

My name is Kimberly Glenn, born and raised in Iowa, and I strongly oppose HF 583 for its devastating impact on transgender Iowans and our entire community. This bill undermines science, erases decades of civil rights progress, and endangers lives. Please consider the following points:

- **Scientific Truth and Biological Reality:**

— Peer-reviewed research confirms that gender identity is shaped by prenatal hormones, genetic factors, and brain structure differences. Transgender individuals often exhibit neurological patterns more aligned with their affirmed gender than with their birth-assigned sex. This is not ideology—it’s biology.

- **Impact on Transgender Iowans:**

— National estimates indicate that about 0.6–0.7% of U.S. adults are transgender. With Iowa’s population of roughly 3.1 million, that means approximately 18,000 to 22,000 transgender Iowans.

— In my own family, two transgender relatives experienced severe depression, self-harm, and even suicidal ideation before transitioning. Once affirmed, they found renewed hope and the strength to thrive. HF 583 would force them—and thousands like them—to use legal documents that misrepresent who they truly are, worsening mental health outcomes and increasing vulnerability.

- **Rollback of 16 Years of Civil Rights Protections:**

— For over 16 years, the Iowa Civil Rights Act has protected individuals from discrimination based on gender identity. HF 583 strips away these vital protections, leaving transgender individuals exposed to harassment and discrimination in workplaces, schools, and public spaces.

- **Increased Bullying and Harassment:**

— Removing legal recognition of gender identity emboldens bullies—both peers and those in positions of authority—to target transgender individuals without fear of legal repercussions.

— In schools, this will create a hostile learning environment where transgender students are singled out and bullied, and in workplaces, it will lead to unchecked harassment that compromises both dignity and economic security.

- **Educational and Social Consequences:**

— The bill mandates that Iowa schools teach only a narrow, binary definition of sex by banning “gender theory” instruction for grades K–6. This restriction limits critical, inclusive dialogue and prevents young people from understanding and accepting diverse gender identities.

— By forcing vital records to reflect only the sex assigned at birth, HF 583 further isolates transgender students and workers, making them easy targets for discrimination and bullying.

HF 583 is not just a legal technicality—it is a step backward that jeopardizes the well-being of thousands of vulnerable Iowans. It disregards robust scientific evidence, reverses hard-won civil rights protections, and creates an environment where bullying and harassment in schools and workplaces can flourish unchecked. **I strongly urge our lawmakers to reject HF 583 and instead support policies that honor both scientific truth and the dignity of every Iowan.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Glenn
Iowa Resident