nontraditional families? Please, for the sake of every child, every family, and every educator, vote no.

Name: Jennifer Santiago

Comment: Please vote No on this bill. Passing this law will encourage hatefulness and fear toward the LGBTQ community and is not an example of small government.

Name: Renee Hruska

Comment: Please do not pass this bill. School is a place for children to learn about the world. No amount of sheltering/hiding is going to prepare them for reality. It is a parent's job to teach their individual beliefs at home. Not to force those beliefs on others. As a Christian I believe it is important to follow Jesus' example. If we are forcing people to live and follow Christian "law" is it really Christianity anymore? Doesn't seem like the biblical approach to me. Separation of Church and State! Vote No!

Name: Elissa Frost

Comment: I want to support public schools and teachers. Unfortunately, they seem to be very focused on social & emotional instruction. Unless a child's behavior is causing teachers difficulty in the classroom, they should have no need to be involved in these arenas of a child's upbringing. Parents should be made fully aware of what curriculum is being taught and any interventions (social, medical, or otherwise) that are taking place in schools. If teachers or administrators are concerned for the child's safety at home, they are mandatory reporters and should follow proper procedure. This bill helps support the 14th amendment and as a constitutional conservative I fully support this bill.

Name: Brigham Ciara Hoegh

Comment: Please, please vote No on this bill. This law encourages fear and hate of LGBTQ families. Some of the most loving parents I know are members of the LGBTQ community; their children should not be ostracized or othered. This is cruel and hurtful. LGBTQ youth themselves are at higher risk for death by suicide not because they are inherently more likely to be suicidal, but because again and again society bullies them and treats them as outcasts. Tells them they're wrong to be who they are. I do not pretend to know what it's like to live in a body that feels wrong, but I know what it's like to be told I should be ashamed of myself, or that how I am/ who I am is wrong and that is awful, awful. Young people should not be sent those messages. More love and acceptance of all people is what we all need.

Name: Keegan McAllister

Comment: Children of LGBT parents should be allowed to talk about their families like anyone else. Vote no.

Name: Rachelle La Mar

Comment: This effort to control kids through state censorship and to demean LGBTQ lives by denying their reality. It's a grave abuse of power. The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that LGBTQIA+ people and their families are at home in our constitutional order. The State of Iowa has no right to declare them or anyone else outcasts or to treat their allies as outlaws by punishing schools where someone dares

to affirm their identity and dignity. This is simply education, not indoctrination. Learning about LGBTQIA+ individuals doesn't change a kid's identity any more than learning how to play football in PE could turn them into an NFL all star. Please vote no and let teachers decide what they are comfortable teaching their students.

Name: William Hruska

Comment: Shouldn't this be protected under free speech? Forcing people to hide who they are because other people don't want them around is segregation. Seems very similar to black segregation. Some people don't want guys around, so they must hide that they even exist. Putting our heads and our children's heads in the ground doesn't do anything but continue ignorance, fear, and hate. Jesus said to love our neighbors. The Pharisees responded, "Who is our neighbor?" Jesus' response was everyone. Christ's command to love ones neighbor didnt end at racial, ethnic, sexual or political boundaries. The duty to love ones neighbor included the stranger and the outsider.

Name: Johnna Ashton

Comment: Gay and trans folks exist. We are not an agenda we are average Americans just the same as everybody. We have children of our own in school, and LGBTQ kids DO exist. Our families and identities deserve the same recognition that our straight and cisgender peers enjoy. Equal rights and representation are literally all we want. This bill would not give us those rights, but actively strip of us of more rights. The right to simply exist in the public world. It would actively other us more, increase bullying and decrease empathy in children for folks different than them. Please vote no on this harmful bill.

Name: Dessie Sliemers

Comment: Please vote NO on this harmful, hurtful bill. Not only is this exclusionary to LGBTQ kids who are just trying to exist, it's harmful to all kids, as they have a right to know and learn about their bodies. Statistically kids who are properly educated about sex education go on to make smarter, safer decisions for themselves. Teaching sex ed is far from an LGBTQ agenda and certainly won't indoctrinate kids to the cause. However, properly teaching INCLUSIVE sex ed will help kids in the LGBTQ community grow to become adults rather than feel isolated, erased and alone and potentially lead to self harm. Please vote NO on this bill. If anything, ad a provision for parents to opt their kids out if they really feel so strongly against inclusion.

Name: Harmony Littell

Comment: Vote no! Do not pass SF 159. Kids deserve to express their identy and self. Not be othered and discriminated against. This bill is extremely harmful to the community and to it's children. It creates unwarranted fear for LGBTQ+ people. We also cannot ignore the fact that suicide rates in LGBTQ+ kids is higher because of a lack of support and from disgusting amounts of hate and bullying. Being able to experience the world and make decisions based on those experiences. That is how they learn and grow as people. Not be sheltered from the world as it truly is and to not have the religious beliefs of people they don't know forced upon them. Religious beliefs that don't even hold to the core values of love for your fellow man. We need more compassion for our neighbors and this bill is a step in the wrong direction. It's a further spread of hatred

Name: Steve Shaner

Comment: Vote no on this bill; passing it would be a terrible mistake for all Iowans. Every time we tell teachers what they can and cannot teach, we limit the potential of their students and demean the institutions of our society. Keep our state government out of the role of surveilling educators.

Name: Joslyn Roberts

Comment: Y'all. Stay in your lane. Schools aren't teaching kids how to keep secrets from you.

This bill doesn't need to happen. This bill is a scare tactic for something that isn't an issue. Ask an educator what actually happens if a child has LGBTQ questions or the like. They refer them to the councilor or tell them to ask their parents. Teachers have so much bureaucratic nonsense to deal with in their subjects, they don't have time to be secretly teaching kids about LGBTQ issues. This bill is nonsense. I am sad that it is even been brought to the floor. Quit trying to tell teachers how to do their jobs. Vote no.

Name: TJ Mealey-Motz

Comment: Vote NO. We need to spread love and not hate. Learning about the alphabet mafia doesn't make your kid(s) GAY.

Name: Christina Nanoto

Comment: Please vote no on this bill. It will save lives. No one is trying to force these views on kids, we are just trying to provide a safe environment for the ones who feel different. Like they don't fall into social norms. But they need someone they can safely talk through these feelings with so they can understand what they are going through. That's not always a parent. That's a cause of child suicide. Please don't take away this small sense of security. It's already scary enough.

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Name: Roseanne Sliemers

Comment: Vote NO

Name: Nat Hall

Comment: Vote NO on this bill. Hate has no place in our state. This whole bill is rooted in FEAR. The legislature seems fixated on the erasure of LGBTQ folks. As an ally I will fiercely stand up and say that all students and families deserve to be safe in their schools and communities. Looking at the comments and the lobbyist declarations, this bill plays to a small group of people who have some deep fears of those who are different than them. The majority do not want this!! In addition, banning 'instruction, et al.' of sexual orientation as defined in 216.2 includes HETEROSEXUALITY too. So be sure to stay on top of that. The legislature simply cannot make a law that discriminates against and excludes an entire class of people, who are your constituents. What a disgrace this bill is VOTE NO.

Name: Audrey Kerns

Comment: Vote no

Name: Lisa Coffey

Comment: Vote NO to SF 159 We need to allow children to feel safe in school and to be able to express themselves as they learn who they are. Children need to understand that they may not be identical to most others in their life and that's ok. Teaching that we are a binary is harmful and forces them to feel like if they do not fall in 1 of 2 boxes there is something wrong with them. Allow teachers to teach. Allow teachers to teach based on helping the students that they have in their classrooms. Allow teachers to be advocates and compassionate to the young persons they are teaching. Allow teachers to do their jobs & be the compassionate people they are

Name: Kim Carter

Comment: This bill shouldnt pass. It is discriminatory. This bill tells LGBTQ+ kids that they should hide who they are. It tells other kids that its ok to bully them. This bill makes it makes LGBTQ + feel unsafe. This bill is censorship,it tells LGBTQ + kids they cant come out in school. It tells all kids that they cant talk about their families, if they have parents that are gay or Lesbian or anything but straight.

Name: Justin Sliemers

Comment: Vote NO. This is unnecessarily exclusionary of an already marginalized group of people and will ultimately do undue harm via ignorance

Name: Katrina Brocka

Comment: Vote no on SF159 for several reasons. First, it is counter to the GOP foundations of limited government you are attempting to create another law when current statutes resolve what you call indoctrination issues in the classroom. Next, you are creating a discriminatory law based on religious beliefs. How is that a separation of Church and State? Rules already exists to prevent indoctrination in public schools, yet this law is an indoctrination of its own. You, the elected officials, are choosing to create a culture war using the youngest of Iowans to become thoughtless drones of your ideology. Third, Iowas public education system is fraught with shortcomings due to your continued refusal to support them financially. Iowa was once #1 in education make our return to THAT your top priority, instead of this terrible witchhunt aimed at harming teachers, librarians, and families. Matthew Shepard was dragged behind a truck because of hatred and poor education. If you pass this bill you are choosing to make the next generation of Iowans hateful while demolishing every childs chance at a quality education in the liberties the constitution grants and we solute each day as Americans.

Name: Zach Donohue

Comment: Please do not pass this law. Our children must gather as much knowledge to help them understand the things they and the people in society are going through. Forbidding that knowledge will not make things better.

Name: Rory Moe

Comment: Vote NO on this mean spirited bill! How sad that this is the same State that was one of the first to allow same sex marriage and now the Republican Party would have us go back into the closet. Kids will grow up feeling marginalized and emotionally scarred for life.

Name: Lindsey Ellickson

Comment: Given that schools struggle with addressing my kid that I advocate for with their proper pronouns, I just want to quash any myths that schools are somehow indoctrinating kids to become trans. In fact, going to public schools is the place where my kid has been less comfortable with being out, due to harassment and bullying, and even lack of respect from teachers. That cannot change without teaching people that LGBT exist, and deserve equal respect. Please vote no on 159. Also, just want to add, if school choice was really the reason for the vouchers, my choice is a safe and affirming school for my kid. This law would take that choice away from me.

Name: Matthew Golden

Comment: The witchhunt of trans kids and gay kids its disgusting. Republicans are trying to drag our state into the 1920s again. If you vote for the GOP, he should be ashamed of yourself.

Name: Jennifer Allen

Comment: LGBTQ children, parents, and teachers belong in our schools. This bill seeks to

legally sanction bullying and discrimination. Please don't make Iowa known for hate. Vote no.

Name: Jenna Pickle

Comment: Queer people existing is not a treat to our children. And banning the discussion of them in schools only puts queer children at risk. Please vote no.

Name: Amber Barber

Comment: All of our families need to be represented. To ban representation of LGBTQ families it hurts our communities. This is not about doctrine being taught. This is about erasing our place in schools. Lgbtq families and parents exist and are Iowans just like everyone else.

Name: Kellie Nath

Comment: Vote No! This is hate policy looking for a home. Ask your teacher friends/family if this is an issue? It is not. I am the Mom of 2 trans kids. This anto lgbtq legislation is meant to scare kids and parents back to the closet. We also know that LGBTQ kids are at a much higher risk for suicide and self harm. Shouldn't we be providing more counseling and better acceptance and education among their peers. Why isn't the health, education and safety of my children a priority? Let teachers do their job. Stop the attacks on free speech.

Name: Melissa McAllister

Comment: My name is Melissa McAllister. I am a small business owner and resident in Ankeny, Iowa. I volunteer weekly in the schools, working with students directly. I am writing you to beg you to vote no on SF 159. This bill is incredibly dangerous and harmful to students who are in the LGBTQIA+ community. LGBTQIA+ youth are already at a higher risk for selfharm; they are already ostracized by their peers, feel little to no support from their community, and, for some, even from their families. Our youth need what protection they do have from the schools right now to continue. I am the parent of a trans daughter. My daughter often feels unsafe at school with her peers and experiences bullying on a fairly regular basis. Making it illegal for teachers to advocate for her, and even to purposely out her, is cruel. Violence and bullying overwhelmingly affects kids in the trans community and undereducating their peers will only increase that. As a mother I am filled with fear for my daughter each day she goes to school. I am grateful for the supportive teachers she has. I know it can be hard to understand something you have not directly experienced. I beg you to recognize that our LGBTQIA+ youth are just that kids who are trying their best to survive and thrive and just be themselves in an otherwise unaccepting world. I beg you to let them keep what protection and safety they still have. First of all EVERYONE has a sexual orientation so the straight staff would be breaking this allllll day long, but we all know they arent the targets here and wont be punished. This would ban our GSA for 8th graders while their 9th grade peers could attend. This would put K8 queer staff members back in the closet. This will discriminate and endanger our queer students and staff and those from queer families. I beg you to vote NO on advancing this bill. Melissa McAllister Ankeny, Iowa

Name: Jody Caldwell

Comment: The ignorance demonstrated by this horrible edict will do nothing but inflict further violence upon our children. Not allowing educators and schools to talk about trans people doesnt mean trans people dont exist. You actually dont get to decide what people exist, no matter how grandiose your delusions. What this rule means that your own children and the children of people you know and people all across this state will be left alone and unsupported in their school days and in their lives. You are encouraging ignorance, you are ending education, you are attempting to censor human life. You are not gods. Policing schools from teaching the truth about gender and sexuality leads to hate, isolation, and bullying. It doesnt make people you dont

care about disappear. It makes their lives worse and I assume that is your point. Vote no to this hateful, ignorant bill.

Name: Johnna Joy

Comment: Hello, my name is Johnna Joy. I am from Atlantic, writing to you as both a parent of a transgender child and queer Iowan myself. My daughter is in first grade, and comes from a two mom family. SF159 would ban speaking about families like ours in my child's classroom, and classes all across the state. Gay marriage has been legal in Iowa for 14 years now longer than any elementary and middle schooler has been alive. We deserve to have our families and children just as represented in classrooms as our heterosexual and cisgender counterparts. Because, to be clear, the education we are talking about here has nothing to do with anatomy or sexual activity, it is not Sex Ed "sexuality" is really a misnomer in many ways it is things as simple as Some kids have two mommies! and how to treat everyone with basic respect. All this age appropriate education does is improve the safety and mental health of LGBTQ students and families. We already deal with the societal effects of the lack of LGBTQ education in public schools: Othering, bullying, threats, and outright hatred towards us, simply for existing as ourselves. HF8 would prevent educators from even properly addressing bullying in their classes. Our children and families MY child and MY family, deserve the basic dignity of education that promotes empathy and the embrace of differences in our communities. My daughter deserves to be understood, represented, and respected just the same as her cisgender peers. We deserve safety. We do not deserve to be treated as "unmentionables" we are normal families, not an "agenda". I am coming from a small rural town. I love my town passionately, and I want to see it thrive and grow but Iowa cannot thrive if we push folks away and out of it, which is exactly what antiLGBTQ legislature like SF159 will do. Only the gracious embrace of the spectrum of humanity will do that. I encourage you all to consider the additional economic toll all the antiLGBTQ bills will have on Iowa, which is already struggling. Just as a reality check: the VAST majority of Iowan schools do not have LGBTQ curriculum already. Although they should! School is to prepare kids for the world, and the world is diverse REGARDLESS of your opinion about it! My wife and I grew up in a world with zero representation or education on LGBTQ folks, in conservative christian homes where our families never educated us on anything LGBTQ either. Guess what? We are still gay and trans. No laws, no bills, no stifling will get rid of us. No attempts trying to remove us from public life will. All it will really do is make young lgbtq folks more likely to get bullied, and put ALL Iowan students at a disadvantage compared to states that are not censoring education and FREE SPEECH. STOP politicizing us, we are people, not a political football. Please, do not support this bill that would only further harm Iowans.

Name: Valerie Sailsbury

Comment: As a spouse and best friend of 3 trans individuals, this legislature is offensive and harmful. I would vote no to these antitrans bills.

Name: Jen Stout

Comment: Please vote no on this discriminatory bill. All Iowans children deserve to see themselves and their families represented in our schools. The harm that will come to LGBTQ+ students by removing representation will be catastrophic. Data shows increased risk to LGBTQ+ youth in areas of self harm, suicidal ideation, and homelessness. ALL children must be supported, represented, and valued.

Name: Harmony Davis

Comment: Please do NOT support this bill. Talking about people in the LGBTQ community does not inherently mean talking to kids about sex. That is your own prejudice speaking. This bill has dangerous implications. Kids of LGBTQ parents won't be able to discuss their lives as openly in the classroom, nor will LGBTQ kids be able to express themselves in an honest way. Freedom of speech should not be limited.

Period.

Name: Sara Ferneding

Comment: Please pass this bill. Schools are getting off track with all of the SEL & LGBTQ ideology teaching. They need to quit grabbing for our kids. Parents need transparency from the schools & teachers. Secrets have no place in the classrooms. Secrets are behaviors of groomers & predators. This bill will help guide teachers back to academic education which is what we are sending our kids to school for in the first place. Not gender/sexuality indoctrination. This bill also keeps parents in control of their children & not teachers who "think" they know better than the parent. I would also like to see this bill extend to K12. Thank you for your support!

Name: Lily Vajgrt

Comment: Please do not pass this bill as I would like my wife to be able to discuss her family situation at work as well as her peers can that don't have anyone in the lgbtq community. I am disgusted by the amount of bigoted comments that hide under the guise of parental rights in this forum. I am disgusted by the lack of scientific understanding of the lgbtq community in these comments. I am disheartened by the amount of people who completely lack respect for our state motto and our state constitution by calling for a hateful bigoted Bill like this to pass. My family is just as valid as any other family in this state, and I will fight like hell to ensure that it stays that way.

Name: Adam Ezzio

Comment: I know you will vote with your hate filled, crunchy old straight white people hearts and there is nothing I or anyone can say to change your minds. You lead with oppression, selfishness and ignorance. The tallys are already in and you win in YOUR eyes, but you are fastly becoming the minority and you are terrified. and we are thrilled. My LGBTQIA2S+ family does not care about you and your hate. We have eachother and will teach whoever will listen, our stories of oppression and self loathing and self hate. Brought on by hyperritical religious zealouts. We WILL prevail. You WILL fail in the long game. Be sure of that. Good luck living with yourselves when they publish who voted yea or nay. I hope it comes back to you 10 fold.

Name: Rusty Johnson

Comment: For 5 years I worked as a Prevention Specialist and Specialized Sexual Health Educator teaching in 6 different school districts. This was my full time job and was certified in at least 6 different sexual health curriculums. Why six vs just one? Because each school had their specifications of what could be taught, not taught (i.e. condom demonstrations). Most of these curriculums were evidence based, meaning it took years of academic research and studies showing they are successful greatly reducing teen pregnancies, STIs bullying, body dysmorphia, etc. I can almost guarantee you that 90% of those railing against sexual health education (including gender ID and sexual orientation) have NO clue what is actually happening but instead listen to others that feed fear. This is so so sad. Whats worse is it doesnt take rocket science to know how this is going to go. As of our LGBTQ youth arent bullied, arent alone enough already. This is as far from being for and youth positive as possible!

Name: Jillian Stark

Comment: Vote no. This bill effectively erases the existence of LGBT parents and students. It sends a message that this group of people is inherently perverted and evil, and should not be worthy of even acknowledgment in a public sector. That sentiment could and should not be further from the truth, but ideologues with an agenda continue to push this propaganda relentlessly. Nearly all kids know their sexual orientation and gender identity far before 9th grade. I know I did, and Im certain many of the people

supporting this bill did as well (knew they were heterosexual and not transgender that is). Many of us LGBT people were relentlessly bullied and beaten in school because of being othered, some even driven to the point of suicide. This bill essentially encourages such discrimination and violence by codifying the erasure of LGBT kids and teens, sending a message to them that they don't belong. We exist, that is reality, and there should be nothing wrong with letting children know what reality is. Should we ban teaching the existence of races other than caucasian because of racists complaining, or religions other than Christianity because of certain Christians complaining? Of course not, that would be ignoring reality and be the epitome of narrow minded bigotry. Some believe that educating children on the existence of gender or sexual minorities is sexualizing children or grooming them. Does teaching kids that heterosexual relationships exist constitute sexualizing them as well? Or grooming them into relationships with adults? Heterosexual people have sex as well, and perhaps allowing teaching that heterosexuality exists will cause heterosexual children to commit sin by being promiscuous and having sex out of wedlock. Of course, that's ridiculous, but supporters of this bill are essentially making the same ridiculous claim against LGBT people. If your kid isn't gay or transgender, learning that these things exist isn't going to suddenly make them gay or transgender. It hurts no one. But censoring the existence of trans students and parents in public school does hurt them. The far right's holy crusade against sexual and gender minorities is based on lies, untruths, and is dangerously out of control. The United States is NOT a theocracy, and Christian morality (especially this hypocritically twisted version of it) should not be codified into law at the expense of an already unjustly vilified minority.

Name: Robert Barber

Comment: I find it highly inaccurate to accuse schools of sexualizing kids and pushing lgbtq agenda. That is far from the truth and highly inaccurate. From personal experience when I was young I saw many preteens sneaking around and high schoolers getting pregnant early and they have told me personally they wish that knowledge was available to them. Kids are smarter than we give them credit. This bill is going to create more high school pregnancies and in turn more need for abortion. I know most would disagree on how to handle abortion but personally I don't like that this will also lead to illegal alleyway abortions because you want to pass this bill. It's proven that people learn who they are and where and how they identify at a young age. For instance their personal interests, this includes sexuality. You can roll your eyes all you want but most people's first crush is at a young age and refusing to talk and acknowledge it not only puts younger people that identify lgbtq at great risk but also puts the straight kids at risk too. This bill not only promotes harm to their kids it promotes harm to the straights too and those for this bill will feel a lot of shame if this bill gets passed and realize they shot themselves in the foot.

Name: Nathan Paul

Comment: This bill needs to be stopped. It's being driven by scared and ignorant parents who refuse or are incapable of having discussions on sensitive topics with their kids. There are not classes dedicated to teaching kids and trying to punish teachers who do is big government at its finest. Stop creating laws where problems don't exist.