

Comment Report

HF 8

A bill for an act prohibiting instruction related to gender identity and sexual orientation in school districts and charter schools in kindergarten through grade three.(See HF 348.)

Subcommittee Members: Wheeler-CH, Holt, Steckman

Date: 02/13/2023

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: RM 19

Name: Carrie Wright

Comment: I am in favor of this bill. These subjects should not be introduced on a broad scope to all kids at this age. I would like to see the bill go further and prohibit this teaching through grade 12.If needed, parents should be the ones to decide what to share in accordance with their beliefs.These ideologies Im afraid are a trojan horse being introduced under a guise of empathy, compassion, and inclusion, while they really are the seeds for Marxist, socialist ideas. Spreading divisive concepts such as your family might not be a safe space but the adults here at school know better and are your family. These are intended to turn children against parents and into activists, such as Mao did in China 50 years ago.

Name: Micah Wacker

Comment: The children that this bill aims to protect, are at a very impressionable stage in life. Because if this, we do not allow them to do lots of things and try to shelter them from the evils of this world. At this age, they easily accept new ideas and often do not critically think through them first. Presenting them with potentially life changing ideas at this age is reckless and this bill will help keep our children safe.

Name: Sandy Wilson

Comment: Citizen Engagement declares IN FAVOR of HF 8, however, we urge the prohibition on gender identity and sexual orientation instruction to include K12.

Name: Courtney Collier

Comment: I support this bill and request that you extend this bill to include all grades, K12. 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 indoctrination they are calling curriculum. I have evidence from my childrens school district, showing examples of how they are teaching gender identity theory in k8. Please let me know if you would like to review it. Promoting, advertising and encouraging the LGBTQ lifestyle to impressionable young children is wrong and wreckless because we know that these lifestyles come with a significantly increased risk of suicide and other mental health issues. In fact I would argue, since the schools began targeting our children with these ideologies our youth mental health has declined dramatically. Schools do not need to teach about gender identity and sexual orientation in order for children to be encouraged to be kind and respectful to others. Unnaturally highlighting and pointing out differences to children does not lead to unity. Why are we asking young children at school to think of themselves and their peers in terms of their sexuality? This is a crime! Its called the sexualization of children. Its disgusting and infuriating that some are suggesting this is necessary and a good idea. Shame on you. 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 like is

happening today. We do however 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, born in the wrong body, and encouraging secrecy between school and student while edging parents out. This is devastating and beyond wrong. Schools are surveying our children without our knowledge or consent about their personal and family beliefs and worldviews, and their personal physical and mental health. This is also wrong and is an intrusion, and violates state laws on practicing medicine without a license. This must stop. If surveys are going to be given students, they must first be provided to the parent to review and consent to. The results of the survey if their students participate 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 now providing on site physical and mental healthcare services while at school to minor age students. This again is a major violation of parent rights and another potential violation of state law on the practice of medicine without a license. This is incredibly dangerous and wrong and it must stop. No k12 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 any such optional 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 the American education system seeking to influence our innocent and impressionable children, as well as to undermine the sacred and irreplaceable role we have as 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 infiltrated 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! Make education academic again. Get the transformative social emotional learning ideologies including gender ideology and other critical theories out of Iowa education. They are harming our children and destroying their education.
<https://newdiscourses.com/?s=Gender>

Name: Laura Carlson

Comment: Please vote yes on this bill. Allow education to focus on character, math, reading and encouraging joy of learning rather than time on topics that dismiss the very science lessons we expect students to believe.

Name: Kathy Pietraszewski

Comment: I support HF 8. Children are young and impressionable. They can be easily confused or misled. To teach them to question something as inherently unique to them as their DNA itself and then to suggest their gender can be changed is nothing short of child abuse. Hormone therapies have dangerous lasting side effects and irreversible surgeries do damage that far too often leads to suicide. The media has covered this up because drug companies, surgeons, counselors and the like are launching a lucrative new industry, regardless of the impact to individuals or society as a whole. What happened to common sense? What happened to science? What happened to good and evil? Get on the right side of this stuff before it is too late.

Name: Oliver Bardwell

Comment: Please Vote YES on HF 8 with the consideration of making the following changes. The removal of HPV vaccine education requirement. This should be between the family and pediatrician. The bill should cover k12. Gender and sexual identity discussions should be kept within the family and a familys church. Children are already being bombarded by influencers, media and Hollywood; they dont need

further indoctrination into this harmful pop culture psychology by our public school system. As of now, only a small percentage of Iowa's children have been drawn into this web of lies and fantasy around gender identity. There's no need to further confuse the majority of our children under the guise of inclusion or anti bullying. Children can be taught to be kind to those who are different without having to be indoctrinated into this harmful ideology.

Name: Deana Sorgen

Comment: I support HF 8. Please extend this to all grades K12.

Name: Mary Jobst

Comment: Please support this HF 8 and extend it through grade 12. The topics of sexual orientation and gender identity involve imposing opinions and moral values on vulnerable children who are not yet developmentally mature. They are inappropriate topics for K12 curriculums.

Name: Nicholas Stumpff

Comment: I vote yes to this bill, but you need, no YOU HAVE TO BY NO CHOICE make it K12 no buts, no excuses, no explanations, no I'll do this, no you'll make it K12 PERIOD!!!! These indoctrination in our schools is beyond disgusting. It's gross and if I could use swear words I would but I'm being polite and asking you WHY? Why, not K12 what's wrong with these schools' staffs and educators etc. Why do they think this is ok, I can answer that myself it never was and never will be OK FORDISGUSTING OUR CHILDREN. If you let this go through without K12 and only K3 then we or even myself will call pedophilia on the whole system. Then they will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. They will go to prison that support these books and teachings and etc. Think about your own children do you want them be victim of a pedophile. Your setting YOUR OWN KIDS AND MINE AND OTHERS UP FOR FAILURE OF YOUR OWN FAILURE!!!!

Name: Leslie Hanson

Comment: I support this bill and ask that it be extended through grade 12. Schools need to focus on academics and allow parents to choose how best to address social issues with their children.

Name: Sara Ferneding

Comment: I am in STRONG favor of HF8. This sensitive topic needs to be left for the parents to discuss with the child. Gender dysphoria is a mental issue & confusing young, impressionable minds with these ideologies could harm many students' mental well being. Gender & sexual ideology teachings are an indoctrination to a belief that remains highly controversial and has no place in the schools. It goes against many families' religious beliefs as well. Schools need to stick to academic education & stay away from ideological teachings of gender & sexuality. Sexualizing children with gender & sexuality ideology at such young ages is grooming behavior. It needs to STOP. I do feel this bill needs to be amended to cover grades K12.

Name: Esther Arkfeld

Comment: Please vote YES on this bill. Our children should not be subjected to this information from strangers

Name: Vanessa La Mar

Comment: Please vote no on this bad batch of bologna from bigoted bygone era. I'm a transgender parent. I don't want your kids to be trans. I want my kids to see a picture of us in the classroom. You are actively trying to oppress my family. Please stop.

Name: Tom Chapman

Comment: The Iowa Catholic Conference is registered in support of House File 8. We believe

that a persons gender is inseparable from their biological sex. Our biological sex, expressed by our body, is a gift from God and is unchangeable. Parents are the ones primarily responsible for the education of their children and we dont believe theres any need for a school to plan instruction or surveys on gender identity or sexual orientation in kindergarten through 3rd grade. It is important to engage individuals and situations with sensitivity and patience. We believe the bill still allows schools and staff members to reach out with compassion to a student and family who may be struggling. Thank you.

Name: Margaret Buckton

Comment: UEN and RSAI are both registered opposed to HF8. Here is our rationale and some suggestions for improving the bill: 1) The Counselor code of ethics sometimes requires confidentiality of records. This bill should state a specific exception for school counselors, social workers and mental health professionals regarding records confidentiality. Counselors, social workers and mental health professionals strive to help young people better understand themselves and connect with their families. School personnel do not want to get in between students and families, but students sometimes discover through counseling services that they need to talk to their parents for all kinds of things, not just the subject of this bill. 2) We are concerned about the elimination of the Iowa Youth Survey, which provides a long history of data and information about culture and climate in schools, challenges with substance abuse, tobacco and alcohol usage and other data that informs policy making and investment at the local and state levels. The survey is anonymous, with no records retention of information about any student, no decisions about a student that would generate followup or even provide information whereby staff or other students would even know how to treat someone differently. It is critical that all students participate in the survey in order to have confidence in the data. 2) Federal Title IX regulations require certain actions regarding accommodations for students and confidentiality. If a district is complying with federal law, they should not be at risk of losing state accreditation or sanction due to a conflict with federal law. 3) School regulations should be enforced through the accreditation rather than creating a civil cause of action and civil penalties. Both organizations are concerned about an educator shortage. The potential for judicial process implications of legislation would further dampen enthusiasm for becoming an educator. Additionally, there will be an investment (both time and money) in training for staff that will be ongoing, likely following rulemaking, definitions, and specific scenarios about what can and can't be done in classrooms and schools. The accreditation process is the place for issues of compliance and correction. 4) On Page 5 line 19 an additional exception regarding confidentiality should be added regarding the potential for selfharm or homelessness (the bill already has an exception for potential child abuse). Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Name: Daniel Christiansen

Comment: Its not about sex, no one is teaching kids about intercourse. This bills intent is an attack on families that arent a man+woman. Stop pretending Christians are victims when the choice to be Christian has never been threatened. Families come in all shapes sizes and formats.

Name: Katelyn Swanson

Comment: No to HF8! Erasing an entire community is extremely harmful to the lgbtqia+ students within schools, as well as to lgbtqia+ staff, teachers, and parents. All children should be shown that lgbtqia+ people exist and are humans who deserve respect just like everyone else. This bill will only continue to create divides when none are needed and segregate.

Name: Carrie Sponheim

Comment: This bill restricts Iowa children from being themselves at school. Please dont vote it through committee.

Name: Sarah Cisco

Comment: Why?? Why are you doing this??? This helps NO ONE!!!! You are choosing HATE if you vote for this bill. Please stop trying to move this state backwards in time!!!! The people want progress. People deserve the right to their lives! This bill targets a minority, please VOTE NO!!!!

Name: Aidan Yoder

Comment: This is a bad bill for Iowa families and youth.

Name: Doug Thoma

Comment: Please vote no on this bill. It is harmful to children.

Name: Jennifer LeVora-Cummins

Comment: Everyone is equal and should be treated at such, no matter how they identify and who they love.

Name: Keegan McAllister

Comment: Children of LGBT parents have the right to talk about their families at school, the same as anyone else. Vote no.

Name: Charlotte Fairlie

Comment: I oppose this bill. Education and knowledge does not harm anyone. Censorship does.

Name: Nat Hall

Comment: Vote NO on this bill. It is rooted in FEAR and there is no real reason for it. Just ask the actual educators in this state, you know the ones who are continually undervalued and attacked by this legislature, there is NO REASON for this bill. This is rightwing fear mongering at its most sinister. Regardless of what you all do, there are still allies in this state who will fight for the rights & integrity of LGBTQ+ families. We will not let you erase them. We will continue to protect the trans, nonbinary and queer youth that you want to pretend don't exist. News for you, THEY EXIST and they each deserve to live a full life, filled with LOVE and not HATE. Vote NO, choose PEACE.

Name: Katelynn Wilson

Comment: I wish you all would focus on something that actually matters and helps make iowans life easier. This is a waste of time and resources. You should all be ashamed of yourselves.

Name: Nancy Lund

Comment: Make Iowa schools a safe space for ALL of Iowas children and their teachers. Vote NO on HF 8 aka HF Hate! Support ALL Iowa students and their teachers by squashing this bill. Our students need to know their teachers are always a trusted adult who are there to support, not out them. Of course a child should be able to talk about these issues with their parents, but the fact is not all students are lucky enough to be able to do so safely. For those children, and their teachers, vote NO.

Name: Meghan McCray

Comment: I do NOT support this at all! The harder that Iowa Republicans push for backwards, antiquated policies like this the more young families (like mine) will move! I want my children to learn freely. Were already facing a brain drain this doesnt help us fix that. This is the exact opposite of freedom that the Iowa GOP is always harping on. Its oppressive at best. Id call it transparently malicious. So disappointing.

Name: Tara Kramer

Comment: This bill is silly and unnecessary. Schools are institutions for learning. If our children

have questions, we should be able to answer those questions truthfully and fully. The more subjects are censored in school, the less our children will have a chance to learn. Iowa's education levels are already slipping. Let's focus on bills that will fund and support Iowa's public school children.

Name: Kara Connor

Comment: As a former teacher and now parent of children soon entering the public school system, this bill is saddening. I want all of my students to feel seen, represented, and respected. I want my students and own children to learn about the wide variety of people and families that exist around them. Erasing LGBTQ+ people by banning any mention or representation of them will not only decrease our children's acceptance of everyone but will add to the hardship that is the human experience for those deemed as unacceptable but this bill.

Name: Annie Tekippe

Comment: LGBTQ identity, history and culture is important not only to LGBTQ students but to all students. I think it is important to teach children about everyone not just a select few.

Name: Rachelle La Mar

Comment: This bill transforms Iowa's classrooms into unsafe spaces for LGBTQ+ students, spaces where they must hide their sexuality. Such measures add to existing stigma and discrimination of LGBTQ youth, who already face higher health and suicide risks than their cisgender or straight peers. When given access to spaces that affirm their gender identity, these risks go down significantly. This bill does not mention or require consulting with school counselors or considering the student's home situation, which could be hostile and cause more harm than good. This completely undermines LGBTQ support in schools, and parental notification requirements could effectively require teachers to out LGBTQ students (who are already grappling with their personal identity) to potentially unsupportive or abusive family members before a student is ready. I believe in trusting teachers to guide students in their learning and sometimes that will include life lessons. Please vote no and protect ALL students.

Name: Mandy Mahr

Comment: These laws are premeditated harm to children and teens. We will see a rise in deaths and bullying if we can't protect these kids. These proposals will ultimately harm our communities in DEEP ways. Research proves this. Therefore, by passing these even suggesting these you are stating you are alright with children and teens being harmed. This is NOT Iowa families first. This is agenda and conservatism driven without regard for the safety of anyone different than you.

Name: Charlotte Heck

Comment: I am in favor of this bill, but not as written. Instead of going only through grade 3, the bill should include all grades!

Name: Peter Salvitti

Comment: This must not pass. For the love of God, please leave our children alone.

Name: Megan Kramer

Comment: Bills like this are dangerous and ignorant. Queer kids will always be queer kids, but by not allowing them to learn and be themselves in school, you would just be hurting them NOT turning them into cishet kids. We should be lifting queer and trans kids up and giving them all the knowledge and space they need to grow into beautiful, fully evolved adults.

Name: Kalmia Strong

Comment: I urge you not to forward this bill. Disallowing conversation that is inclusive of

diverse Iowa families including same-sex parents is dangerous to youth in our schools, encouraging bullying, feelings of isolation, and ultimately damaging Iowa communities.

Name: Tassy Blunt

Comment: Removing information and censoring should be the last thing on any bill about humanity in schools. This would also limit the free room of bullying. I strongly oppose this proposed bill.

Name: Dominic Dongilli

Comment: I write in opposition to this bill. It prohibits the implementation of age appropriate instruction in social skills, emotional literacy, and self expression. It is a violation of student free speech and free expression.

Name: Lindsay McClintock

Comment: As a fully straight Christian white upper middle class female, I'm constantly in awe of all that the GOP is doing in this state to hurt people. This bill has zero impact on me personally other than my pride for what I once believed was a great state. Nothing positive will come out of this instead more bullying and further secluding a group that already has it tough enough. This is not Christian, this is finding ways to boost elitism.

Name: Julie Neff

Comment: I strongly oppose HF 8 and the proposal to prohibit the teaching of or discussion of gender identity and sexual orientation in K3. Many children have same sex parents, same sex relatives, or know of same sex community members. Attempting to pretend that these relationships do not exist is tantamount to lying to children when they have questions, make comments, or simply acknowledge that they may have two mothers or two fathers. You may be anti-LGBTQIA, Representative Wheeler and Representative Holt, and that's fine for you and your family. It isn't fine however, for you to impose your beliefs and your opinions on other people's children. Please stop with the attacks on people who are not exactly like you. You both claim to be Christians, but Jesus called us to love one another. He did not tell you to disparage, target, and hate families and children who are different from you.

Name: Lisa Coffey

Comment: Please do not allow HF 8 to advance beyond subcommittee. 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: Sarah Chang

Comment: My Unitarian Universalist faith calls me to STRONGLY OPPOSE HF8, for the sake of Iowa's entire unavoidably and beautifully diverse society. Gender identity is not a sexual concept, and those who think it is are either grossly misunderstanding or twisting it, which is all the more reason for clarification of such concepts to be valued, especially in educational settings. It's about all colors and all toys being okay for any child, not about body parts. And when it comes to sexual orientation, classroom discussions are not about sex or even desire, but everyone's families, even if they happen to have two moms. The idea that such discussions could encourage a child to become gay or trans is as absurd as suggesting that discussions about disability could encourage a child to become disabled. If that were possible, everyone would be straight and cis because we've all been constantly bombarded

from birth by discussions about and representations of heterosexuality and cisgenderness. You will not "straighten" gay or trans students by passing this, and allowing them to feel safe and be better understood by their classmates in no way endangers said classmates. But it does endanger LGBTQ folks of ALL AGES by sending the message that they should not exist, which implicitly condones violence by ignorant people literally forcing them not to exist (which we have seen escalate nationally since the recent increases in legislation like this), because it implies that they are subhuman. And that is absolutely unacceptable. Iowa is better than that. Please show it by opposing HF8 and any other similar bills.

Name: Cheryl Benson

Comment: I am against this bill. Any time we are denying or hiding information is a red flag to me. Also, if schools cannot have any instruction on gender identity or sexual orientation, then I assume that any book that shows a man and woman in a relationship would be banned as well. It saddens me that the Iowa Legislature is so full of hatred for LGBTQ individuals who already have a high suicide rate.

Name: Doug Lane

Comment: This bill, along with every other bill introduced this session that addresses gender identity, is a thinlyveiled attempt to erase the LGBTQ population from dialogue in society. It's morally repugnant to attack a group of people for merely being who they are, and regressive actions like this are ultimately on the losing side of history. The Legislature ought to spend it's time solving problems, not creating them.

Name: Jennifer Allen

Comment: I strongly OPPOSE HF 8. This bill is an attempt to erase the existence of LGBTQ teachers, parents, and students. Teachers do not need to be criminalized for mentioning their spouse, and children do not need to be shamed for discussing their parents.

Name: Dessie Sliemers

Comment: Hello, I urge you to please vote NO on HF8. Children need to be taught to love and accept others, even if they are different from themselves or their family. Removing any education on the gender identity and sexual orientation is a gross disadvantage to not only kids with families in the LGBTQ community but kids who identify in that community themselves. Furthermore, teaching kids about other lifestyles does NOT indoctrinate them to change, it will only help them understand how other kids and their families live their lives. Lastly, kids don't see this as an issue, it's pious, uninformed adults that feel uncomfortable that are fabricating this issue. Please vote NO on HF8.

Name: Anna Wolvers

Comment: As a former elementary teacher, and now an elementary and middle school substitute teacher, I am in favor of this bill. However, I do think it needs to be extended to eighth grade at least, possibly even 12th!! Middle schoolers are just growing, developing, and maturing. They can't be trusted to use the restroom during passing times alone, let alone know about genders and orientations. And we don't allow them to buy drugs, alcohol, tattoos, or go to war until they're older for several reasons. Lady Gaga has videos about why this isn't a good idea to teach or force on children. There's also an article from a whistleblower who worked in a gender change facility who warns now of its long term effects. Schools are overwhelmed with all the standards and curriculum materials expected to teach as it is to cover the basics of reading, writing, math, science, history, etc. This bill is to protect children and teachers. I wouldn't want to be responsible teaching kids about gender identification or orientation. If adults discuss this in workplace, it's sexual harassment, why not in schools?? If TV shows like WHO 13 couldn't show the Mom's posters on TV to adult audiences, why can schools be teaching it?? Questions for thought/clarity?? Does the current language prevent Drag Shows from occurring in schools?? If not, it

should!! And vaccines should not be required, they should be left a choice between the family and their medical providers!! It looks like it says HPV Vax should be made available, but not currently required...And lastly I don't love the language "age appropriate and research based". Working with children with disabilities, they're not always at the same levels of comprehension as same aged peers. And even Bill Gates and Merick Garland have "research based curriculums" and have never been teaching in the classroom. They have enough funds to "research" and say whatever they want to...In general though, I'm for this bill, extending it to at least 8th grade, if not 12th. It does not exclude LGBTQ+ kids from sharing about their families or situations, it just prevents the school from teaching and forcing it on students.

Name: Erin Hartel

Comment: Every child deserves to feel safe and seen. Just because you outlaw the ability to discuss LGBTQIA topics, health concerns, etc. doesn't stop kids from being gay, trans, nonbinary, etc. It just creates a toxic culture of shame and allows bullying to flourish. The kids in the LGBTQIA community have the highest rates of selfharm and suicide. Shouldn't we be putting our resources toward protecting our most vulnerable?

Name: Trisha Boehm

Comment: This bill should not be passed. Our schools need to be inclusive and this bill will cause the opposite.

Name: Robert Canada

Comment: I don't live in Florida, and I do NOT support this bill. These bills say Iowa is antigay and trans. We're sending a message that there's no opportunity for trans and gay people in our state.

Name: Chris Alcott

Comment: Iowa used to be a friendly and welcoming place for everyone. Lately it seems our state has shifted focus to finding new ways to exclude and shun. Let's not let this cancer spread in our community. Please reject HF 8 so Iowa can remain a safe and inviting place for all.

Name: Cassandra Gatewood

Comment: I am in strong support of this bill and encourage you to extend it through 12th grade. I question the agenda behind this experiment on our children and those responsible should be held accountable. This is necessary to protect the innocence of all children being encouraged to consider ideas that are deliberately planted that would otherwise never be a thought. This is Grooming!

Name: Judi Moore

Comment: I comment in opposition to this bill. I do not believe that deliberately targeting teachers, librarians, LGBTQ+, and others is good governance. The extreme right is pushing a playbook of hatred and bullying and we do not have to follow their playbook.

Name: Allison Swain

Comment: I don't even know what to say anymore besides the fact that these Republicans are terribly disappointing to humanity and will be remembered for the hate they spewed and the children they killed ON PURPOSE because they were born without souls CLEARLY!

Name: Joan Crowe

Comment: I am not in favor of this bill. It is peculiar and prohibits help if help were needed for children experiencing LGBT issues for whatever family reason. People have parents of the same sex.

Name: Jenny Gringer Richards

Comment: It is critical that the state remains a place that supports lgbtq+ individuals and their families.

Name: Cindy jo Benes

Comment: We support this bill. It is actually loving to have the best interest of the children in mind and to make decisions based on our Creators design and intention. Give the children age appropriate subject matter and let them enjoy their innocence. Many other issues are now being blanketed in gender ideology. The loving thing to do is to deal and face the real issues.

Name: Sandra Bild-Kacena

Comment: PLEASE vote against HF 8 and make it more welcoming to the LBGTQ children. My daughter had friends in High School who came out while in school (some came out early). Some had told their parents and were disowned or kicked out of the house while others did disclose to their parents but still struggled with how they were treated by others. All though her school had a ban on bullying, it was still done, especially on social media. 5 out of her group of 13 friends tried to commit suicide because of what they went through at home or how they were treated in school. Luckily, these girls didn't succeed, many do. Even if they are different, these are still our kids/students children under the age of 18, with no where to turn to find answers or to have the acknowledgement that they were okay and still loved. Do we really want to have the children in Iowa live in danger in an unstable environment afraid of being themselves? or worse take their lives to escape? PLEASE vote against HF 8 and make it more welcoming to these children.

Name: Jessie Ryan

Comment: Dont pass these bills. The GOP claims to be for families and children but you consistently propose and pass legislature that does the opposite for our state. Inclusivity and equality is essential for our state to move forward.

Name: Jodie Butler

Comment: Please DO NOT pass this bill and instead work with professionals who know more about gender identification, psychological and mental health issues, etc. The Legislature is the WORST place to make a law that does not address the compassion that requires thoughtful approaches to children of all ages as well as children with differences that are identified early. I had a first grade student in Harlan Iowa who was born with BOTH gender sexual parts intersex or hermaphrodite and the parents had to choose which "identity" that they wanted for their child. That also meant that they needed assistance from the medical community to assist with various issues throughout this child's life. The child was a "boy" but he did NOT feel like he was a "boy." Was he a threat to anyone? NO. Did children tease him? YES. Was that the reason they MOVED? YES. Schools DO need to be safe places for all children, not just those whose parents don't want to discuss these issues. What those parents do not realize is that SOME children a small minority need to understand WHY they feel different and to have AGE appropriate materials and support. They also need respectful compassionate adults who can help them develop into thoughtful, kind, considerate, knowledgeable adults. It's time to stop targeting this population with the demeaning/demonizing language and laws that would persecute them further.

Name: Janet Hissem

Comment: Vote NO on HF8. This is just short of Nazi gas chambers . When are you Republicans going to STOP your White Supremacy behavior !!!! What you are doing is putting more children in danger of child abuse from close minded parents and bullying for being different but not being to identify with their true selves. All of the people commenting about Gods direction are forgetting the ultimate directions. Thou

Shalt Not Judge. Love your neighbor as yourself . Not if they comply to your ideals. You that chose to say Yes to this bill are nothing short of Nazi gestapo doing Hitlers (Kim Reynolds reincarnated) bidding. WAKE UP and act like human beings capable of empathy.

Name: Chelsea Davis

Comment: I ask you to think critically about HF8 and its potential repercussions. Please vote no. It is ridiculous to assume that our welleducated and trained teachers are sharing or would share explicit information in public schools. Teachers understand the appropriate language to use and when to time instruction related to the human body and/or identities none of which is explicit, nor an effort to "indoctrinate" Iowa's children, a coordinated narrative pushed by the GOP to inflame hatred and intolerance of anyone who is deemed "different." This type of legislation which has been a disturbing trend across the nation over the past couple of years amounts to educational gag orders, according to PEN America, a centuryold nonprofit organization that works to protect free expression. Efforts to restrict curricula amount to state censorship. The intentions of Rep. Skyler Wheeler and his Republican counterparts are clear: They seek to censor our public schools by placing blinders on students, hiding the realities of our world. While HF8 does yet not detail penalties, it is not impossible to think that it could follow past GOP attempts to hold our schools hostage with the threat of withholding state funding. I am deeply disturbed by the efforts in this legislative session to punch down on vulnerable populations and our public schools, which need our support now more than ever. Please vote against HF8.

Name: Ayrin Alexander

Comment: Why is the GOP wasting so much time and money trying to undo things that dont mean anything to them?! Choose your identity and move on! There are MANY more important things to address (public education, healthcare accessibility in the state, public transportation). Leave the kids alone! Youve already put them in enough hard places!

Name: Brenda Mohr

Comment: HF 8 Ban on Sexuality in Schools K3Hello, I urge you to modify the wording of this proposed bill to completely eliminate teaching of fluid gender identity and homosexual/bi sexual behavior as normal, from ALL GRADES, K12. What they are teaching is NOT education; it is indoctrination. A childs identity is private, for the child and his/her parents to determine. No school or governmental system has the authority to determine the parenting of the child. The school is there to TEACH our children skills by which they may provide for themselves out in the world. Personality and sexual behaviors are best parented, at home. It is vitally important for our continued freedom in this land, to cherish the wholesome values taught in the bible. A child will return to the ways in which they were raised, after they become an adult. If a child is not sure of their identity when they are young, theyll constantly secondguess their self, as an adult. Then, rather than being focused on the world around them and making a positive difference in it, theyll be selfabsorbed and wondering what gender theyll be, today? But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways, James 1: 68. Why does lack of identity hurt us? If we dont know who we are for our own self, we wont stand up for anybody else, either. When a person is unsure of who they are, they dont stand up or resist an adversary. They are open and weak and in need of completion. The adversary sees that opening and exploits it by filling it with whatever that persons immediate, fleshly needs desire. Then, when someone else needs someone to stand strong and defend them, they dont assist that person, either. Thats what the devil is doing to our nation and world through extramarital sex: hes stealing identities, and, by it, our whole unity and ability to defend ourselves. After that, we are not willing to defend others,

either. That's how nations are broken and are sieged. We all need allies, like Christ stood up for us when we were in need and strengthened us by giving us his wholeness in exchange for our brokenness. Our children need the certainty of knowing who they are in an everchanging world, so that they stand strong for principles which made us a great nation. Change the wording of HF 8 to bar teaching of fluid gender identity and that homo or bisexual behaviors are normal, from ALL levels of school, K12. Thank you for your consideration, Dr Brenda K Mohr

Name: Ayrin Alexander

Comment: Why is the GOP wasting so much time and money trying to undo things that don't mean anything to them?! Choose your identity and move on! There are MANY more important things to address (public education, healthcare accessibility in the state, public transportation). Leave the kids alone! You've already put them in enough hard places!

Name: Dr Brenda Mohr

Comment: Please change the wording of HF 8 to eliminate teaching or counseling about the HPV vax in schools. That should be between a child and their doctor/parents, alone. Especially given that the vax has detrimental side effects and vaccine injuries (VAERS reports). No school should act as a parent. The government should not be allowed to meddle in personal health matters of students.

Name: Harry Ehrlich

Comment: I am a Support on this bill. If amendments are taken I believe it should apply to grades K12.

Name: Kay Mackey

Comment: Over 7% of our population identify as LGBTQ+. Many are moms, dads, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, your friends and maybe your children. They are bosses, employees, students, and politicians. To think that students in grades K3 are oblivious to the world around them is naive. These children have friends with 2 moms, 2 dads, maybe a sibling or grandparent that identifies as LGBTQ+. These children are curious and ask a lot of questions. How do you advise a teacher to respond to this question from a 7 year old, Why does my friend have 2 moms & I have a mom & dad? I have a neighbor that was a boy and now wears dresses. Why does he do that? I want my grandchildren to understand that every person is different, every person has the right to love who they love and every person needs to be respected for who they are.

Name: Rebecca Cordray

Comment: Definitely in favor of HF 8. Strengthen it to apply to K12. These are topics for children to discuss with their parents or someone designated by parents. We need to protect the innocence of children.

Name: Mary McGee Light

Comment: Please stop this bill because it is absolutely hateful toward LGBTQ+ children and their families, and teachers.. The damage that you are seeking will be horrific for these people will be immense. Just stop it before it goes any further.

Name: Alison Cocks

Comment: I do not support the bills being discussed. It is demeaning and demoralizing to single out people. You are trying to legislate against people's civil rights. For a party of small government, you certainly are trying to regulate people's lives and are not listening to the majority of Iowans.

Name: Kathy Winter

Comment: This is harmful legislation that is targeting an already marginalized community. Do

any of you actually know a transgender person? Maybe you should start there with meeting and talking to members of that community instead of legislation.

Name: Levi Cooper

Comment: Please vote NO for this bill. As a gay student, I have experienced extreme anxiety, depression, and struggles with my identity because I had no resources to rely on as a young kid. Another reason to vote No on this bill is because what they are teaching is to accept other students. They aren't trying to turn children gay, they're trying to stop hate.

Name: Catherine L George

Comment: Please don't pass this Bill. I'm worried about my young trans friend.

Name: Barbara and Jim Dale

Comment: Some very young children make it known that they feel of a different gender than the one assigned at birth. Families and school personnel must have the freedom to support and accommodate those children. If their self-identity provokes others to punitive or discriminatory actions against them, they can become depressed or even self-destructive. Our Creator makes us all individual, and our spiritual guide Jesus shows us that all are worthy and in need of the love made known through the spirit of life. Please work toward age-appropriate conversations and avoid prohibiting anything that will be destructive to developing personalities.

Name: Starr Covington

Comment: This is a disturbing and horrifying bill that would allow bullying of LGBTQ+ groups. This hate bill has no place in Iowa. We are a better state and more Iowa nice than this. As a former Iowan teacher, creating an INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT is KEY for learning. If ALL STUDENTS do not feel safe, learning is not possible. Disregarding who a person is never is a kind thing to do. We are kind in Iowa and this is not it. This bill promotes discrimination and hate. Don't say gay is so horrific when there are many LGBTQ+ families who will not feel represented in the school.

Name: Vanessa Renaud

Comment: Please vote no on this bill. All Iowa families deserve the right to be seen in our communities including all children in their schools. Legally enforcing these topics to be banned is harmful and abusive to trans children and same sex families. Providing appropriate conversation around these topics forms a better educated community that supports everyone. Vote no.

Name: Emily Crowe

Comment: Please vote against this bill. It will actively harm LGBTQ youth and those with families outside of the "traditional" family dynamic. These topics can be addressed in an age appropriate manner. Thank you.

Name: Rebecca Colman

Comment: Keep Iowa inclusive!

Name: Claire Hennessy

Comment: This is an absolutely disgusting bill and as a member of the community I'm disgusted for Iowa and our future.

Name: Nichole Singer

Comment: I do not support this. Let these kids be who they are and don't take their support away. Teachers embracing who kids are is instrumental in healthy development.

Name: Julie Schendel

Comment: Knowledge is always better than ignorance. Kids need to learn about their whole

world, not just a whitewashed version. Lets find some kindness and acceptance for ALL of Gods children.

Name: Collin Adank

Comment: Hello,I truly challenge you to think about the productivity of this bill. Think about pressing problems for people, lack of access to healthcare, education, medication, stable food source, adequate income, debilitating mental health and almost no resources. Addressing any one of these would be more productive than this bill. People will see various genders and sexual orientations regardless of if the book they read in class has a mom and a mom or a non binary student. People who have various gender identitys and sexual orientations are people who live in the same world the the population that this bill will effect live in.Furthermore, I ask you Wheeler, Holt, and Steckman, why you feel learning that people have different genders and love different people is a bad thing? Did it ever occur to you that no ever person Shares your religion and views, people have different lived experiences than you, and they matter.Once you have address lack of access to healthcare, education, medication, stable food source, adequate income, debilitating mental health and almost no resources, then maybe circle back to eliminating people and their thoughts because they are different from yours.The opposite of sensitive is insensitive, that that is no badge of honor. Please consider wearing your badge of dishonor less proudly.Thank you.

Name: Anna Staveley

Comment: As a native Iowan and a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, these bills horrify me. The direct attempt to attack trans and other LGBTQIA+ students. This is not Iowa nice. This is a disgusting attempt to commit and encourage assaults on these students. I expect better from my fellow Iowans.

Name: Bradley Cisco

Comment: This bill is just hateful. It's a solution for a problem that doesn't exist.

Name: Samantha Schrader

Comment: I do NOT support this bill. Shame on you so called Christians using your religion to suppress others different from your ideals. LBGTIQA+ kids are forced to read books with straight characters/people every year growing up. Guess what. They are still LBGTIQA+. What makes you think a straight kid reading about or even befriending a gay kid will make them gay? The straight kid will still be straight if that is what they truly are. Just as a gay child will still be gay if that is what they truly are.

Name: Kyle Schrader

Comment: I do not agree with this bill. Kids should have the choice to be who they want to be.

Name: Nick Grober

Comment: You cannot promote hate in our schools! If it wasnt for my teachers supporting me realizing my sexuality I would not be here today.

Name: Thomas Hugo

Comment: If you can teach stories and lessons that involve heterosexual relationships/heteronormative family structures, you should be able to do the same regarding any other type of relationship/family situation. This is, once again per the Iowa GOP playbook, a non issue. Gotta love small government conservatives ONCE AGAIN going out of their way to do big government things. Leave your constituents alone, especially those in marginalized groups. Vote no on this bill. Stop trying to erase LGBTQ identities from every facet of public lifeseriously, its not helping anyone. And neither are you, legislators who vote yes and promote this bill. As the saying goesYou either die the herothough the Iowa GOP was never, in fact, the heroor live long enough to become the villain. Vote no.

Name: Virginia Griesheimer

Comment: I urge legislators to vote no on this discriminatory and deeply backwards bill. I can't believe we are even having this discussion. Banning the discussion of LGBTQ+ identities from schools doesn't protect children; it confuses them, blunts their ability to view other people with compassion, and harms their ability to feel comfortable in their own skin. But I suppose that is really the point, isn't it? Some members of this body want this community to disappear, and this is the path you've chosen to drive people back into the closet because that's easier than unpacking your own bigotry. This bill makes me deeply ashamed to live in this state. I can't believe we are here in 2023.

Name: Asher McClain

Comment: Iowa has never been the friendly state, and House File 8 and Senate File 83 are clear evidence of this. My name is Asher and I am a transgender Iowan, born and raised in this state by white, religious, conservative parents. Their values and beliefs did not change who I am, nor did their disapproval/rejection. I am proud to be transgender, but I am terrified to stay in Iowa. My partner and I are fleeing the state as soon as we possibly can. We are a lesbian couple, and I am terrified for our safety because of legislation like House File 8 and Senate File 83. You, the Iowa legislature, are driving young Iowans out of this state by the masses. You will continue to see the population of Iowa decrease as young people flee these extremist laws you are attempting to pass. Stop House File 8 and Senate File 83 to save lives. Are you prolife? Because these bills, if signed to law, will take lives of young and old, gay and transgender Iowans. Even questioning the validity of queer and transgender peoples identities and existence is damage. You are contributing to a narrative that is intended to cause harm on our communities. The farthest from friendly, BIPOC and queer people are fleeing the state of Iowa for our lives. From where I stand, Iowa is a hateful, bigoted state, and I wish I wasn't born here.

Name: Tasha Lindo

Comment: This is a terrible bill. Students engage in conversations about the world in which we live, as we all do. This prevents students from learning and engaging in discussions about people with their peers and educators and community. I am a mother of four. Please give my children the education they deserve and stop proposing bills that invoke hate/fear/misunderstandings.

Name: Renee Pedersen

Comment: Coming from a family of five teachers who taught grades ranging from kindergarten to high school, I talked to all of them. Some of them are teaching yet and some are retired. I was assured by all of them that gender identity was NEVER OR IS TAUGHT in Iowa public schools. However, by the overreach of the government telling teachers that they cannot discuss the question if brought up in a class is completely unreasonable. A teacher's answer may make the difference between children getting misinformation from the internet and a simple, fact-based answer that she or he would give them. Also, in many households, a special teacher may be a third parent or a calming voice to a student in a time of life they are facing confusion or bullying or uncertainty. You take that away from the child, you take away the child's first line of defense against bigotry and unwanted attention that could be redirected by a teacher that could handle the situation or bring in people who are experts in handling it. However, you take this option away, you are just creating more problems because a few people don't believe that being gay or transgender person could possibly be a Christian. I want to remind them that God said to love your neighbor as you love yourself. You may not agree with them, but you still LOVE THEM! This bill is wrong! If you think that this subject is not talked about by the kids already, you're very naive. Let the teachers be able to discuss it if asked. Wouldn't you want your kids to get a correct answer rather than some random, made-up fact that is such a total lie that your kid is more confused than he or she began?

Name: Amy Jones

Comment: This bill is abhorrent. It attempts to erase LGBTQ+ students, families, and history through censorship. This bill will not make students safer.

Name: Billy Jones

Comment: This bill seeks the solace of fiction. The solace that Iowa can go back to the days of black and white sitcoms that would not even show a married couple in the same bed. The LGBTQ+ are not fictional. They are real and they contribute to our state and our country. I do not support this bill. A bill that will hurt Iowa because it is hurting Iowans.

Name: Melanie Distler

Comment: Everyone deserves to feel safe and represented. You cannot erase our children.

Name: Matthew Alexander

Comment: As a cousin, friend & father to many in the LGBTQIA community I am asking our legislators to not support this bill. It is well known that sexual orientation & gender identity are part of who we are as humans. I ask that as you assert control, show your god given humanity & respect for human decency. There is much to be gained as we accept & embrace diversity. This bill is only divisive. We are better than what this bill seeks to do to people.

Name: John Christiansen

Comment: I wrote to urge you in the strongest terms to vote "no" on HF8. Please respect diverse families: demonizing gay and trans people doesn't protect children; instead it diverts their attention from other, far more likely abusers and puts them at greater risk. Withholding evidencebased sex education puts them at greater risk of disease and unwanted pregnancy; both of these actions make Iowans' lives worse. Queer and trans Iowans are not a threat to children or any one else, and everyone benefits when you've people understand the functions of their bodies. I urge you to do the right thing and VOTE NO On this bill.

Name: Denise Perez

Comment: I vehemently oppose this bill. As the parent to an LGBTQ student, this bill signals that they do not matter, that their humanity doesn't matter, and that their life doesn't matter. This will open up my child to more bullying just for existing. The current youth mental health crisis is only amplified by hateful bills like this.

Name: Andrew Boddicker

Comment: Alright Ill make this short. I am a teacher, so I am in the arena everyday with students. I am also a gay man.I grew up in the 80s and 90s never a mention of queerness or sexuality, nothing in schools. And if there ever was, it was always negative.I am still gay. What on earth do you think this bill is going to do? Reduce the amount of gay people? Get a grip and work on things that will actually helps students like, oh I dont know, support teachers by raising salaries and recruiting teachers because this bill will remove at least one teacher from the ranks. You are digging public educations grave.

Name: Olivia-Margaret Manaligod

Comment: What happened to freedom of speech and expression? Are LGBTQ+ elementary school teachers supposed to be in the closet for your comfort? Thats preposterous. How is it that when I was in elementary school in 2006 discussing LGBTQ+ identities were fine but now it isnt? Banning books, targeting the LGBTQ+ community, you know what you sound like? Nazis. The nazis burned books that didnt go along with their fascist agenda and they also killed and harmed LGBTQ+ folks. I know youre just throwing us under the bus for your political careers so you

can continue to control the government, but if nothing else will convince you, think about how you're going to look in textbooks 80 years from now. You're going to be the names that people look back on as bigots. Your homophobic and transphobic speeches will be played in classrooms as examples of hatred in 2023. Your descendants will be ashamed to be related to you. Also, imagine being an LGBTQ+ first grader surrounded by homophobic/transphobic people. Reading a book at school where someone like you exists, can save your life. Gender expression and identity can be mentally processed by age 3. Children deserve better than your bigotry. They are still citizens who have their own thoughts and opinions, not just people you can control. I am a Christian, and I am queer. If any of you are Christian, I want you to think of Jesus, and how He would react to you targeting a marginalized community with hatred. Of course there should be a separation of church and government, but we know you republicans insert religious agendas into politics all the time. So be a good samaritan and look out for all people, not just the ones who you think will vote for you. Represent all of Iowa, the marginalized folks included. I will say this again, children deserve better than your bigotry.

Name: Kristine Miller

Comment: This is discrimination in its purest form. As "Christian Republicans", how is promoting hate and discriminatory rhetoric helpful to anyone. If this was a bill about gun control, Republicans would be up in arms talking about how it infringes on civil rights but when it comes to the LGBTQ+ community the same standards don't apply. I vote NO to this bill

Name: Megan Lange

Comment: IA GOP, please stop stating that you care about the wellbeing and safety of children when you're trying to pass bills like this. This is harmful to LGBTQ+ children, who are already at a high risk of mental health problems and suicide. If you really do care, I urge you, to put funding back into public schools by providing access to education for ALL students and supporting teachers/staff in schools.

Name: Linda Hoffman

Comment: Vote NO, this bill is about hate and will only make bullying worse. Kids deserve a safe place and it isn't always at home. Trust teachers to teach appropriate for students age.

Name: McKenzie Murray

Comment: Please do not pass these bills! The negative implications of these passing are immeasurable. We cannot sweep things we don't like or don't understand under the rug. Being gay is valid. Being trans is valid. Do not diminish their validity by hiding it.

Name: jordan stahly

Comment: Queer people's existence isn't inappropriate. There is no age appropriate time to discuss the existence of a huge part of our population. This is illogical and embarrassing and part of why I want to leave this state when I can. There are real problems that the government could be attempting to solve. The only word I keep coming back to is embarrassing. What about queer kids who get taught about straight families all the time? They're not turning straight, sorry to break it to you. It makes NO SENSE.

Name: Aaron Murphy

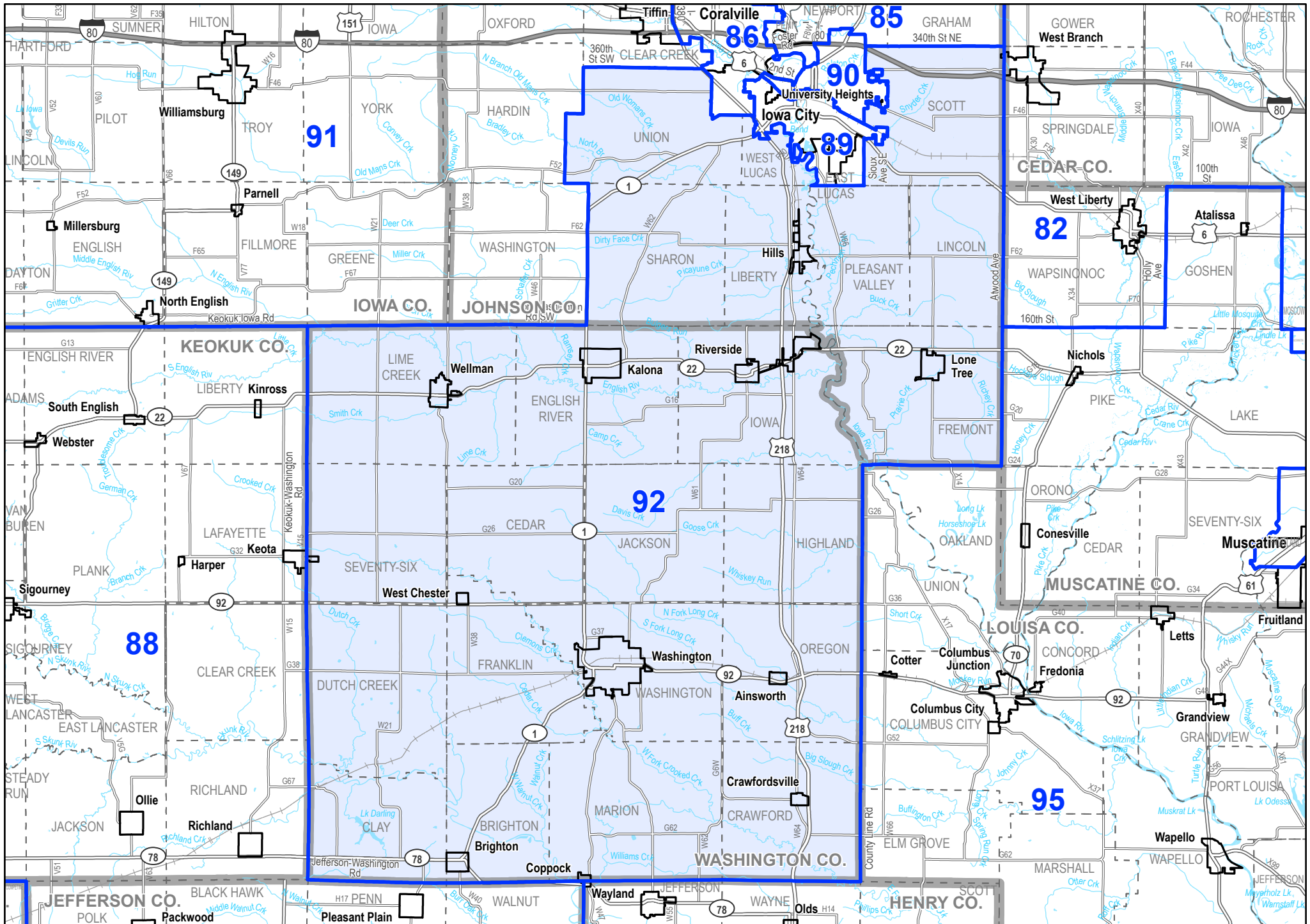
Comment: This bill is despicable and should not move forward. Iowa is already far behind in education test results, enrollment, and teacher shortages we do not need to shoot ourselves in the foot with MORE bureaucracy. Listen to the young voters in this state and drown out of this hatred.

Name: Emily Magnuson

- Comment:** Students of all backgrounds, identities, and creeds should be validated for who they are in our school system. When that validation is taken away suicide rates climb and we lose lives. These laws are in essence coming into existence because people have not read and educated themselves on the research and medical aspects of being born as different sexes and sexual identities. If this bill is passed it is because of willful ignorance, and that should be a crime.
- Name:** Jill Swanson
- Comment:** Vote NO. This bill is pure bigotry and will only lead to bullying and further discrimination against those in this community. Sex education is just that: education. Gay students have been learning about heterosexual relationships for years and it didn't make them straight. That's not how it works. If this passes, I expect that it will include all sexual education. I don't want to hear references to husbands, wives, sex, etc. Apply it uniformly because it is unfair to subject everyone to your narrow beliefs on sex, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Name:** Megan Rife
- Comment:** I am against this bill going any further in its discussion.
- Name:** Julianne Ossman
- Comment:** Please vote no. Schools should have tools to stop bullying. My friend's daughter was told she's going to hell for having two moms. Is this the world we want to live in? Our public schools know what they are doing and do not need hateful bills to make their already tough job even more challenging. Please stop bullying kids.
- Name:** Storm Huinker
- Comment:** This bill is yet another attempt at queer erasure.

Name: Valerie Kemp


Comment: I strongly encourage you to vote no. It is trying to fix a problem that does not exist and is harmful to our children. Shame on you for even considering this hate mongering. If this is how you are going to waste taxpayers time and money adjourn now and go home



Effective Beginning with the Elections in 2022 for the 90th General Assembly

HOUSE DISTRICT 92

 City
 COUNTY
 TOWNSHIP
 House District

 0 2.5 5 10 Miles
Prepared by the Iowa Legislative Services Agency using 2020 Census data.