
BARBARA DITTRICH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 99th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Committee on Education

Testimony on AB 103

March 6, 2025

Good morning, Chair Kitchens and fellow members of the Assembly Committee on Education. Thank you for allowing me to testify on Assembly Bill (AB) 103. This legislation is just another way of empowering Wisconsin parents to participate in their children's education.

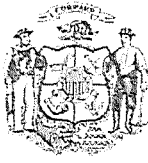
A child's primary educator should be their parents, and those parents are being excluded from a major life decision. Set aside whether you think a child should be transitioning their gender. Parents are completely unaware that their children are being called a completely different name than their actual given name. While some parents may not have an issue with their children having a nickname or an abbreviated version of their actual name, other parents have significant concerns with their child using a completely different name.

Parents are alerted to their children's grades, if they are going on a field trip, or any disciplinary actions, but not if they are being addressed by a different name in schools. You can't give a child a Tylenol in school without parental permission, yet a school can keep a parent completely in the dark if their child is transitioning in school. Parents are there to support their children's development, and it's impossible to do that when they don't know what is going on about something so core to their child's being for eight hours of each day.

AB 103 simply requires school boards to develop a policy for the process on changing legal names and pronoun usage in school records and documents. Principals will be the initial determinant for name and pronoun changes, but that can only be done so if legal documentation is provided. The policy also gives parents the final say on what name or pronouns are used. Staff will be prohibited from using any names or pronouns that differ from the student's biological sex without parental consent. Using nicknames, shortened forms of first names, and middle names are exempt in this legislation.

One school district that I represent, Arrowhead Union High School, implemented this policy in recent years, and this is something that they were already doing before the policy was implemented. This commonsense legislation keeps parents involved in the education of their children. It is a model that should be replicated in every school district in the state.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



ANDRÉ JACQUE

STATE SENATOR • 1ST SENATE DISTRICT

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Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Education

Senator André Jacque

Assembly Bill 103

March 6, 2025

Chairman Kitchens and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify with Rep. Dittrich as the Senate author of Assembly Bill 103, which would require that schools respect and restore parental responsibility for the health and well-being of their minor children.

It is deeply troubling to me that school staff would seek, or even be encouraged, to keep parents out of major life decisions concerning their children, while at the same time, these same officials cannot give them aspirin without parental approval. Why would schools promote secrecy in such a way? Something has gone terribly wrong in our education system when officials inherently perceive parents as harmful to their own children.

Parents are legally accountable for the health and welfare of their minor children, and have the responsibility under the law to make decisions for them. More than that, we love them! Hiding from us important things that are going on in their lives is not only disrespectful to parents, it is harmful to our children and deliberately sabotaging the ability for vital communication to take place.

That's why we have introduced this bill to ensure school boards adopt policies requiring parental approval for changing legal names and pronouns on school records and documents, and confirm acceptable use of nicknames and pronouns within schools.

This legislation is consistent with the October 2023 ruling by the Waukesha Circuit Court that the Kettle Moraine School District's policy of changing students' names and pronouns at school without parental consent and over their objection violates parents' rights. This component is a very important part of AB 103, and it makes sense. You may have heard the famous Dale Carnegie quote that "A person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language." You probably don't have to think very long to recall numerous examples of this that you've witnessed yourself.

People like their name to be properly spelled and pronounced. A person forgetting or misremembering someone's name can offend or disappoint them. As public figures, we get called all sorts of names a lot. But particularly in a school setting, in front of peers, deliberately calling someone by the wrong name or pronoun can be fighting words. Now imagine if the person using the wrong name or pronoun is a teacher, and the power they hold in that situation. Think of the pressure that could create for that child to conform.

And don't get me wrong, I had so many fantastic teachers throughout my elementary and secondary education. My own mom is actually a former public and private school teacher who

did so much that I will forever be grateful for to advocate for me when she found out that I was being picked on. Because I also experienced significant bullying myself in both public and private school settings, and that included repeated name-calling from a high school teacher who notoriously did the same thing to several students, knowing the leverage that he had. I remember a classmate who ended up tears after class from being mocked and shamed repeatedly out loud in the classroom by the same teacher as a teen parent.

Now perhaps some of you will say, well, that's not entirely what this bill is about. Or think perhaps that the teacher was just joking around, or however it might be rationalized by a teacher or administrator. But it should be clear regardless that if the educational establishment creates or facilitates a situation where they intentionally deceive parents and insert their own judgment in place of parental decision-making, and even in some cases encourage kids to question their own gender, that is enormously inappropriate. This legislation is a key step to ending the deception and restoring trust.

Thank you for your consideration of Assembly Bill 103.



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
MELISSA RATCLIFF

16TH SENATE DISTRICT

To: Assembly Committee on Education
From: Senator Melissa Ratcliff
Re: Testimony on Assembly Bill 103
Date: March 6th, 2025

Good afternoon Chair Kitchens, Ranking Member Hong, and members of the Assembly Committee on Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about Assembly Bill 103. I appreciate being able to testify but I do not appreciate this bill at all. I am the mom of a Transgender son. It is hard to know where to begin, there is so much wrong with this bill.

It is cruel, discriminatory, and inhumane. It incentivizes persistent mistreatment of not just transgender and nonbinary kids, but ALL kids, and creates unsafe learning environments. It is a mess of a bill that would lead to absurd situations. This bill would be laughable if not for the fact that it creates real harm for our trans and nonbinary students.

The only positive thing I have to say about AB 103 is that it will never become law in the State of Wisconsin.

AB 103 targets transgender and nonbinary youth who want to be called – and most likely are called – by a name different than their legal name. It targets youth who want to choose the pronouns by which they are identified. Using a student's preferred name and pronouns is not about ideology. It is about dignity and respect. This bill would force educators to create unsafe school environments for their students and that includes trans and nonbinary students. It would allow for students to be consistently mis-gendered. What problem is this solving? Study after study has found that using trans and nonbinary students' chosen names and pronouns directly positively benefits their health and well-being. It reduces mental health risks known to be high among these often-marginalized children.

This bill will take away what is maybe a child's only safe space – their school. Their only safe space to be their authentic self. Their safe space to try out pronouns and a name that fits them - their being- more accurately. Family rejection is a common experience for trans and nonbinary students. Many trans and nonbinary students are not out at home. They may only be out at school because it's their safe space with friends and where they are shown respect by teachers.

This bill would force students to make a terrible choice with no good outcome: exist every day in a school where you are called by a name that is not yours...or be forced to out yourself when you cannot do so safely at home or before you are ready to do so. This bill creates an unworkable, confusing, and nonsensical tangle of reporting and permissions ostensibly centered around a student's legal name. Here's just one of the absurdities: if your legal name was Barbara, under this bill a School Board could put in place a policy declaring you could not be called Barbie in school. Or perhaps your legal name is Richard and you can no longer be called Dick. Or perhaps Charles can no longer be a Chuck. The State Legislature should not be micromanaging policy choices local School Boards make. But ultimately and most importantly, the State Legislature has no legitimate reason to force itself into the lives of Wisconsin's trans and nonbinary students and their families.

These anti-trans bills aim to target a small percentage of our population- of our children! - who have not hurt anyone. This bill doesn't protect anyone. Trans and nonbinary students are all-too-often the victims of bullying in school. How deeply sad that there are bullies in the State Legislature who go out of their way to create bills that single out these vulnerable students...students who want nothing more – and nothing less – than to be recognized as who they are.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge this Committee to vote no on AB 103.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak on behalf of our children.

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WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 7882 • MADISON, WI 53707-7882

To: Assembly Committee on Education

From: Senator Mark Spreitzer, Chair of the Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus

RE: Assembly Bill 103

Date: March 6, 2025

Chair Kitchens and committee members:

As Chair of the Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus, I am submitting written testimony on behalf of caucus members in opposition to 2025 Assembly Bill 103. We ask that this testimony be shared with all members of the committee, and be entered into the committee record for this bill.

Assembly Bill 103 creates new procedural obstacles for students updating their school records to reflect a legal name change that has already been approved by a court. The bill would require that every district implement these obstacles, regardless of a district's current policy and/or the efforts made by local elected officials to best represent their district and the families who have students enrolled in it. We understand that this legislation is based on policies that some districts have adopted with the express intent to decrease LGBTQ+ representation in schools, but the fact that some districts have adopted a bad policy is not justification for expanding that policy and requiring that every district fall in line.

This bill puts forward a policy for updating school records that puts school boards on a course to deny updating records in spite of a court order legally changing the name of a student. There can be no justification for a school board denying the reality of a student's legal name for any reason. At the heart of this discussion is the fact that school records are key to every student's future, and a mismatch between the legal name of a student and their school records can cause confusion and hardship well beyond the time spent at a student's school. Rather than allowing a student to apply to college or apply for a job with a school transcript and diploma that match the legal name on their driver's license, AB 103 allows a school board to reject a student's new legal name. Whatever the reason is for a student changing their legal name – whether to distance themselves from an abusive parent whose last name they do not want or because they are a trans student whose gender identity does not align with their prior name or because they are updating their last name after their parents' divorce – we should be ensuring that school boards are helping those students be in the best position possible. This bill instead creates the distinct possibility that school boards will be forced to hold a hearing between parents who disagree about a name change a judge has already approved - with a student's records stuck in the middle.

This bill also goes beyond a student's formal records and tries to police everyday interactions between students and school staff. Through AB 103, the Legislature is trying to micromanage social interactions that are made in everyday life without great controversy. If a student has a nickname that they go by for literally any reason, school staff are now forced to ignore the individuality and personality of their



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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students until a written authorization appears before them. The nickname policy in this bill is more restrictive than even some of the policies that it is based on and only allows nicknames based on a student's first or middle name to be used without authorization. Make the winning shot at the championship game and go by "Champ"? Better fill out a form. Have the last name Roberts and go by "Bobby"? Not without your form. The impact of this proposal would reach far beyond its intention - to further complicate school life for LGBTQ+ youth - and would result in awkwardness and absurdity across our state.

On behalf of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, I ask that you not schedule AB 103 for a vote. AB 103 takes the overly restrictive policies of a few districts and tries to impose them on every district in our state. If AB 103 comes before you for a vote in this Committee or on the Assembly floor, we ask that you vote no. This bill represents a micromanagement of local school districts and will not improve students outcomes. Instead of supporting this misguided bill, we hope that you will join us in telling transgender and nonbinary youth in our state that they are seen, they are loved, and that they belong here in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Spreitzer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Spreitzer

Chair, Wisconsin LGBTQ+ Caucus
State Senator, 15th Senate District



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

RYAN CLANCY

March 6, 2025

Testimony in opposition to Assembly Bill 103 relating to: school board policies related to changing a pupil's legal name and pronouns.

Members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

“What’s the point?”

That’s the question that so many folks have asked me about why on earth legislative Republicans would try for the second time in two sessions to give hearings to a slew of hateful, anti-trans, anti-non-binary legislation.

It didn’t go well for you last time at all.

That hateful legislation was destroyed in Committee, by the community that it was targeting and their advocates and experts, by people who knew it far better than the authors.

By my count, for every person who flew in to testify in favor of denying peoples’ identity, nine people testified against it.

Frankly I felt embarrassed for you.

So clearly the point wasn’t some show of popular power.

And the point clearly isn’t a show of legislative power. To his great credit, Governor Evers said publicly that he would veto all of this garbage. And he did, at least the bills that didn’t wither and die from shame in committee after the authors crumbled under even the lightest questioning.

And Evers reiterated that promise earlier this year. And if you insist on bringing it to the floor again, he’ll veto this, too.

So if the public is against it, and it’s never going to be law, what’s the point?

The point is not that your constituents in your districts are asking you to do this. In town halls and letters and calls and emails your constituents are begging legislators to take action to make their own lives better – to reduce the cost of housing and consumer goods and to help stop the massive harm that your federal Republican colleagues are inflicting on our communities. Your constituents are waking up in the morning not obsessing over other kids’ pronouns but wondering how they’ll pay their rent or afford medical care.

19TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

RYAN CLANCY

That's why the handful of people testifying in favor of this garbage today, just like last session, with the same talking points they used when this was pushed in other states, are largely flown in from other places.

So what's the point?

It's not as if most Republicans sincerely believe this is good legislation. Last year, after I testified against the ridiculous bill attempting to ban gender-affirming care, one Republican member of that committee spoke to me (ironically, in a bathroom) and wanted to be sure that I felt as though the process was fair, because he hadn't cut anyone off and allowed everyone to speak. I pointed out that you all simply could have refused to give this garbage a hearing and saved a lot of hurt and the time of scores of people, but that, other than that, the process was okay. At least he let everyone speak.

And then he said, "But I get it. It's sort of like the abortion thing. I wouldn't want someone telling me what I can or can't do with my own body."

And I was nearly hopeful there for a minute. I said, "Yes! That's it exactly. So, then, you'll be voting against it?"

And then he laughed. Because although he didn't think the legislation was a good idea, each of you - even the ones who see this garbage for what it is - is too cowardly to stand up to your leader. So you'll probably toe the line on this one and vote for it, too.

So the point isn't that you believe in it.

I would be tempted to say that the cruelty is the point. But I don't think that's quite it.

Let's be clear: the impact of this legislation is cruel. It's based not in a need for mental health or compassion or empathy, and maybe not even in hatred, but largely in insecurity.

I was a teacher for many years. And many times over those years, I was the first trusted adult to learn about a big thing in a child's life, whether it was a pregnancy, or that they were gay, or that they had come to realize that the gender assigned to them at birth was not, in fact, who they really were.

And at least the first couple of times, I assumed that these big things were news that they didn't feel comfortable sharing with their parents. But that assumption was often wrong. It wasn't that many of these students didn't have amazing, supportive parents, but that these children valued their relationship with their parents so much that they sometimes wanted to walk through how the conversation would go, with a trusted adult who they still had some distance from.

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RYAN CLANCY

Because I hope they knew that I would take it well, and be non-judgemental, and listen, but that even if I did mess up, it wouldn't harm the relationship with their parents, and would still better prepare them for that more important conversation with the people they loved the most.

And so I would appeal to you, authors of this legislation, and members of the committee who are also parents, or who think that you're working on behalf of parents:

As a parent whose oldest son came out to me and my wife as trans, I get it. It's scary. I didn't react well right away. I was insecure about my own parenting and didn't understand what was going on and was concerned for my child.

But even at the worst of my insecurity, I wouldn't ever have wanted my child's teacher to be unable to have a conversation with him about his identity or to be unable to refer to him by his actual name or pronouns.

The cruel impact of this legislation is hard to even put into words. It doesn't protect parents. It doesn't protect kids. It doesn't protect our community. It tries to draw a wedge between children and trusting adults in their lives who want to listen to them and help them and respect them.

I'll make one last appeal to the Republicans on this committee: parents, or people who care about children. Find your spines. Vote this down and stop harming our kids to further your boss's agenda.

Thank you,

Representative Ryan Clancy (19th District)

19TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Testimony in Favor of Assembly Bill 103

Assembly Committee on Education

March 6, 2026

Chairman Kitchens and Members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in favor of Assembly Bill 103. My name is Luke Berg, and I am an attorney with the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. I have been our lead attorney on our parental rights litigation.

As you're probably aware, multiple school districts in Wisconsin have policies to allow and facilitate children changing gender identity at school without notifying the parents or obtaining their consent. Some districts will even hide a transition at school from the parents. Imagine discovering that, for months, school staff have been treating your daughter as if she is your son, or vice versa, without you knowing about it. I've received that call from far too many Wisconsin parents in the last few years.

These policies violate parents' constitutional right to raise their own children, and we have brought lawsuits against three Wisconsin school districts on that basis. We won our lawsuit against the Kettle Moraine School District, but other districts continue to have these poorly thought-out policies. The Legislature has a chance to correct this issue statewide, to protect parents and their children, and it should do so, as other states have done.

The premise of these policies is that the only appropriate response when a child questions their identity is to immediately and without question "affirm" that the child really is the opposite sex. Think about how bizarre that is for a moment. We don't treat any other issue that way. No good parent gives their child anything and everything they want, no questions asked. Nor do we make medical decisions based solely on a child's self-diagnosis. Part of our job as parents, sometimes, is to protect our children from themselves.

Moreover, a robust body of research has shown that most children who struggle with this eventually "desist"—they return to comfort with their biological sex. But desistance drops dramatically for kids who transition. Because of this, many experts believe that treating children as if they are the opposite sex can do long-term harm by reinforcing a false belief. For that reason, many countries in Europe now recommend a slower, more cautious approach, where the first step is psychotherapy to help children process what they are feeling and why. These school district policies effectively take that option away from parents.

Whatever you think about this issue, it's beyond dispute that transitioning is not right for *everyone*, and for some, it does harm. More and more young people—especially girls—are telling us that this was their experience. You're going to hear from one in a moment. If you listen to their stories, they often say that they wish someone had the courage to tell them the truth about who they really are—not just what they wanted to hear at the time.

The bill allows parents to decide what's best for their own children. That's consistent with what parents expect when they send their children to school. Anything out of the ordinary requires parental consent: field trips, sports, taking an aspirin at school. These are far less significant than changing gender identity. As Judge Maxwell put it in our case: "The School District could not administer medicine to a student without parental consent. The School District could not require or allow a student to participate in a sport without parental consent. Likewise, the School District cannot change the pronoun of a student without parental consent."

I would hope this would be a bipartisan issue. We can disagree about when and whether a transition is the right answer for children struggling with their gender. But we should all be able to agree that parents, who know and love their children more than anyone else, should be the ones to decide what is best for their children. Not school staff who barely know them. I would urge your support for the bill.

Luke Berg

luke@will-law.org

Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty

March 6, 2025

Chair Kitchens, Vice-Chair Goeben, and Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Assembly Bill 103.

Bills like AB-103 are part of a nationwide coordinated effort to deny transgender people their freedom, safety, and dignity. Anyone paying attention can see that the ultimate goal of legislation like this is to push transgender people out of public life altogether. In just the first two months of 2025, over 450 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in statehouses across the country.¹ **To be clear, transgender people have always existed and they always will. School board members, state legislators, and the President of the United States do not get to decide that they don't.**

AB-103 would force school boards to adopt policies banning staff from referring a student by a name or pronouns different from what was provided at the time of enrollment. A name or pronoun change “may” be accepted if and only if:

- a student’s parent or guardian provides documentation of a legal name change or an affidavit certifying that the student’s legal name was changed and the student “consistently uses the new legal name for all official purposes”
- attempts were made to notify all of the student’s parents/legal guardians who have access to their school records about the requested name and pronoun change; and
- all of the student’s parents and legal guardians agree with the change

That’s absurd.

Many parents may hope their children will come to them first with questions about gender and sexuality. But not every child has that option. Youth who are transgender face a real risk of rejection² by the adults who are supposed to care for them when they disclose their gender identity. Trans people are more likely to be abused³ by their immediate family based on their gender identity, and high risks of abuse and family rejection result in trans youth experiencing higher rates of homelessness and housing instability.⁴ These high rates of familial rejection and abuse dramatically increase the risks of suicidality, substance abuse, and depression. Not every child can be their true selves at home without risking their physical or emotional well-being. **School may be the only place where trans youth can be themselves.**

¹ “Mapping Attacks on LGBTQ Rights in U.S. State Legislatures,” ACLU (March 5, 2025), <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2025>.

² “LGBT Youth and Family Acceptance,” (2016), <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5127283/>.

³ “Disparities in Childhood Abuse Between Transgender and Cisgender Adolescents,” *Pediatrics* (Aug. 2021), <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8344346/>.

⁴ “Homelessness and Housing Instability Among LGBTQ Youth,” *The Trevor Project* (Feb. 2022), <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/homelessness-and-housing-instability-among-lgbtq-youth-feb-2022/>.

In addition, many supportive parents may want their children to be able to safely explore their identity without being worried that information will be disclosed against their will, and to have a safe space to ask questions they may be uncomfortable asking at home. Trans youth thrive when they are affirmed in their gender identity. Many schools across the country recognize that a supportive learning environment requires treating trans students with dignity and respect, including (at a minimum) calling them by the name and pronouns they want to use.

Finally, we must acknowledge that people — children and adults — have a constitutional right not to have intimate facts about their lives disclosed without their consent. That includes their sexual orientation or whether they are transgender. Children do not give up all their constitutional rights by enrolling in public school—minors have independent privacy rights and parents’ rights to direct the upbringing of their children do not automatically abrogate those privacy rights. For example, a federal district court recently held that parents do not have a fundamental constitutional right “to be promptly informed of their child’s gender identity, when it differs from that usually associated with their sex assigned at birth, regardless of their child’s wishes or any concerns regarding the detrimental effect the disclosure may have on that child.”⁵ In December 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal from the dismissal of a lawsuit challenging the Eau Claire Area School District’s gender support policy due the plaintiffs’ lack of standing because neither the parents nor their children were actually affected by the policy.⁶

We urge committee members to oppose this legislation and **let kids be themselves** at school.

⁵ *John & Jane Parents 1 v. Montgomery Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, No. 8:20-3552-PWG, 2022 WL 3544256, at *7 (D. Md. Aug. 18, 2022), *vacated and remanded by John & Jane Parents 1 v. Montgomery Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, 78 F.4th 622, 626 (4th Cir. 2023) (holding that parents lacked standing, vacating decision below, and remanding for dismissal), *cert. denied sub nom. Jane Parents 1 v. Montgomery Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, 144 S. Ct. 2560 (2024). Although the district court held there was no parental constitutional right, and therefore the school district’s policy regarding student consent before disclosing their gender identity to parents triggered only rational basis review, the court went on to state that even if there were a fundamental parental right at issue, the school had a compelling interest in “protect[ing] the student’s privacy and creat[ing]... a zone of protection ... in the hopefully rare circumstance when disclosure of [the student’s] gender expression while at school could lead to serious conflict within the family, and even harm.” *Id.* at *14.

⁶ *Parents Protecting Our Child., UA v. Eau Claire Area Sch. Dist., Wisconsin*, 145 S. Ct. 14, 220 L. Ed. 2d 265 (2024).



Good morning to the members of the Assembly Committee on Education. I am Abigail Swetz, my pronouns are she/her, and I am here as the executive director of Fair Wisconsin, Wisconsin's only statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights and political advocacy organization. I am also here as a former middle school teacher and a current mom. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of Assembly Bill 103.

This bill stands to harm trans kids, their parents, and their teachers if it were to become law.

As a former teacher, I am immeasurably lucky to have known many trans kids and had the honor of watching them grow up into healthy, happy, fully-realized adults. I'm thankful to have been a part of their journey because it means I know the power of using a child's affirming name and pronouns in a deeply personal way, having seen the smiles on their faces and the way they were able to blossom in my classroom. This ability for children to thrive in such an environment is backed up by research; for example, research published in the Journal of Adolescent Health found that trans youth who could use their affirming name and pronouns in all aspects of their lives (school, family, friends, and community) experienced positive mental health outcomes to the tune of a 71 percent decrease in depression and a 65 percent decrease in suicide attempts. This bill would prevent teachers and other school staff from engaging in the best practice of using the name and pronouns a child asks for, a best practice that research has shown can save lives.

Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that trans youth are more likely to discuss their feelings of depression and anxiety with teachers and school staff than they are with their parents or guardians. This makes it clear that we must have inclusive policies in our schools that support trans youth in seeking out the help they need, and this bill is the opposite of that inclusion. When I was a teacher, I worked alongside other school staff to help students get ready to share information about themselves with their families, and I know firsthand the need to follow the child's lead in that process. The youth themselves are the experts in their own experience and have a better understanding than anyone about the challenges they might face when it comes to safety and acceptance. I have witnessed that conversation go well, and I have heard it go badly, but either way, the children and their families knew they could turn to me and my fellow school staff when they had more questions, and that proved invaluable.

This bill also feeds into a false dichotomy being set up between parents and school staff when, in reality, the bill stands to hurt parents as they try to support their trans child. The barriers that Wisconsinites of any age already face when they want to legally change their name are numerous, and the level of documentation required by this legislation to

change a name in a school information system is onerous to the point of prohibitive. Parents must be able to support their own child and know their child's affirming name will be honored at school without it being invalidated or inaccessible due to bureaucratic red tape.

To be clear, affirming names and pronouns and safe spaces do not create trans kids. They allow them to breathe and help them grow into awesome adults this state needs. The mental health struggles that trans youth face are not a self-fulfilling prophecy. They are a societally-pressured outcome, and bills like AB 103 add to that pressure. Inclusive policies, like making it possible for students to use an affirming name and pronouns that best represent their identity in school in an easily accessible way – that is a pressure valve, and makes it possible for them to live fully and healthily.

I want to end with a message to the trans kids of Wisconsin: remember that there are so many people in this state who love you exactly as you are and exactly as you will someday become. Always know you are worthy of that love, and of your own future. We are grateful for you, and Wisconsin is a better place because you are here.

Thank you.



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WISCONSIN COUNCIL
OF CHURCHES
COURAGE. JUSTICE. HOLY IMAGINATION.

To: Committee on Education
From: Rev. Breanna Illéné, Director of Ecumenical Innovation and Justice Initiatives,
Wisconsin Council of Churches
Date: March 6, 2025
Re: Testimony in opposition to Assembly Bill 103

The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) is a network of Christian churches and faith-based organizations committed to working together across our many differences to promote collective good. We connect 23 Christian traditions, which have within them approximately 2,000 congregations and over one million church members. Exercising holy imagination, we help one another make courageous choices that lead toward peacemaking, social and economic justice for Wisconsin's most vulnerable residents, the vitality of the church, and the well-being of our neighbors.

Our *Statement on Non-violence* reminds us that we believe in a "God who is full of compassion and who ceaselessly works to transform the world through love" and that as his followers we should also live our lives in this way. Part of this call is to "speak out against violence, minister to its victims, and work tirelessly to reduce the level of violence in society." AB 103 is not a bill based in compassion and grace but one that promotes violence.

Our scriptures tell stories of individuals who have changed their names throughout their lives. We tell the story of Jacob who became Israel and Saul who became Paul. In Genesis, Joseph was known for wearing a flamboyant "coat of many colors." These are stories of individuals living into their sacred identity and God affirming them. These transitions are never without struggle, but blessings are experienced over time. We believe embracing students as they use names and pronouns that match their identity encourages their full flourishing and ask you to create legislation that promotes that flourishing.

We also recognize that not all homes are safe places where students' full identity is embraced, and school may be one of the few places they are affirmed in their identities. This bill may cause these students to be outed to unsupporting families or force them to hide their true identities. This is violence. We ask you to lean into the ethic of 1 Peter 3:8, "*Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.*"

My own Christian tradition, which is a member of the Council, begins with three simple rules, the first of which is to "do no harm." We believe this bill will do much harm to students who are growing in their understanding of who they are. We ask you to stop the harm. We believe the approach of our camps in several traditions that allow students to use different name/pronouns with no parent permission necessary and notification left up to the campers is one that our schools should also follow. This creates safe spaces for learning, exploration, and growth.

Transgender and nonbinary kids are some of the most vulnerable in our society and we, like Jesus, side with the vulnerable and seek to provide safety and care for them while affirming their identity as children of God. We ask you to do no harm and instead affirm the identity of all students and reject AB 103. Thank you.



Shorewood School District
Office of the Superintendent
1701 East Capitol Drive
Shorewood, WI 53211
(414) 963-6920
www.shorewood.k12.wi.us

March 5, 2025

Members of the Assembly Committee on Education

Representative Kitchens (Chair)
Representative Goeben (Vice-Chair)
Representative Mursau
Representative Duchow
Representative Snyder
Representative Phelps

Representative Dittrich
Representative Penterman
Representative Melotik
Representative Hong
Representative Cruz
Representative Sheehan

Wisconsin State Capitol, Room 412 East
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

RE: In opposition to WI AB103 - School board policies related to changing a pupil's legal name and pronouns

Dear Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to WI AB103, which seeks to impose statewide mandates on school districts regarding student name and pronoun usage policies. Wisconsin has a long-standing tradition of local control in education, recognizing that communities are best positioned to make decisions that serve their students' needs. This bill undermines that principle and threatens to erode the trust and autonomy of local school districts in addressing the well-being of all students, including LGBTQ+ youth.

As the Superintendent of the Shorewood School District, I see firsthand the critical role that trusted school personnel play in creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. Research, including studies co-authored by Dr. Mollie McQuillan of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, highlights the profound impact that affirming school policies and relationships with trusted educators have on the mental health and academic success of LGBTQ+ students. McQuillan's research demonstrates that when school staff provide support and validation, LGBTQ+ students report lower levels of anxiety and depression, higher engagement in school, and a greater sense of belonging. Restrictive policies that limit the ability of school staff to offer this support would directly contradict evidence-based best practices for student well-being.

The provisions in this bill requiring parental authorization for any name or pronoun changes in school settings create unnecessary barriers for students who may not have supportive home environments. For many LGBTQ+ youth, school is the only place where they feel safe and affirmed in their identity. Research has consistently shown that forcing students to use names and pronouns that do not align with their identity can contribute to negative mental health outcomes, including increased risk of depression and suicide. We see this in the statewide results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Our LGBTQ+ youth face many risk factors, including discrimination, bullying, and lack of support. Bill AB 103 would exacerbate this harm.

Moreover, Wisconsin's commitment to local control means that school boards—elected by their communities—are best equipped to determine policies that serve their students. This bill represents an overreach that disregards this local decision-making process and imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate that may not reflect the needs and values of individual districts. It certainly does not represent our values in Shorewood.

I urge you to oppose this bill and instead support policies that affirm Wisconsin's commitment to local control and evidence-based approaches to student support. Protecting the ability of school personnel to build trusting relationships with students is not only beneficial—it is essential to ensuring that every child in Wisconsin has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to serving every student in our state. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with you.

Sincerely,



Laurie J. Burgos, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Shorewood School District

References:

McQuillan, M. T., Cimpian, J., Lebovitz, B., & E.K. Gill. (2024). Trans youth need educational support: School climate, health, and where trans youth find support. *JAMA -Pediatrics*. 2024;178(10):1082–1084. <https://doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2024.3079>

McQuillan, M. T., Lebovitz, B. & L. Harbin. (2024). The disruptive power of policy erasure: How state legislators and school boards fail to take up trans-affirming policies while leaning into anti-LGBTQ+ policies. *Educational Policy*. 38(3), 642-699. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08959048231218206>

The Shorewood School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, creed, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, gender identity or expression, veteran status, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other legally protected status in its educational programs, activities, or employment with the District.

The District also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following designee handles inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Human Resources, 1701 E. Capitol Drive, Shorewood, WI 53211, 414-963-6902, humanresources@shorewood.k12.wi.us

Regarding AB103

To the Assembly Committee on Education:

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Mark 12:31

My name is Tessa Price. I am a substitute teacher in Madison. With Assembly Bill 103, the state of Wisconsin seeks to restrict teachers' freedom to refer to students appropriately. It would also restrict students' liberty to use nicknames or go by a different name and pronouns if they ask for it.

Public schools of Wisconsin are already under-staffed. This bill would put additional onus on school staff to deal with even more paperwork that is unnecessary and cruelly targeting a tiny minority of students. AB103 would violate the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 by treating queer and trans students unfairly, and not giving them the same educational opportunities as other students.

Targeting nicknames that are opposite a student's "sex assigned at birth" is nonsensical. If a cisgender student were to go by Alex, they would likely be perfectly fine under this bill. A transgender student, on the other hand, who went by "Alex" might be targeted under this vague stipulation because of their identity.

School gives students a crucial space to explore and understand their own identity and self. By targeting queer and trans students you are not stopping them from being queer and trans. You are putting them in danger, excluding them from normal school activities, and illegally excluding and discriminating against them for their sex.

We have the choice, instead, to celebrate the diversity of Wisconsin students. You have the choice to advocate for civil rights instead of against them.

You cannot force teachers to hate their trans students. We are in the classroom because we care about all students and want to provide them an equal opportunity at education.

The State of Wisconsin should not meddle with teachers in classrooms on behalf of certain personal beliefs or prejudices. The Milwaukee Public School Board did not create a plan to desegregate their schools until 1979. Let's not repeat the atrocities of Wisconsin's history of discrimination in schools.

To the committee, please vote AGAINST AB103.

Hello Representatives,

My name is Tammy Fournier and not so long ago my family needed the protections outlined in AB103. In late 2020, my then 12-year-old daughter, Autumn, started to experience deep depression and anxiety and asked to speak to a counselor. Due to the increased need of youth mental health during COVID, services were impossible to find quickly. While we waited, she was largely isolated and spending too much time online watching content that introduced her to the idea that what could be causing all her discomfort was being born in the wrong body.

She shared her feelings with a friend at school and her friend informed a teacher's aid. The same day, before even informing me of the incident, the aid approached my daughter and informed her she could go to the office and fill out a form to change her name and gender at school. Only after my daughter shared that I would be upset if I wasn't involved in such a decision did the aid encourage my daughter to speak with me about her newly discovered feelings.

That evening Autumn shared her feelings with me and requested to go in inpatient care for help. I immediately reached out to local facilities and she was accepted within 24 hours. During the admittance process, I found out that staff would refer to my daughter using her preferred name and pronouns before even assessing if doing so was in her best interest. During the first meeting with Autumn's counselor, my husband and I were informed that if we did not follow Autumn's wishes with name and pronoun use and she committed suicide, we would be responsible. I asked if any of my daughters' other underlying issues were discussed and was informed that they hadn't come up. After I showed resistance to blindly following their suggestions, facility members started telling my daughter that I would be the largest obstacle in her life and her best chance of happiness was to convince me to allow her to start the path to transition.

Once out of the facility, Autumn emailed school staff directly and requested to return to school using her preferred names and pronouns. After much research and deliberation over what was best for Autumn, my husband and I decided we would not allow the use of preferred names and pronouns until Autumn received appropriate medical care. When we informed the school of our decision, they informed us that they were advocates of the child and not of the parent, and they would move forward, however, Autumn wished.

We removed her from the district, moved to a new area, and took legal action against the district for the blatant parental rights violation. Soon after the change of environment, Autumn realized that her confusion about her gender was related to her other underlying mental health issues. She is now happy and healthy, experiencing zero gender confusion, and speaks out against gender ideology. In October of 2023, the court ruled in our favor. AB103 would ensure no other Wisconsin families will have to experience the government overstep that we did. Thank you for your time.

Tammy Fournier
262-442-0797
TP2184BF@gmail.com

Christopher Forgie
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

Members of the Assembly Committee on Education - Regarding Wisconsin Assembly Bill
103

March 6th, 2025

Honorable Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Christopher Forgie have been a resident of Brookfield for over a decade with my wife and two children. I am here today to strongly oppose Wisconsin Assembly Bill 103, which aims to undermine the rights and well-being of transgender and gender nonconforming students. This bill poses a severe threat to the support, safety, and freedom of expression for these students in our schools, who already face higher levels of discrimination and harassment.

Every school-aged child goes through a process of figuring out who they are and how they want to be seen by the world. For some this journey may not be welcomed by or approved by their parents - whether that be wearing certain clothes while at school, wearing make-up, talking a certain way, eating particular foods in the cafeteria or any other number of forms of expression. Schools do not police, prevent, or report on these activities nor should they when a student expresses a desire to be referred to by a name or pronoun which they prefer over what was assigned to them at birth.

Assembly Bill 103 requires schools to refuse to recognize how the student would like to be referred as until and unless a legal name change and written parental consent is achieved – either of which can be an onerous and potentially dangerous requirement. Neither of which is required for any other form of self-expression that students partake in every single day at every school in the state.

This bill imposes rigid and formal rules on the use of names and pronouns, which is impractical to implement and detrimental to the school environment. It puts an undue and needless burden on educators to monitor, verify and report instances of an alternate name being used whereas their time and effort could be better spent educating our children. This, coupled with the erosion of trust in school personnel from forcibly discarding students' identities, negatively impacts the overall school climate for all children by creating a divisive and hostile environment.

Students who do not feel safe and respected are less likely to engage in learning and are more likely to experience absenteeism and lower graduation rates. Disregarding a student's

Hello, my name is Scarlett Johnson, and I am here representing Moms for Liberty Wisconsin. I would like to express my support for AB 103 and share my deep concern and opposition to policies in Wisconsin schools that allow for a child's pronouns and names to be changed without parental consent or notification. Over the years, these unpopular and unethical practices that undermine parental rights, disregard child welfare, and prioritize gender ideology over education have gained support from organizations like GSAFE, GLSEN, and initiatives such as The Human Rights Campaign's "Welcoming Schools" program. Additionally, top-down DEI policies enforced by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction under State Superintendent Jill Underly have encouraged a trend against parental involvement, driven by a fringe group of activist educators.

It is alarming that GSAFE has worked closely with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to promote Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) clubs, even in elementary schools. These clubs, often framed as safe spaces, introduce complex gender identity concepts to young children who lack the developmental maturity to fully process them. GSAFE's mission may be presented as one of inclusion, but its push to affirm pronoun and name changes to third grade children over recess—without parental knowledge or consent—bypasses the fundamental role of parents as the primary decision-makers in their children's lives. There is nothing SAFE about advancing an agenda that overrides family values and parental authority.

Similarly, the Welcoming Schools program, affiliated with the Human Rights Campaign, encourages schools to adopt policies that affirm a child's CHOSEN name and pronouns, often in secret from parents. This initiative, while marketed as compassionate, fails to consider the long-term consequences for children who may be experiencing temporary distress or more seriously a mental health crisis. Studies show that many children who question their gender identity during youth resolve these feelings by adolescence, often aligning with their biological sex. Affirming a child's pronoun or name change without parental input risks locking them into a path they may later regret, especially if so-called "gender affirming" medical interventions follow.

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) further exacerbates this issue by providing resources and advocating for policies that instruct educators to use a child's preferred pronouns and names without question. Their influence in Wisconsin schools, often through training and toolkits, pressures teachers to comply with a "woke" ideology that dismisses biological reality and parental oversight. This is not education—it's indoctrination, and it comes at the expense of our children's well-being and the trust between schools and families.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, under Jill Underly's leadership, has embraced this ideology with statements like "pronouns change lives." While Underly claims this reflects a commitment to supporting students, it ignores the potential harm of encouraging children to adopt identities without parental guidance or professional evaluation. Parents, not school officials, are best equipped to navigate these sensitive matters with their children, often in consultation with mental health experts. By sidelining parents, the Department of Public Instruction is not empowering students—it is disempowering families and exposing children to decisions they may not be ready to make.

This "woke" approach prioritizes ideology over academics at a time when Wisconsin students are struggling with basic literacy and math skills. Instead of focusing on reading, writing, and critical thinking, the Department of Public Instruction and its allies are diverting resources to social engineering experiments. Parents have a constitutional right, upheld by both the U.S. and Wisconsin Constitutions, to direct the upbringing and education of their children. Policies that allow schools to change a child's name or pronouns without parental consent violate this right, as affirmed by a 2023 ruling from Waukesha County Circuit Court, which struck down a similar policy in the Kettle Moraine School District.

Moreover, these policies can harm children psychologically. Affirming a child's gender identity in school while they live a different reality at home creates confusion and conflict. Medical professionals have warned that such inconsistencies can exacerbate mental health issues, not alleviate them. Yet, GSAFE, GLSEN, and the Department of Public Instruction dismiss these concerns, clinging to the unproven assertion that pronoun changes are inherently life-saving. Where is the evidence? Where is the consideration for the child's long-term stability?

I urge Wisconsin lawmakers and school officials to reject these policies and reaffirm the primacy of parental rights. Schools should not be in the business of secretly reshaping a child's identity. Organizations like GSAFE and GLSEN, and initiatives like Welcoming Schools, may think they have good intentions, but their methods erode trust and family unity. Jill Underly's claim that "pronouns change lives" should not dictate policy—it should spark a deeper conversation about who gets to decide what's best for our children. That decision belongs to parents, not bureaucrats or activists.

Thank you for considering this testimony. Our children deserve better than to be pawns in an ideological experiment.



AFFIRMING GENDER IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: SOCIAL TRANSITIONING

One of the first steps that all people—adults or children—take, if they feel their internal sense of gender and their sex assigned at birth do not match, is to socially transition. This means adults and children live their lives in a way that expresses their internal sense of who they are—their gender identity. A person may use a new name and/or different pronouns than before. Some might change their gender expression—wear different clothes or have a new hairstyle. Students usually want to—and have the right to—use facilities or join school activities that align with their gender identity.

PLANNING AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Social transitioning goes more smoothly for a student when school personnel and parents/guardians (when affirming) work together and maintain regular communication and check-ins.
- Assess steps needed for your particular school and district to become more gender affirming.
 - What will help transgender and non-binary students—and all students—to feel safe at school?
 - Do you need professional development or advice to understand gender transitions and develop specific steps that your school could take?
 - Who do you need to communicate with in your school or district?
 - What policies or forms need to be reviewed, such as dress codes, bullying and harassment policies and student information systems?
- Develop common language on gender and social transitions that educators can use when talking with parents, families and colleagues while maintaining confidentiality for students. Help people understand the meaning of words related to gender and transitioning.
- Have resources available for adults to help them understand transgender and non-binary children.
- Each student and each family have different concerns about privacy and confidentiality around social transition. Ensure privacy and share information with school staff only on a need-to-know basis. Legally, it should be handled the same as a medical issue under FERPA and a student's right to privacy.
- Educators should support students on their gender journey even if they do not have affirming family. School can be a supportive, affirming space for children to be themselves.
- Children are more resilient and able to cope when they feel affirmed and supported. Often, students who are transgender or non-binary have endured teasing and may not have felt safe to report it. Identify a safe person or people on staff for a student to talk to who will check in with them weekly while at school.
- Students have the right to talk about their transition with other students, but adults must carefully guard confidentiality. It is possible to have gender affirming schools without compromising the privacy of individual students.
- In school, it is the adults' responsibility to help other students understand transitioning and gender, not the student's.
- Identify key personnel responsible for answering more difficult questions or concerns parents and families may have and who can serve as a resource to others.
- If the media contacts your school or district, make sure that someone is prepared to respond and protect student privacy.

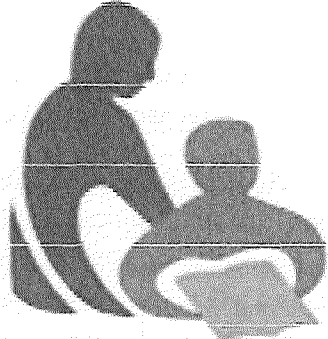
RESPECTING A STUDENT'S AFFIRMED GENDER

- Honor a student's pronoun and name. Discuss with the student and their affirming parents/caregivers what name to use on forms and which gender marker to check. (Note: ensure your forms allow students' gender identity to be written in rather than including only M or F as options.) Allow students and families to have the name that a student uses on lists that could be seen by other students or families, such as class lists, grade postings or seating charts.
- Ensure that students are welcome and safe to wear the clothes, hairstyle and accessories that reflect their affirmed gender.
- Be thoughtful about class placement for transgender or non-binary students. Take into consideration the classroom teacher's experience and training—in particular, their skills at developing a gender inclusive, welcoming classroom. Think about peer connections for the student.
- Be clear about restroom accessibility. Allow students to use the facilities that correspond with their gender identity. Have gender neutral restrooms available for all students who desire privacy for any reason.
- Avoid situations that force children to make gendered choices, such as lining up by boys and girls. Instead, divide students by last names, colors they're wearing or common interests.

STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING A GENDER AFFIRMING SCHOOL

- Building a strong sense of community and a climate of acceptance in the classroom and school is a critical proactive strategy for creating a safe environment for all students, including those who identify as transgender and non-binary.
- Provide [professional development](#) for all school personnel—teachers, aides, counselors, administrative staff, bus drivers and cafeteria workers—on strategies to prevent and stop LGBTQ and gender based bullying.
- Educate adults in the school about the complexity of gender and the importance of gender inclusive classrooms for all students. Consider Welcoming Schools [training](#) on “Gender Inclusive Schools” and “Supporting Transgender and Non-Binary Students.”
- Adults in the school need time to practice and [be prepared for questions and put-downs on gender with simple phrases to stop gendered teasing and bullying](#). Staff need practice intervening when students are limiting each other based on gender stereotypes, and they need to be ready to educate students on why it is wrong or hurtful.
- Listen for name-calling and [bullying based on gender stereotypes, gender identity or gender expression](#), so that you can interrupt it and be clear that all students are welcome and respected in your school. Develop plans to have extra coverage in hallways, the playground and the lunchroom to monitor and stop hurtful teasing and bullying behavior.
- Work with the students in your school to help them think of ways to be allies when someone is teased or bullied for any reason. (See the Welcoming Schools lesson: [Making Decisions: Ally or Bystander](#).)
- [Talk with students](#) about the harmful effects of stereotyping and prejudice. Help your students see their potential to be all of who they are.
- Share with students [diverse books](#) with many gender identities and expressions. Use [lesson plans](#) to help students understand and discuss gender.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Website Features Activist Group GLSEN's Model Policy for Transgender Students and GSA Network's Student Activism Toolkit

WISCONSIN 11/02/2022

INCIDENTS

INDOCTRINATION

SEX AND GENDER

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction dedicates a section of its website to "Safe Schools for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Students."

This portion of the website recommends the GSA Network's Beyond the Binary: A Tool Kit for Gender Identity Activism in Schools and Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)'s Model Policy on Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students.

The GLSEN's model policy states that if a student has not disclosed his or her gender identity to their parent or guardian, then the student's name should be listed as "preferred name".

Educators, staff, and peers are expected to respect a student's name and pronouns, once they have been made aware of said student's correct information.



Medical information, recognition, or documentation are not required to change a student's gender marker or name in the student database/information system.

When requested by the student and their parent/guardian, a transgender or nonbinary student's name should be changed in the Student Database/Information System to reflect their affirmed gender.

If a student has not disclosed their gender identity to a parent/guardian, and as a result the database/information system information cannot be changed, their affirmed name shall be noted as a "preferred name" in the system. This affirmed name should be used by staff and peers, according to the transgender or nonbinary student's wishes. Attendance rosters and ID cards should reflect the student's wishes with regards to name and/or gender marker/pronouns, regardless of the database/information system. The legal name should be used only where specifically required. Districts and schools should determine which uses require the legal name, including whether it is required for specific testing or reporting purposes.

Students may, upon request, have a diploma and course records reissued with a name change after graduation.



Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) is a national activist group focused on, according to the organization's website, "championing LGBTQ issues in K-12 education." GLSEN (pronounced "glisten") stands for the "Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Educator Network." It is the primary touchpoint between the LGBTQ activist agenda and K-12 schools.

The recommended GSA Network's Beyond the Binary: A Tool Kit for Gender Identity Activism in Schools, encourages students to become activists in their schools and states, "If you want to use a restroom that matches your gender identity...you should be allowed to do so."

- **Names/Pronouns:** If you change your name to one that better matches your gender identity, a school needs to use that name to refer to you. The same is true when a different pronoun needs to be used. It can sometimes take time for teachers, staff or other students to get used to using your new name and pronoun. But it is not acceptable or legal for teachers, staff, or students to use your old name or pronoun as a way to harass you.
- **Restroom Use:** If you want to use a restroom that matches your gender identity (for example, if you have transitioned from female to male, you may want to use the boys restroom), you should be allowed to do so. And everyone should be able to use the restroom safely. Restrooms are often places where gender non-conforming students are harassed by other students. If this happens, you should report it and school staff should do something to protect you or other students.
- **Sex Segregation:** Restrooms may be the most common place where students are divided up based on gender, but they are not the only place. Whenever students are divided up into boys and girls, you should be allowed to join the group or participate in the program that matches your gender identity as much as possible.
- **Dress Codes:** Some schools have specific dress codes for boys and specific dress codes for girls. If your school does, it is important that you be allowed to wear clothes that match your gender identity. It is also important that school staff does not enforce a school's dress code more strictly against transgender and gender non-conforming students than other students. For example, if your school has a policy about skirt lengths, transgender girls can't be held to stricter rules than other girls.

GSA Network describes itself as, "a next-generation LGBTQ racial and gender justice organization that empowers and trains queer, trans and allied youth leaders to advocate, organize, and mobilize an intersectional movement for safer schools and healthier communities."

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is, "the state agency that advances public education and libraries in Wisconsin. Our mission is to ensure that every child, regardless of zip code, has access to quality public education programs, enrichment opportunities, and special education supports, so that all of our kids can be successful."

It is located in Madison, Wisconsin and led by Dr. Underly, State Superintendent of Public Instruction who was elected in 2021.

Written Testimony: AB103 (School district policy provisions regarding student legal names and pronouns)

Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in lieu of personal attendance. I am writing in favor of the advancement of AB103 through committee.

In a civil society, one assumes that the parent or legal guardian of a minor child holds the primary responsibility for their child's upbringing and welfare. Even more basic than that, however, is the constitutional right of the parent or guardian to name their child. Frankly, the fact that this creates any contention at all is simultaneously laughable and tragic, so I commend Representative Dittrich, Senator Jacque, and all of this bill's co-sponsors for taking steps to secure our most basic constitutional rights.

Parents and guardians should not be faced with the battles that have plagued Eau Claire, Madison, and other Wisconsin school districts who have placed student privacy above parental rights. Parents and guardians have the right to direct the education of their children, and that includes the environment and identity of their children. The 2023 KMSD decision made great strides in clarifying this order of primacy, but we still lack statute. Unfortunately, this leaves our state vulnerable to bad actors who unduly place themselves into a position superior to a parent or guardian in a child's life. Schools are subject to parents in the natural and constitutional order, and it's time to enshrine this order statutorily.

Speaking colloquially: It's silly that we're even at this point, but here we are. I appreciate that the "adults in the room" are accepting the responsibility to advance this legislation that, hopefully with many other bills, will restore common sense and order in our great state. Thank you for advancing this bill; in doing so, you are protecting our children and our parental rights.

Please pass AB103 through committee as soon as possible. Thank you!

Bill Brewer
Moms for Liberty Ambassador
Bill@MomsforLiberty.org

Response to LRB 1245 Pronouns and Legal Names Bill

Dear Legislators: I am unable to attend the hearing on LRB 1245 Pronouns in person therefore, I am submitting my written testimony.

Over the last 2 years I have attended many school board meetings and parent group meetings where the subject of the use of preferred names are being used with students without the knowledge of the parents. Each district handles these situations slightly differently, but the common thread seems to be that it starts without any involvement from the parent. In most cases I have been aware of, the parent finds out because the school at some point accidentally notifies the parent using a different name for their child. This usually happens when they send information home, and the school forgets to change their preferred name back to their legal name. Imagine the shock that parents feel when they see a different name for their child. In one case, the school published the child's name in the year-book without parent authorization.

How would you like to be that parent?

Once parents are finally aware of what is going on in the school, it is a huge battle for parents to get the school to listen and to follow the parents wishes. In many cases this fraud has been going on for many months, during which time the school has been working behind the parents back and telling the child their parents will not support them.

Some Wisconsin public schools, like those in districts such as Eau Claire or Madison, have faced scrutiny for policies encouraging staff to withhold such information from parents, often citing privacy. But minors aren't adults—privacy doesn't trump parental responsibility. This legislation ensures schools remain partners, not gatekeepers, in a child's life. It also protects educators from legal gray areas, clarifying their role and reducing liability.

In summary, while some Wisconsin schools once allowed pronoun changes without parental consent, recent court rulings—especially the 2023 Kettle Moraine decision—

have largely halted such practices in affected districts, mandating parental involvement. No statewide law explicitly permits or prohibits this today, but the legal landscape increasingly favors parental rights, making it unlikely that many districts still openly maintain such policies without consent in 2025.

It is wrong on so many levels for a school to take on the role of the parent. Our constitution is very clear that a parent has the authority over their child. Our constitution does not state that a school or any other individual has the right over someone else's child.

I support LRB 1245 which protects our children and parental rights.

Regards,

Laura J. Ackmann
Moms for Liberty
Moms4Liberty Winnebago@gmail.com

LRB 1245 Pronouns and Legal Names Bill

Dear Legislators:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the hearing on LRB 1245 Pronouns in person therefore, please see this as my written testimony.

If you allow this, you are overstepping Parental Rights, which are not given to us by the Government. And cannot be taken away by the Government. Schools should not punish people, be they teachers, students or other individuals, for simply utilizing someone's legal name or name of record.”

I believe that we should be protecting teachers, professors, and other public employees from being forced to use inaccurate pronouns if it violates their conscience and deeply held beliefs. It is an infringement on one's Freedom of Speech. Words and language carry meaning and when used properly, they communicate truth about the world. As such, forcing individuals to say things that are false — such as inaccurate pronouns — imposes real harm on the speaker.

It is unacceptable for ANY government to force educators or other public servants out of employment for the sake of promoting gender ideology. With this legislation, Wisconsin is rightfully stepping into the gap to protect freedom of conscience. I urge you to show your support for LRB 1245 which protects our children and parental rights.

Thank you,

Amber Infusino
Wisconsin Moms for Liberty Ambassador
amber@momsforliberty.org

3/6/25

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Lori Severson. I am a lifelong Madison resident, and I am a mother of three. My middle child is transgender. She attended Madison public schools and is now a Junior at UW-La Crosse. I am here to urge you to oppose Assembly Bill 103.

I am opposed to this bill because I know firsthand of the daily struggles my daughter experienced when socially transitioning and publicly sharing who she is as a high school student. We are grateful for the support and acceptance her teachers and school administration demonstrated, making her name and pronoun change seamless. This was huge in making our daughter feel safe and comfortable and a valued member of the school community. It gave her the confidence to legally change her name the following year, and flourish into the strong young woman she is today. Having her school community recognize and affirm her was vital. Had she experienced the roadblocks this bill proposes, considering her struggles with gender dysphoria and depression at that time, I can honestly say I have doubts whether she'd still be with us today.

This bill would prevent school staff from responding and interacting with students in normal, human, social ways of using the name and pronouns that a student uses in their everyday lives. This would not only harm transgender youth, but any student who goes by a name not tied to their legal name, or who uses pronouns other than what their school's Principal assumes. This bill micromanages decisions that are made in everyday life without controversy, inserting itself into every school district, putting staff in impossibly absurd situations, forcing them to alienate their students, ignoring the student's rights as a person, which would only encourage discrimination among peers and cause irreversible harm to kids who are already struggling as it is.

Please oppose Bill 103.

Sincerely,

Lori Severson

Madison, WI 53711

To the Members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is **Dawn Berney**, and I live in **Madison, WI 53711**. I have been a proud resident of Wisconsin for several decades, am the retired Executive Director of Jewish Social Services of Madison, and I am writing to **strongly oppose Assembly Bill 103**.

My 20 year old son attended public school from kindergarten through 12th grade. When he transitioned in 7th grade, his school supported him fully with his name and gender changes—and as a result, his mental health improved significantly. By the time he graduated from high school, he was a percussionist at the highest level for the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra, volunteered regularly with older adults in the community, maintained nearly a 4.0 grade point average and scored in the 99th percentile on his ACTs. He would have been a great asset to the UW-Madison. However, despite growing up here, he chose to attend the University of Chicago in Illinois, in part because of worries about legislation like this. Wisconsin's population is expected to decline over the next 25 years. When my son graduates college, he'll be an incredible asset wherever he goes, but if Wisconsin does not protect children like the one he was, he will likely never return.

This story illustrates just how important it is for schools to be safe and welcoming places for all students, including those who are transgender. AB 103 imposes barriers that would make it harder for kids like my son to receive the support they need. Instead of letting them focus on thriving academically and socially, this bill introduces fear, uncertainty, and the risk of being outed to unsupportive parents—putting vulnerable students at risk.

I believe in a Wisconsin where every child can succeed and feel respected. AB 103 does the opposite: it creates a school environment that fosters mistrust and makes it harder for young people to safely and openly be who they are. Having watched my child, I know that he always knew who he was much better than his school or I did. I respectfully urge you to **oppose Assembly Bill 103** and protect the well-being of all our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dawn Berney
2201 West Lawn Ave. Madison, WI 53711
(608)345-2833
dawnberney@gmail.com



Good Morning. I'm Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, and I'm here in opposition to AB103.

As a Unitarian Universalist minister, it has been my honor to minister to families with transgender and non-binary children, and to serve a faith that celebrates all our people in all their identities, including their gender expression. I serve a God who created infinite beauty in humanity, who created us in infinite variety, and who celebrates with us as we live into our divine truths. God is infinite, and we reflect God's image in our infinite variety.

Some of our trans and non-binary youth have known who they are from when they are young. They have led us to a better understanding of the complexity and diversity of human biology and gender. In our congregations, we celebrate that diversity, and the beautiful and diverse expression of it among our people.

Studies have shown that LGBTQ youth who have just one place that honors their gender or sexuality are at lower risk of suicide. LGBTQ youth are at higher risk of suicide than their straight and cis peers because of rejection from parents and peers. According to the Trevor Project's 2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, 42% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth, and the rates are higher for BIPOC youth. Transgender and nonbinary youth who reported having pronouns respected by all the people they lived with attempted suicide at half the rate of those who did not have their pronouns respected by anyone with whom they lived. LGBTQ+ youth who had access to spaces that affirmed their sexual orientation and gender identity reported lower rates of attempting suicide.

Just over 1 in 3 transgender and nonbinary youth found their home to be gender-affirming, and 52% found their school to be affirming. The Trevor Project's research consistently finds that LGBTQ+ young people report lower rates of attempting suicide when they have access to LGBTQ+ -affirming spaces.

This bill, AB103 will take away one of those spaces, often the only space where LGBTQ+ youth find affirmation of their identity. This will increase suicide attempts among these beautiful, sacred, precious young people. Their lives are sacred. They deserve to have just one place that affirms them. They deserve to be celebrated! They deserve a chance to make it to adulthood.

Please, vote no on AB103.

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister, First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

Testimony for AB 103
Thursday, March 6th, 2025
Rev. Hannah Roberts Villnave
hannah@fvuuf.org
(414) 870-1028
22 Brighton Cir.
Appleton, WI 54915

Chairman Kitchens, esteemed committee members, I'm the Reverend Hannah Roberts Villnave, and I serve as one of the ministers at the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship up in Appleton, WI. I'm here today to voice my firm opposition to Assembly Bill 103.

Wisconsin values are at the core of who I am – I was born and raised in Racine, graduated from 13 years of excellent public education there, and now I'm so glad to be raising my own kids in beautiful Northeast Wisconsin along the Fox River. Growing up here taught me that being a Wisconsinite means working hard, investing in my local community, and looking out for my neighbors. I took those early lessons to heart and so it saddens me to see legislation that is so profoundly harmful to people in my community sponsored by my representative (Tusler) and senator (Jacque).

I'm a Unitarian Universalist minister, which means, among other things, that I minister to a congregation with several trans, nonbinary and gender diverse kids, youth, and adults. It's a blessing and a privilege to be in community with these folks, but it also gives me a window into the struggles they face to live authentically. I've pastored them through serious mental health crises – frequently ignited by the indignity of needless regulation and restrictions that make it difficult for them to be called by their correct names and pronouns. From an NIH study: "For transgender youth who choose a name different than the one given at birth, use of their chosen name in multiple contexts affirms their gender identity and reduces mental health risks known to be high in this group."

So it's as simple as that. Using a trans student's name and pronouns reduces their risk of suicide.

Assembly Bill 103 interferes at a granular level with how schools support trans, nonbinary, and gender diverse students. It dictates the conditions under which teachers and principals can provide the life-saving intervention of using a trans student's correct name and pronouns.

I don't know about you, but knowingly increasing the suicide risk for children seems pretty clearly opposed to our values as Wisconsinites. And truly, I know deep in my bones that if you vote for this bill, you will have blood on your hands.

To the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Robyn Schultz. I live in the City of Milwaukee, where an important aspect of my life involves serving as President of the Southeast Wisconsin chapter of Pride at Work, the AFL-CIO's LGBTQ+ constituent group. It is partly in that capacity that I would like to submit testimony on the matter of Assembly Bill 103, a bill that I strongly oppose.

I have been living a transgender experience for my entire life. It was only much later in life that I was able to come to terms with this and come out as the person I am. Looking back, there were so many indications that I was not actually the boy I was identified and raised as. Looking back, I can hardly believe that I survived to talk about this today, or that I have to deliver this testimony in an effort to try and stop life saving care from becoming any more difficult to obtain for the people that will be impacted by AB 103.

Like AB 100, this bill stands to take away important mechanisms for navigating life from a group of young people that are more isolated than average. It needlessly complicates the lives of people that face challenges that few have to experience, challenges that are hard to imagine or explain.

The requirements spelled out in this bill are a little difficult for me to process, but it clearly stands to impose some pretty significant burdens on families, as well as onto state administrators, local school boards, principals and teachers already trying to do too much with too little. Perhaps there are some efficiencies in this that are not apparent to me.

One of the requirements of this bill is puzzling to me. The condition in Section 1(3)2a that requires series of requirements including '(T)he pupil has changed the pupil's legal name', describes something that does not seem possible, and is certainly unlikely to happen without significant support from a parent or guardian. Having gone through that process as an adult, I assure you it's a hassle,

Testimony of Dan York and Margaret Bowman regarding AB 100 and 103

802 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Madison, WI 53714

March 6, 2025

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education

We are writing to express our strong opposition to these proposed bills. Our opposition to AB 103 is very personal. Our young adult daughter is transgender. Using the name she chose for herself along with the corresponding pronouns was extremely important to her after she transitioned in middle school. Using incorrect pronouns was insulting and offensive to her. Imagine what it would feel like if someone would use an incorrect name or pronoun for you during a conversation.

It takes great courage for transgender youth and adults to transition to the gender that properly aligns with their identity. Hearing someone use an incorrect name or pronoun – those that do not align with their identity - is disturbing. It can readily lead to anxiety and depression as well as teasing and bullying.

Our daughter simply wanted to be recognized as a girl and to fit in with her peers. Failure to adjust to and use chosen names and pronouns makes this more difficult. The choices of names and pronouns is a matter for families working with their educators to address, not the state legislature.

While my daughter did not participate in school athletics, we also strongly oppose AB 100 for related reasons. Denying opportunities for our transgender youth to participate in school sports prevents them from gaining the many benefits that such participation yields. The reasons most cited for banning transgender youth from school sports are based on misunderstandings and mischaracterizations about what it means to be transgender. There are practical, workable solutions to address such concerns as locker rooms and physical differences in body types.

Our transgender youth need strong support from their families, friends, educators, coaches, and society. Our daughter and the wider transgender community face an increasingly intolerant and hateful environment. The progress with acceptance and support for our transgender daughters and sons that we had witnessed a decade ago has been quickly reversing course. The unacceptance, hostility, and even violence towards transgender people have grown over the past several years. This environment and all the anti-trans laws that are being proposed and enacted deeply affect our daughter and all her transgender brothers and sisters. She has a high degree of social anxiety and lives a very sheltered life with us just for trying to be who she truly is.

AB 100 and AB 103 would be yet two more policies that would further marginalize a very small, but very real segment of our population. Please do not enact these bills.




Thank you for this opportunity to express my views and experiences.

Dan W. York
Margaret Bowman

TRANS STUDENT WELLBEING IN WISCONSIN SCHOOLS

The number of students identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other gender-expansive (LGBTQ+) students has expanded, and these youth need greater access to school-based support. The number of students who identify as transgender, LGBT, or questioning more than doubled in the two years since 2019 (Centers for Disease Control, 2023; McCoy, 2020). Among over 100,000 students in grades 9-12 who participated in Wisconsin's 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 20% of students identified as LGBTQ+ and 4% (n=4,739) indicated they were transgender (trans) or questioning their gender identity.

KEY TERMS

-  **TRANS:** Wisconsin students indicating their gender is transgender or questioning.
-  **LGBTQ+:** Wisconsin students indicating their sexual identity is lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, or other, and/or their gender is transgender or questioning.
-  **CISGENDER, HETEROSEXUAL:** Wisconsin students indicating their sexual identity is heterosexual and their gender is cisgender.

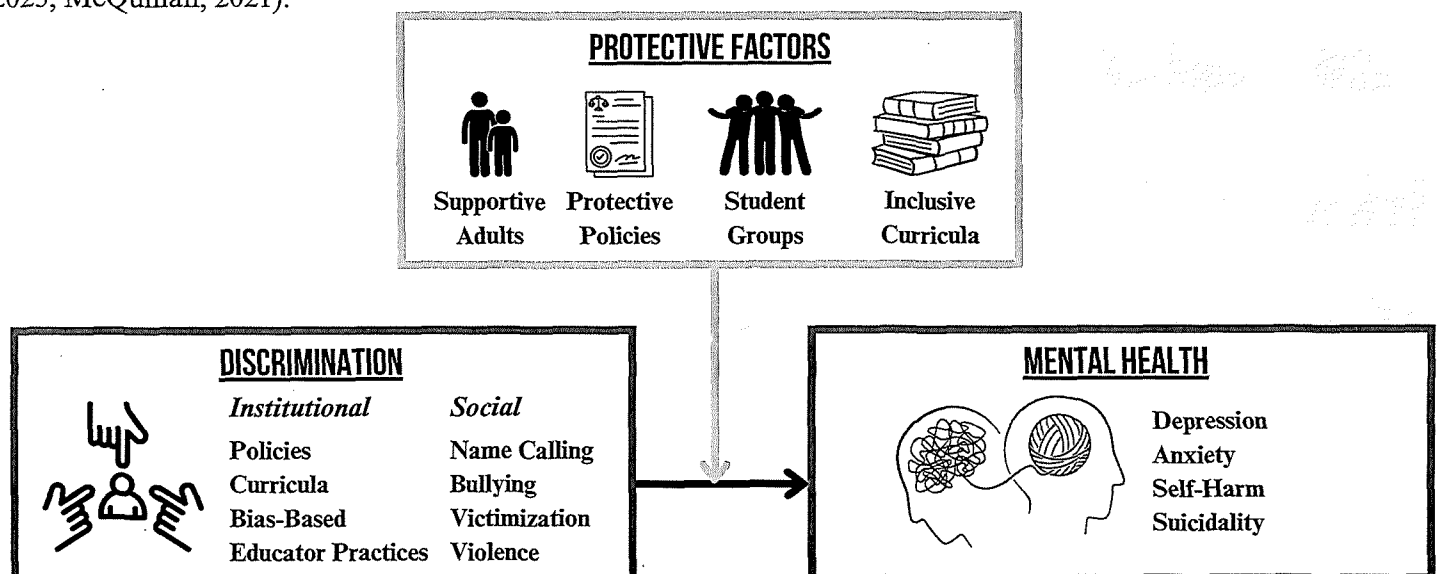


04% of students identify as **TRANS**

20% of students identify as **LGBTQ+**

School-based supports are critical to trans and LGBTQ+ student wellbeing.

Trans and LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to report unsafe school climates and mental health concerns compared to their cisgender, heterosexual peers, especially in when students also report discriminatory school policies, curricula, and practices (Kosciw et al., 2022; Johns et al, 2020). Several protective school factors can improve trans and other LGBTQ+ students' well-being. These supports include the presence of student groups like gender and sexuality alliances (GSAs), inclusive curricula and policies, and the support of adults in schools (NASSEM, 2020; Russell et al., 2021). Results from the 2021 Wisconsin and national YRBS survey indicate a critical need for continued youth access to supportive school-based resources to offset the mental health risks faced by LGBTQ+ students (CDC, 2023; McQuillan, 2021).



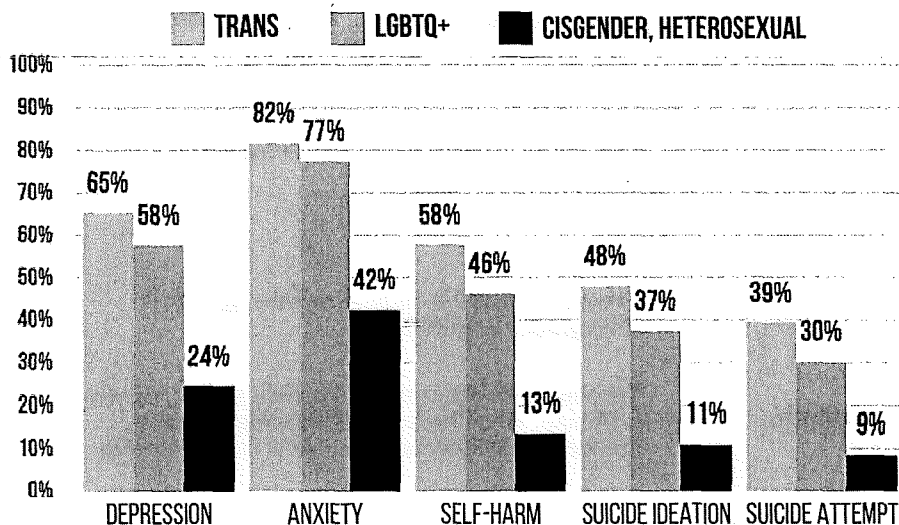
SCHOOL CLIMATE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Trans and LGBTQ+ youth report unsafe schools at higher rates than their cisgender, heterosexual peers.

Only 66% of WI trans youth report feeling safe at school, compared to 75% of LGBTQ+ youth, and 83% of cisgender, heterosexual youth. Similarly, trans students are more than three times as likely than their cisgender, heterosexual peers to have been bullied at school (37% of trans youth report being bullied within the past 12 months vs. 28% of LGBTQ+ youth and 15% of cisgender, heterosexual students). These school safety issues contribute to differences in belonging and skipping school. Relative to cisgender, straight students (83%), only 66% of trans and 75% of LGBTQ+ reported they believed they belonged in their school. Among trans youth, 8% of students indicated they skipped school because they feel unsafe compared to 12% of LGBTQ+ youth and 5% of cisgender, heterosexual students.

Trans and LGBTQ+ youth face mental health risks.

Trans and LGBTQ+ youth report experiencing depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicidality more than their cisgender, heterosexual peers. In addition to reporting unsafe schools, trans and LGBTQ+ youth mental health risks indicate a need for greater protective factors in schools.



THE ROLE OF SUPPORTIVE ADULTS AS A PROTECTIVE FACTOR

Trans and LGBTQ+ youth discuss depression with adults in schools more than cisgender, straight youth.

Trans and LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to discuss feelings of depression and anxiety with adults who are not their parents or guardians, including teachers and school staff, when compared to cisgender, straight youth. They are also less likely to discuss mental health concerns with parents or guardians when compared to straight, cisgender students. Our research supports claims that school-based protective factors, especially trusted adults in schools, can provide critical support for trans and LGBTQ+ students experiencing mental health issues.

CISGENDER, HETEROSEXUAL STUDENTS



LGBTQ+ STUDENTS



TRANS STUDENTS



Good morning. I'm the Rev. Rachel Kirk, and I'm one of the pastors at Middleton Community United Church of Christ.

In Christian scripture, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says that he cares deeply for humanity and our wellbeing, just as a good shepherd cares for each and every sheep in their flock. He says that he came to earth in order that we might have life, and have it to the full.

It is my own desire that all people might have fullness of life that brings me to oppose Assembly Bill 103. This bill is a transparent attempt to ostracize transgender children, using social pressure to keep them closeted.

The consensus of medical and mental health professionals is clear that transgender people of all ages exist, and that they do not stop being transgender just because they are in a hostile environment. It is also abundantly clear that trans youth in hostile environments suffer devastating impacts to their mental health. A 2024 study found that youth under 18 whose states passed at least one anti-trans law, like the bill we're discussing today, were between 7 and 72% more likely to attempt suicide than trans youth in other states.¹

But we don't need statistics to know that this bill would negatively affect trans youth. It's common sense.

I have worked with many middle and high school youth, including trans youth, in my years as a pastor. If you can think back to being twelve years old, or fifteen years old, you'll remember that being understood and accepted by one's peers often feels like the most important thing in the world.

Under this bill, a trans teenager whose parents did not support their identity would be forced to sit in a classroom day after day, being called by a name and pronouns at odds with who they are. The gender dysphoria this teen could face from this experience would be devastating.

That's cruel.

Under this bill, a trans child who was fully affirmed and supported by their parents but had not undergone a legal name change would be at risk of being outed as trans to their classmates when their name in a roll call didn't match the name they used.

That's cruel.

I'll close with a message to those proponents of this bill, and those of you here today, who share my Christian faith. I remind you, as my siblings in Christ, that it is our responsibility to love what Christ loves. Christ loves life, and wants fullness of life for all people, including transgender people. Christ calls us to love our neighbors, including transgender people.

This bill would hurt children. It restricts life, and it is not love.

Thank you.

—Rev. Rachel Kirk, Madison, WI 53717

¹ Lee, W.Y., Hobbs, J.N., Hobaica, S. et al. State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA. *Nat Hum Behav* 8, 2096–2106 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>

Testimony in Opposition to AB 103

My name is Sarah Luetzow. I live in Stoughton and I'm a mental health therapist who specializes in trauma and working with the LGBTQ community.

I'm deeply concerned that these proposed bills harm children rather than protect them. Every child deserves to know love - to feel valued, worthy, and celebrated for being exactly who they are. They should be able to be called by their names, and pronouns, without any unnecessary barriers.

I'm concerned that a bill like this implicitly tells trans and non-binary youth that there is something wrong with them, that they do not belong, that their rights don't matter. And what do messages like that do to someone's sense of self worth? Or to their mental health?

I wonder, can you think of a time in your own life when you have felt like you didn't belong, or your rights or dignity didn't matter? Do you remember what that felt like?

As a mental health professional, I'm very concerned about trans youth being at increased risk for suicide, and research shows that even just proposing bills like the ones we are discussing has a negative impact on the mental health of LGBTQ youth. I was heartened to hear Representative Dittrich say she cares very much about mental health of our youth, and heard the emotion in your voice when you said that. I hope you will withdraw this legislation based on listening to the all of the concerns and evidence expressed here today about negative mental health impacts of this bill.

I also want to respond to this bill being a parents' rights bill. I'm concerned about how emphasizing parents rights and assuming parents' goodness and on the other side seeing educators as suspect and bad secret keepers reinforces black and white thinking, and my concern is that the needs and dignity of our trans and nonbinary youth get lost in the process of creating this oppositional narrative where educators are the enemy. Emphasizing parents rights above all else reinforces the cultures of isolation and secrecy within family systems and perpetuation of cycles of trauma.

Again, I'm concerned that these bills hurt children, and trans youth in particular. I'm also concerned that this legislation harms you, Representative Dittrich and other legislators who would choose to support it - because you are caught in a dream of forgetting that trans and non-binary youth are not separate from you. Doing something that harms anyone hurts you, too. You have already done harm by proposing this legislation, but you have an opportunity here to prevent further harm by not continuing to support it, and could still work to repair the harm and express care for our trans and non-binary youth and rejoin beloved community. It's not too late. You're invited. We are all invited.

The stakes are high here - we are in times where we get to decide if we listen to the deepest whispers of our hearts that yearn for freedom, and justice, and collective care - or if we get pulled into hatred, and division, and stories that are not true. Please, do not pass this legislation. Do not let it get out of committee. Thank you for your time.

Amy Scott Testimony Re: LRB 1245 Pronouns Bill

My name is Amy Scott and I am the proud mother of three children attending school here in Wisconsin. As a strong supporter of parental rights, I am in full support of this bill which would prohibit schools from changing pronouns or names of students without the knowledge and parental consent of the parents.

Children under the age of 18 cannot get a tattoo, drink a beer, receive medicine at school, or even sign legal documents without parental consent. If a child under 18 isn't legally allowed to drop out of school without parental consent, how is it that a school is allowed to create a whole new identity for that same child without their parents' consent? Doesn't the seriousness and severity of both situations require the involvement of a parent in the same way?

Except in rare cases of true child abuse, parents are the best advocates for their children and have their children's best interests at heart. And for those rare cases of abuse, Wisconsin law already has robust policies, via social services and courts, to resolve those issues and help children in need. Bypassing parents entirely skips the legal process and assumes guilt without evidence. Also, parents may be aware of a mental health concern or another issue going on with the student or family that the school and teachers could not possibly know.

These efforts at "transitioning" children without parental knowledge can cause permanent harm in response to what is just a temporary, normal phase of growing up. What if a girl is just a tomboy as many are? What if a boy just likes playing with dolls or watching the movie Frozen? That doesn't mean that he is actually a she or a they.

Allowing teachers and school administrators to make decisions for children regarding the pronouns and gender identity of kids is putting those people in the position of psychiatrist or psychologist without proper training or education in the pathology of mental health disease. Encouraging pronoun and name changes without a true underlying medical need can cause permanent mental, emotional, and ultimately physical challenges. There is true danger in leaving those decisions in the hands of people not qualified to understand the risks involved.

Teachers and school staff encouraging children to take on new identities without parental involvement also erodes trust that parents have in schools and education in general. There is a major trend towards homeschooling that is due in no small part to the fear that school staff are working behind parents' backs to encourage these transitions. If parents are to continue to have faith in the school system, there needs to be respect for the place that parents should and do have in their children's lives. Nobody should have a say in what happens to children besides their parents or legal guardian.

Our state's laws already recognize the fundamental rights of parents. Take *Troxel v. Granville* (2000) for example, which affirms parents' authority and right to make decisions about their children's care and identity.

Also, Wisconsin Judge Michael Maxwell ruled in the *B.F. v. Kettle Moraine School District 2023* case ruled that allowing school staff to use names or pronouns inconsistent with a student's biological sex without parental consent violated parents' constitutional rights under the Wisconsin Constitution.

It is the duty of teachers and school staff to provide a quality education to the students of our state. The courts have ruled that changing a child's identity, name, or pronouns is a medical

issue. Therefore, parents are the only ones that should have the right to consent to make those changes for their children's well being,

President Trump noted in his address to Joint Session of Congress that all children are born perfect in the image of God. I believe that to be absolutely true and that untrained members of school staff have no business encouraging children to believe otherwise.

Passing this legislation protects children's mental health, respects parental rights, and helps build up trust in our schools. Decisions about a minor's identity and ultimately their health need to stay where they belong....with the parents.

James Foster
Testimony in Opposition to AB100 and AB103
March 6th, 2025

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is James Foster. I have lived here in the Madison area for most of my life, and I am the father of a six-year-old enrolled in Madison public schools. I am testifying today on how the passage of AB100 and AB103 would do real harm to my child.

About a year ago, my kid told me that they don't feel like either a boy or a girl. That they feel like a "They." They have been absolutely consistent on this point.

Now, I need you to understand who my kid is. They are kind. They love art and soccer and Yahtzee. They find the kid in class who is lonely, and try to make friends. They aren't a threat to anyone. Nobody needs to be protected from them.

My kid is brave, way braver than I was at six. They are happy to correct adults, to explain who they are when they get misgendered. My kid honestly doesn't understand why the world sees them as a girl. And luckily, so far, nobody has bullied them about who they are.

I'm sure you will hear a lot of testimony today about the literal effects of AB100 and AB103. I want to talk about the message that their passage would send.

AB100 tells my kid that who they feel they are is invalid. That they need to be either a boy or a girl. That the world is divided into two immutable groups, and they belong to neither, that they belong nowhere.

AB103 tells my kid that someone else - their school, their government, their parents - gets to tell them who they can be. I don't know if any of you have kids, but that really doesn't work. It doesn't change them. All it does is make them ashamed of who they are.

Together, these bills tell the world that my child is something to fear, to ostracise, or to ignore. They invite shame, they encourage bullying. They are cruel bills.

I firmly believe that anyone who enters public service does so to make the world a better place, by their understanding. The power and responsibility invested in you, as public servants, is awesome. Please don't use that power to hurt my child. They need your protection, not your cruelty. Please vote against the passage of these bills.

Thank you for your time. I hope you will consider my testimony in the spirit of compassion.

Thursday, March 6th, 2025

Benjamin Lebovitz (he/they)

balebovitz@wisc.edu

WI Resident: 53703

Chair Kitchens and Members of the Assembly Committee on Education, thank you for your attention today.

I am here to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, and I appreciate the chance to discuss these significant issues. As a National Board-Certified Teacher and a Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I focus on the role of adults in supporting trans youth in education, I bring both my professional experience and academic focus to this discussion.

While I assume no direct ill will, I specifically raise that this piece of legislation, even as a proposal that stands little chance of becoming law in the current legislative cycle, victimizes an especially vulnerable group of youth in our community, causing indirect harm (Nath et al., 2024). Trans students who are accepted by *at least* one adult report lower odds of attempted suicide in the last year (Price & Green, 2023). This legislation removes a foundational mechanism of support offered to these students: calling them by their name. My colleagues and I find that compared to their cisgender peers, when feeling depressed, anxious, or suicidal, trans youth are more likely to seek support from *adults* in schools than their *parents* (McQuillan et al., 2024). We published this peer-reviewed, open-access work in the Pediatric Journal of the American Medical Association late last year using data that reflects a representative sample of over 100,000 high school students from our state and are happy to share it today.

Second, I want to address the exclusionary athletic bill associated with AB100. My research, drawing on responses from over 300,000 Wisconsin high school students through Wisconsin's Youth Risk Behavior Survey, demonstrates that trans students already participate in physical activities much less than their cisgender peers. This bill does not serve the health and well-being of our considerable population of trans and gender-expansive youth, who make up about 4%, or one in every twenty-five students, in our schools.

Last, I note with reference to AB100 that most school information systems do not currently record or display students' pronouns by default. This piece of legislation could lead to significant but unintentional legal consequences. For example, when you see names like "Robin" or "Lindee," which we have represented here today, or names like "Alex," "Same," or names with which one is simply unfamiliar, there's a real risk of making incorrect assumptions about an individual's gender. Schools seeking to comply with this bill may choose to print or provide students' pronouns, especially because the lack of definition of the word "consistent" used in the bill may be reason for overcompliance. I would remind the committee that students' pronouns, especially if tied to other bio-demographic data, are considered an aspect of student identity clearly defined under federal privacy protections; this bill may inadvertently lead to violations of such law.

I remind the committee that the federal circuit court overseeing the state of Wisconsin (along with Indiana and Illinois) has repeatedly affirmed court rulings (*Whitaker v. Kenosha Unified School District No. 1*, 2017, *Doe v. Mukwonago Area School District*, 2023; *Doe v. Elkhorn Area School District*, 2024) that find 1) a school's interest in preventing physical, psychological, & educational harms to transgender students outweigh school's interest in protecting the privacy interest of other students and 2) discrimination based on gender identity is sex discrimination & denying a student access to facilities or recognition because they are transgender discriminates against them based on sex. While a legal case you've likely heard about today did find a school district violated parental rights under the state constitution, this decision from a Wisconsin circuit court (*T.F. v. Kettle Moraine School District*, 2023) has limited applicability across the state, applying only to Waukesha County. A separate decision in the wider federal court (*Parents Protecting Our Child, UA v. Eau Claire Area School District*, 2024) found that parents who did not have trans students did not have standing and could not be "harmed" by the school district's policies regarding the affirmation of trans youth in school.

Beyond the dubious (at best) legality these bills would force schools to navigate comes a considerable administrative burden. Implementing these changes would require substantial adjustments in school record-keeping systems, training for staff on new policies, and ongoing management to ensure compliance. The mechanisms defined by the bill for considering changes to nicknames and pronouns would require additional time and careful administrative attention in a system that already overburdens individuals with bureaucratic efforts that take time away from focusing on instruction. This administrative complexity, coupled with the potential for increased legal challenges and the need for clear and consistent updates to stay aligned with legal understanding, makes these bills not only legally precarious but also practically burdensome for educational institutions.

I urge the committee to table these bills. As these proposals stand, they are poised to do more harm than good, particularly to one of our most vulnerable groups of youth. Thank you for considering my perspective and the evidence I shared today. Please ensure this information is included in the record of this committee hearing.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to any questions.

Benjamin Lebovitz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Lebovitz", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

hospitals, 17.3% at children’s psychiatric hospitals), and 23.0% of beds were in hospitals specializing in pediatric care.

Across states, the median number of pediatric inpatient psychiatric beds per 100 000 children was 15 and ranged from 0 in Alaska to 75 in Arkansas (Figure). Higher statewide median household income ($r = -0.42$; $P = .003$) and higher percentage Hispanic population ($r = -0.37$; $P < .009$) were associated with fewer beds per capita. The percentage rural population ($r = 0.21$; $P = .15$), percentage minority racial groups ($r = -0.16$; $P = .28$), and Medicaid expansion status (Wilcoxon rank sum, $P = .34$) were not associated with beds per capita.

Discussion | US pediatric inpatient psychiatric bed capacity did not change from 2017 to 2020, but capacity varied substantially by state. Despite increases in pediatric mental health emergency visits,⁶ bed availability has not increased. Over 90% of pediatric inpatient psychiatric beds were in urban areas, raising concerns about access for rural children. Attention is needed to ensure national pediatric inpatient psychiatric capacity is sufficient to meet population mental health needs and that resources are equitably distributed. Study limitations include the self-reported nature of AHASD data and inability to assess need for inpatient services using this data source. Important next steps include identifying factors in geographic variability in bed capacity and assessing differences in quality of inpatient services by hospital type and location.

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Accepted for Publication: June 12, 2024.

Published Online: August 19, 2024. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2024.2888

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Author Contributions: Dr. Cushing had full access to all of the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Concept and design: Cushing, Nash, Foster, Michelson, Hoffmann.

Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: All authors.

Drafting of the manuscript: Cushing.

Critical review of the manuscript for important intellectual content: All authors.

Statistical analysis: Cushing, Michelson.

Supervision: Nash, Zima, West, Hoffmann.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Dr Hoffmann reported receiving grants from the Pediatric Pandemic Network and the Children’s Research Foundation Junior Board during the conduct of the study. Dr Michelson reported receiving a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. No other disclosures were reported.

Disclaimer: The content presented here is that of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by HRSA, HHS, or the US government.

Meeting Presentation: Results of this study were presented at the 2023 Meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies; April 29, 2023; Washington, DC.

Data Sharing Statement: See Supplement 2.

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HEALTH AND THE 2024 US ELECTION

Transgender Adolescent School Climate, Mental Health, and Adult Social Support

Despite well-established health disparities between transgender and cisgender youth,¹ state bills restricting gender-inclusive school supports and health care have dramatically expanded since 2019.² While parental support for transgender youth strengthens healthy development,³ unsupportive parents contribute to suicidality and homelessness.⁴ This study examines (1) whether school climate and health gender inequities hold in Wisconsin, a politically contested state without nondiscrimination or bullying legislative protections for transgender youth, and (2) gender differences among adolescents who sought help when depressed or anxious.

Methods | The 2021 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (WI-YRBS) collected data from September to December 2021 for 92 316 high school students with valid responses in our main outcomes of interest (eAppendix and eTables 1 and 2 in Supplement 1). We tested for statistically significant differences in transgender vs cisgender students’ health risks and support using Poisson and multinomial logistic regression, accounting for the complex, multistage sampling design with WI-YRBS-provided sampling weights and cluster robust standard errors. The relatively large cross-sectional sample of transgender youth (n = 3957) facilitated additional robustness checks with models that included covariates, a conservative

Supplemental content

Table. Relative Risk Ratios for Transgender and Cisgender Adolescents' School Climate, Mental Health, and Social Support

Factor	aRR (95% CI)		
	Raw/unadjusted model (n = 92 316)	Covariate-adjusted model (n = 92 316) ^a	Potentially invalid observations removed (n = 79 745) ^b
School climate			
Bullied	2.07 (1.95-2.20) ^c	1.96 (1.84-2.08) ^c	2.01 (1.87-2.16) ^c
Missed school for feeling unsafe	2.62 (2.31-2.96) ^c	2.45 (2.18-2.76) ^c	2.58 (2.23-2.98) ^c
Don't belong at school	2.74 (2.54-2.95) ^c	2.70 (2.51-2.90) ^c	2.75 (2.51-3.01) ^c
Mental health			
Depressive symptoms	2.09 (2.02-2.15) ^c	1.95 (1.89-2.01) ^c	2.15 (2.07-2.23) ^c
Self-harmed	3.09 (2.98-3.20) ^c	2.77 (2.68-2.87) ^c	3.20 (3.07-3.33) ^c
Anxiety symptoms	1.65 (1.62-1.68) ^c	1.54 (1.51-1.57) ^c	1.68 (1.65-1.71) ^c
Considered suicide	3.12 (2.97-3.27) ^c	2.89 (2.75-3.05) ^c	3.25 (3.07-3.43) ^c
Planned suicide	3.23 (3.05-3.42) ^c	3.01 (2.84-3.19) ^c	3.25 (3.07-3.43) ^c
Attempted suicide	3.61 (3.33-3.91) ^c	3.29 (3.03-3.58) ^c	3.76 (3.41-4.13) ^c
Adult support			
≥1 Supportive adult at school	1.40 (1.32-1.48) ^c	1.39 (1.31-1.47) ^c	1.38 (1.29-1.48) ^c
Seek help from ≥5 adults	0.37 (0.34-0.42) ^c	0.39 (0.35-0.44) ^c	0.38 (0.34-0.43) ^c
Adult tries to meet needs	0.89 (0.87-0.91) ^c	0.89 (0.87-0.90) ^c	0.91 (0.89-0.93) ^c
Who students talk to when depressed or anxious (n = 75 164) (n = 75 164) (n = 59 510)			
Able to get help	0.54 (0.50-0.60) ^c	0.54 (0.49-0.60) ^c	0.50 (0.45-0.56) ^c
Teacher or other school adult	1 [Reference]	1 [Reference]	1 [Reference]
Parent	0.26 (0.21-0.33) ^c	0.25 (0.20-0.32) ^c	0.26 (0.20-0.34) ^c
Other adult	1.16 (0.87-1.55)	1.13 (0.85-1.51)	1.26 (0.90-1.75)
Friend	0.75 (0.62-0.89) ^d	0.73 (0.61-0.87) ^c	0.78 (0.63-0.96) ^d
Sibling	0.52 (0.40-0.67) ^c	0.50 (0.39-0.67) ^c	0.57 (0.43-0.76) ^c
Not sure	0.70 (0.58-0.85) ^c	0.70 (0.58-0.85) ^c	0.72 (0.56-0.91) ^c

Abbreviation: aRR, adjusted relative risk.

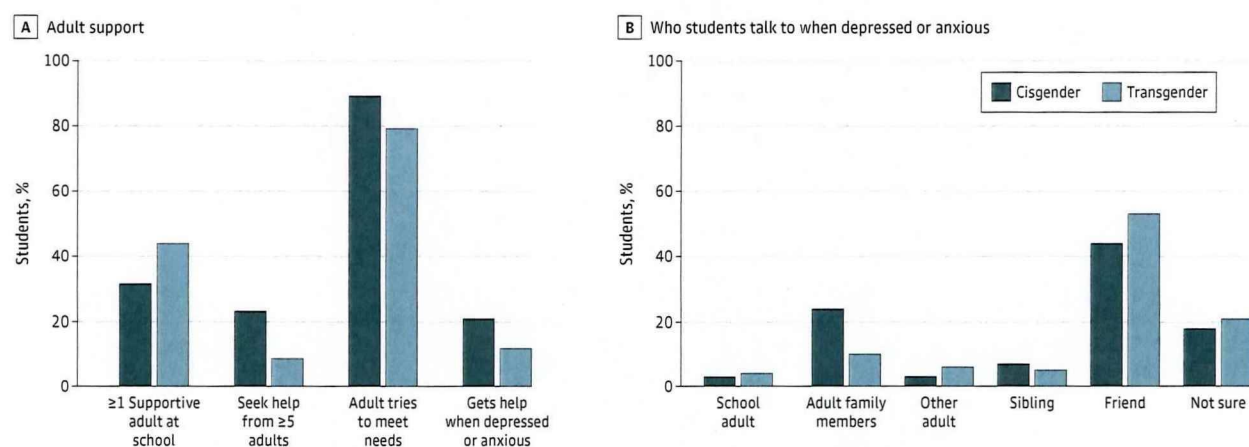
^a See methods in the eAppendix in Supplement 1. The covariate-adjusted model accounted for student grade (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th), sex (female vs male), and race and ethnicity (Hispanic, non-Hispanic racially marginalized groups, and non-Hispanic White).

^b We identified and excluded potentially mischievous responders if adolescents reported 2 or more of the following: (1) no fruits in the last 7 days, (2) no water in the last 7 days, (3) weight in the top or bottom 3%, and (4) never seen a dentist (n = 12 571).

^c Statistically significant RR at P ≤ .001.

^d Statistically significant RR at P < .01.

Figure. Social Support for Cisgender and Transgender Students as Reported in the 2021 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (N = 92 316)



Sampling weights provided by the Wisconsin Department of Instruction were used to account for the complex sampling design of the survey. The frequencies are reported for adult social and emotional support (A) and who students talk to when depressed or anxious (B). The reported frequencies include students who said that (1) they had least 1 adult in school that they can talk to if having a

problem, (2) aside from their parents, they have 5 or more adults they feel comfortable seeking support from if they have an important question in their life, (3) an adult in their life always or most of the time tries hard to meet their basic needs, and (4) they always or most of the time get the kind of help they need when they feel sad, empty, hopeless, angry, or anxious.

transgender categorization, exclusion of potentially inaccurate observations,⁵ and stratification by race and ethnicity. We followed Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Stud-

ies in Epidemiology (STROBE) reporting guidelines and received approval from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and New York University institutional review boards.

Results | School Climate and Mental Health. Compared with cisgender students, transgender students reported higher risk of bullying (adjusted relative risk [aRR], 1.96; 95% CI, 1.84-2.08) (Table), skipping school because of feeling unsafe (aRR, 2.45; 95% CI, 2.18-2.76) and not belonging at school (aRR, 2.70; 95% CI, 2.51-2.90). Transgender students faced greater risk of anxiety (aRR, 1.54; 95% CI, 1.51-1.57) and reported about 2 to 3 times the risk of depression (aRR, 1.95; 95% CI, 1.89-2.01), self-harming behavior (aRR, 2.77; 95% CI 2.68-2.87), considering suicide (aRR, 2.89; 95% CI, 2.75-3.05), planning suicide (aRR; 3.01, 95% CI, 2.84-3.19), and attempting suicide (aRR, 3.29; 95% CI, 3.03-3.58) compared with cisgender students.

Adult Support. Transgender youth reported a greater likelihood of identifying at least 1 adult in school they could talk to compared with cisgender peers (aRR, 1.39; 95% CI, 1.31-1.47), but a lower likelihood of seeking help from 5 or more adults (aRR, 0.39; 95% CI, 0.35-0.44), identifying adults who helped with basic needs (aRR, 0.89; 95% CI, 0.87-0.90), or finding help when needed (aRR, 0.54; 95% CI, 0.49-0.60) compared with cisgender peers (Figure and Table). More cisgender youth reported not feeling depressed or anxious (18.6%) than transgender youth (1.4%). Among students who felt depressed or anxious (Figure and Table), transgender students sought help from parents (aRR, 0.25; 95% CI, 0.20-0.32), friends (aRR, 0.73; 95% CI, 0.61-0.87), and siblings (aRR, 0.50; 95% CI, 0.39-0.67) and reported uncertainty about who to seek help from (aRR, 0.70; 95% CI, 0.58-0.85) less than adults in schools when compared with cisgender students.

Discussion | These novel findings suggest that schools serve as sites for both victimization and support for transgender youth. While YRBS design issues limit some inferences (eg, cross-sectional sample, exclusion of adolescents not enrolled in school), Wisconsin transgender students reported poor school climate and health concerns, which is consistent with past research¹ and adds to a small but growing state-based literature. Importantly, we leverage the Wisconsin YRBS's recent, unique adult social support items to reveal that adults in schools play a differentially greater role, and parents play a smaller role, when depressed or anxious transgender vs cisgender youth seek help. When situated in the literature discussing social supports as buffers to suicidality, depression, substance abuse, and other health risks,^{1,4} our study exposes the danger of restrictive education laws when school supports fill a critical need for transgender youth.

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Accepted for Publication: June 28, 2024.

Published Online: August 26, 2024. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2024.3079

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Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: McQuillan, Cimpian, Gill.

Drafting of the manuscript: McQuillan, Cimpian.

Critical review of the manuscript for important intellectual content: All authors.

Statistical analysis: McQuillan, Cimpian, Gill.

Obtained funding: McQuillan.

Administrative, technical, or material support: McQuillan, Lebovitz.

Supervision: McQuillan, Cimpian.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.

Funding/Support: The research was supported by the Institute for Diversity Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, and through a training grant from the Institute of Education Sciences, US Department of Education, to the University of Wisconsin–Madison (R305B200026).

Role of the Funder/Sponsor: The funders had no role in the design and conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of the data; preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript; and decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent views of the funders or the Wisconsin Department of Instruction.

Data Sharing Statement: See Supplement 2.

Additional Information: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the State of Wisconsin Department of Instruction were responsible for the initial Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

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COMMENT & RESPONSE

Prioritizing Data Privacy and Security in Pediatric AI

To the Editor We read with great interest the article by Handley and colleagues,¹ which discussed the safe and equitable use of artificial intelligence (AI) in pediatric care. The authors timely and insightfully discussed the path of AI's integration into pediatric clinical settings. We thought highly of their emphasis on engaging end users and stakeholders, which ensures algorithm evaluation and implements robust monitoring strategies. However, we believe that there is still room for a more in-depth consideration of data privacy and security, which is a crucial aspect that warrants specific attention when addressing AI in pediatrics.

As a special group, children are inherently more vulnerable to data breaches and misuse. Existing research shows that children are 3 times more likely than adults to be targeted by cyberattacks.² The unique vulnerability is compounded by the

My name is Virginia Kamp. I grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin, did my Bachelor's Degree here at UW-Madison, taught for nearly a decade in Wisconsin schools, and am currently a stay at home mom to two young children in Wauwatosa in Assembly District 13. As someone who cares deeply about Wisconsin schools and Wisconsin kids, I am here today to strongly urge you not to move forward with bills AB100 and AB103.

As a young teenager in Appleton, Wisconsin, I knew I was gay the way your lungs know to breathe air. It was not a choice, it was simply who I was. I didn't even have a word for it until I overheard some students at my middle school telling anti-gay jokes. I simultaneously learned who I was, and also that it probably wasn't a safe idea to tell anyone.

Every Trans person that I know would say that they feel the same way about being Transgender, that it is ingrained in their being, but that recognizing it within themselves can be a scary and lonely realization. If these bills were to pass, I fear that we would see a serious increase in self-harm and suicide among our young people.

I hope that is enough for you to put a stop to these bills. But in case it isn't, let me also speak to you as a former educator. Before I took a step back to raise my two young children, I was a classroom teacher for over 11 years, mostly at public charter schools here in Wisconsin. Like most of the teachers I know, I went to teach in the classroom because I have a strong belief that every child deserves to have a safe place to learn and the ability to meet their fullest potential.

I am deeply concerned that these two bills will make it harder for teachers to do that. DPI's 2022 Workforce Analysis showed that we are already losing four out of every ten teachers within their first six years in the profession. Teachers want to make their students feel safe at school, and if these bills pass, I fear that we will lose even more good teachers.

It was not easy growing up gay in Wisconsin, and I can't imagine it's easy for Trans kids growing up today. But I came back to raise my kids in this state because most of the Wisconsinites I know prize kindness and neighborly love above partisanship. Today I ask you to do the same. Please stop these bills, and keep Wisconsin a great state to raise all children.

To the members of the Assembly, Representatives Dittrich, Behnke, Jacobson, Kreibich, Maxey, O'Connor, Tusler, and Mursau ~~on~~ AB103 and AB100:

in opposition to

These bills to amend parts of statutes 118 actively add additional challenges to the already complicated lives of transgender youth. As a non-binary person raised female, I always knew I was different - that I didn't fit in with my assigned gender. Forced interaction with people who did not see me for who I was only entrenched internalized self-hatred and led to mental health issues it took over a decade to cope with. These bills promote internalized transphobia - self-hatred no child should have to endure.

Not all children's parents are affirming of their identities, which is why I take particular issue with AB103. School is often the only safe place for children whose parents deny how they identify. Teachers and classmates should have the liberty to choose to support their transgender community members regardless of parental approval. To support this point, here is a quote from an article from the National Library of Medicine written in 2023, "...internalized transphobia was significantly associated with greater depression and anxiety. ... Only lower perceived parental support was associated with greater depression and anxiety across all steps of the regression models." Putting such emphasis on the sex someone was assigned at birth denies their lived experience - how they have come to know and understand themselves. Along with AB100, being forced to use accommodations that do not align with these children's lived experiences only promotes self-hate, isolation, and discrimination.

Let children who identify as a specific gender, regardless of their sex assigned at birth, use the facilities that align with their lived experience. Anti-transgender laws like these proposed today have caused up to a 72% increase in suicide attempts among transgender youth across the US. Let's work to protect and validate the experiences of all our community members.

Citations:

Conn BM, Chen D, Olson-Kennedy J, Chan YM, Ehrensaft D, Garofalo R, Rosenthal SM, Tishelman A, Hidalgo MA. **High Internalized Transphobia and Low Gender Identity Pride Are Associated With Depression Symptoms Among Transgender and Gender-Diverse Youth.** J Adolesc Health. 2023 Jun;72(6):877-884. doi: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2023.02.036. Epub 2023 Apr 10. PMID: 37045610; PMCID: PMC10243649.

Lee, W.Y., Hobbs, J.N., Hobaica, S. *et al.* **State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA.** *Nat Hum Behav* 8, 2096–2106 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>

*Del Hansen
Madison, WI*

Dear Members to the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Elise, and I have been a citizen of Wisconsin for most of my life. My childhood was spent in the North woods just over the Michigan border, then high school and college in central Wisconsin, before finally moving to Madison three years ago. This is my home, and I am terrified that it is about to end up on the wrong side of repeating history.

To explain why I oppose assembly bills 100 and 103 I'd like to take us back to June 28th, 1969, In the years prior, the government enacted anti-lgbt laws and policies that violated people's civil rights based on their sex and identity. Laws that started like these ones. In 1969, law enforcement regularly raided lgbt friendly establishments, and arrested anyone in drag and women not wearing feminine clothing. In this particular instance, officers took suspected trans folk to a bathroom to have their genitals "inspected". Additionally, women who were frisked were groped and assaulted. These are the events that led to the Stonewall riots, and our increasing fight to protect our basic rights to our own bodies.

However, assembly bills 100 and 103 would be a massive step backwards and affect the most vulnerable population, our youth. These laws are touted as protection, but what kind of protection opens up the very real and historically verifiable risk that if a student doesn't look and conform exactly to your idea of gender then a coach might ask them to *prove* it? It is no business of the state of Wisconsin what genitals a student happens to have in their pants, nor to create laws dictating if they can throw a ball around because of it.

Youth who are trans and other members of the lgbt community already face enough. Research has shown that they are several times more likely to commit suicide. A rate that drastically drops when they are given support instead of being ostracized. Up to forty percent our nation's homeless youth are part of the lgbt+ community. A stat I know all too well, as it was my biggest fear when I started questioning my own orientation. Bills like this do irreparable harm to an already vulnerable generation, and are a gross government overstep into our civil liberties. **For the sake of our youth's mental and physical well being, I urge you all to vote NO on both bills 100 and 103.**

Sincerely,

Elise Celarier

Madison WI

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Alex Hatheway, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 12 years. My children go to Madison schools and I myself am an educator.

I urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly 103. I oppose these bills because as an educator, I know that students need to be respected and treated with dignity in order to learn and thrive. Regardless of the intent of these bills, they will harm the dignity of students.

I want to devote my testimony to AB103. What's in a name? As an ESL (English as a Second Language) educator, I have taught students from all over the world. I know that to pronounce a student's name correctly is to honor their culture and identity, and I feel that trans students' identities should be honored in the same way. Not all of my students used the names they grew up with however. Some chose English names that they felt matched who they were inside. For them, their new name was a chance to express their individuality. As teachers, we should honor the expression of our trans students. To not use a student's chosen name is to deny them expression and to do so because their name does not match their "biological sex" is discrimination. I know what a difference using the right name can make in a student's day. Many times, I have seen the light in my students' faces when I get their names right and their crestfallen expressions when I get it wrong (of course I correct myself). Please help teachers make our classrooms places full of lit up faces and not crestfallen ones. Let us show our students we value their individuality, their expression and their identities. Let us use our students' chosen names (and pronouns).

To the members of the committee on education:

My name is Julia Jones, my pronouns are she/her, and I live and work in Madison. As a mental health counselor who specializes in working with queer youth, I am personally and professionally opposed to Bill 100 and Bill 103.

Trans children are loved and valued members of our community and by excluding and misgendering them our schools would cause harm and distress to these children. Trans youth need safe spaces where they can learn, play, socialize, be included, and be themselves just like any other kid. Schools are where kids spend most of their day, and are therefore a very important safe space. Without gender affirming safe spaces trans children can experience anxiety, depression and are at increased risk of suicide.

90% of LGBTQ+ young people said their well-being was negatively impacted due to recent politics. 54% of transgender and nonbinary young people found their school to be gender-affirming, and those who did reported lower rates of attempting suicide, according to The Trevor Project. As one of your constituents I ask you all to vote against these proposed bills.

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Hello Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing our testimonies today. My name is Karen Polnitz, I am a resident of Madison, a queer woman, an educator, a mother, and I am here today to request your votes in opposition of AB 100 and AB 103.

As a teacher and mother, it has been my great honor to bear witness to moments of youth experiencing gender euphoria. The Trevor Project defines gender euphoria as "satisfaction or joy caused when one's gendered experience aligns with their gender identity". The sense of comfort my student felt when we found gender neutral pronouns they could use to describe themselves in Spanish class, the joyful ease with which another student refers to himself as a "dude" and the glimmering sparkle in my daughter's eye when she puts on a princess dress. These are the experiences we should be fighting for our children and students to have.

AB 100 and AB 103 will not only keep kids from experiencing euphoria but quite directly place them in positions of discomfort, fear, and danger. We know that our trans and nonbinary beloveds experience bullying at high rates and those who are not supported in living authentically are at increased risk of suicide. Preventing gender diverse youth from having their identities supported with a simple acknowledgement of their correct name and pronouns and being able to play on their correct sports teams will increase both of those harmful scenarios. According to The Trevor Project, 90% of LGBTQ+ young people are negatively affected by recent politics surrounding their identities. Even the proposal of policies such as these proposed today are negatively affecting our children. 45% of transgender and nonbinary youth report that their families have considered moving to another state due to anti-LGBTQ+ policies in the last year. Is this what we want for Wisconsin? To create dangerous conditions for youth that drive families away?

I want to trust that all on the committee do not wish harm upon our children. AB 100 and AB 103 will undoubtedly cause harm to our children and I strongly urge you to vote against them. Please reject the lies about trans people. Our trans and nonbinary youth continue the lineage of gender diverse ancestors from Indigenous cultures around the world and we must protect and support them. Please use your vote and your voice to stand up for all Wisconsin youth. Thank you for your time today.

With respect,

Karen Polnitz
559-760-4427
karenpolnitz@gmail.com

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am here to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students from using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 35 years, Madison for almost 20 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen. I have held director-level positions at multiple pharmaceutical companies in Madison and my husband is an associate for a Wisconsin-based engineering firm. We also contribute to our community, volunteering at our children's school and coaching. If these bills are passed, we are considering leaving Wisconsin.

My child is 9 years old, identifies as non-binary, and uses they / them pronouns. They realized their gender identity on their own at the age of 7 and communicated their preferred name and pronouns to me and their dad. Until then, there had been no discussion of gender identity in our household. My child does karate, swims, plays football and basketball, all of which are co-ed, and have not required that they identify with either gender binary. If required to participate in sports based on their gender assigned at birth, they will choose not to participate. My child more closely identifies as trans when forced into the gender binary. Participating based on their gender assigned at birth would put my child at odds with their sense of self and put them in a situation where they would face more discrimination and bullying. Legislators are counting on our trans children to not to participate in sports. Why should our trans children forego affirmation of self to participate in school athletics alongside their peers? We know the benefits of participation in sports. We know the benefits of self-affirmation. Our trans children deserve equal rights.

My child is intelligent, both intellectually and emotionally, kind, respectful, and happy. They are supported by their family, their school, and their community. There is no evidence of mental illness as some would lead us to believe. My child is strong and capable, and the only issue that breaks them is when their preferred name, pronouns, or gender identity are intentionally not respected. My primary purpose as a parent is to ensure the well-being of my child. These laws could damage my child's mental health, creating issues that are not otherwise there when their authentic self is fully expressed and respected. What damage has been done by allowing trans children to participate in sports and school based on their gender identity? My child transitioned between school years at the same elementary school and continued to have the same experiences with their classmates after their transition. Children naturally adapt and accept; it's when hardheaded adults interfere that we see any issues. Why are our legislators seeking to discriminate against a minority of minorities? There is nothing positive to be gained by either of these bills. These bills are on the wrong side of history.

Sincerely,
Kristin Dodd
Madison, WI 53705

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am here to oppose bills AB100, the proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, the bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 7 years, and I have two children, a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old. Our youngest child told us a few months ago that she is not, in fact, a boy, and we worry what school will be like for her if these bills pass.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an equal and inclusive education, free from harassment and discrimination. To restrict a small minority of students from playing sports is to rob them of the enriching life experience that team sports provide to non-trans children without any such restriction. And to prohibit the use of a student's preferred name and gender pronouns is to create an unsafe space for them, where they will not feel free to be themselves and will therefore struggle to learn and thrive.

While I am not trans myself, I have heard the experience of being forced to be closeted as a trans person described as feeling like your life is simply a tv show¹ and they are just a character that they are watching, unable to fully live as their full self, forced to disassociate to survive. I know that this is not a life any of us would want for our children. I ask the committee members to oppose these bills and thereby continue to create an open-minded safe space for all students.

Sincerely,
Stephen Kerr
Madison, WI 53717

¹From "*I Saw the TV Glow's* Ending Is Full of Hope, If You Want It to Be" by Emily St. James
Vulture – Sept. 20, 2024

<https://www.vulture.com/article/the-hidden-hope-in-i-saw-the-tv-glows-ending-explained.html>

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am here to oppose bills AB100, the proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, the bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I am a Madison, Wisconsin resident and professor of human development and family studies at UW-Madison. I have a PhD in Developmental Psychology. Until recently, we have assumed that we had a 6 year old girl and a 3 year old boy. A few months ago, our youngest told us that in fact, she was a girl. This is not something we were expecting and it totally caught us off guard. Upon her insistence, we now call her she and she lives her best life wearing dresses growing out her hair. It has become apparently clear that she is a much happier and well adjusted kiddo living as a girl.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an equal and inclusive education, free from harassment and discrimination. To restrict a small minority of students from playing sports is to rob them of the enriching life experience that team sports provide to non-trans children without any such restriction. And to prohibit the use of a student's preferred name and gender pronouns is to create an unsafe space for them, where they will not feel free to be themselves and will therefore struggle to learn and thrive.

A study from 2020 found that 82% of transgender youth had considered killing themselves and 40% had attempted suicide. Studies also show that when children have supportive environments, these statistics are dramatically reduced. To us, and to our family, this is not about ideology or politics. It is about life and death. We are offering our child a supportive and affirming environment to be the person she told us that she is, and we just want to send her into a school that honors her identity and keeps her alive. I know that everyone here cares about children and wants them to live long and healthy lives.

I ask the committee members to oppose these bills and thereby continue to create an open-minded safe space for all students.

Sincerely,
Margaret Kerr
Madison, WI 53717

Not all kids, unfortunately, have this support from their families. In this case, support from the school allowing kids to live their authentic lives could save their lives.

As an expert in child dev,
I can say that we consistently underestimate what children understand and capable of and what they know about themselves.

* Developmentally appropriate age to understand gender 3-5 years old

To the members of the committee:

I am a transgender educator, and I would have been a transgender athlete during high school had my school not made the decision to ban me from being allowed to participate in gym classes, sports teams, and the use of bathrooms. Now, over ten years later, these bills are asking me to perpetuate that violence. I am against bills AB100 and AB103. After reading AB100 and AB103 I have questions about the enforcement of both bills.

1. Title IX allows girls on boys teams if no girls teams exist for them, how would this bill affect that?
2. If the definition of sex, as written in this bill, is based on a physician's decision at birth, are intersex people banned from all sports? Or must they provide documents that inaccurately describe their birth sexes?
3. Under line 2(a) of bill AB100 schools are required to designate athletic teams based on the sex of the participating pupils; is this making co-ed sports unlawful? How do we address the increased costs of disbanding co-ed teams in order to create sex segregated teams? Many schools may have to end important sporting programs if they can't afford two separate teams.
4. Are these bills claiming that those designated female at birth are inherently less capable than, or inferior to, those designated male at birth?
5. Legal name changes are financially prohibitive, and especially for pupils in rural areas who cannot access traveling to the courthouse for a hearing. This leaves working class and rural students at a disadvantage. Are the writers of this bill implying their acceptance of this fact?
6. With a requirement for both parents to be notified and to approve of a name change, how should schools approach situations where there is an abusive or estranged parent? This places schools in the position of having to make complicated legal decisions with no clear guidance, opening them up to potential lawsuits.
7. Line 4(c) of bill AB103 has an allowance for nicknames so long as they are a shortened version of the students first or middle name. How should schools approach girls named Charlotte wanting to be called Chuck? Boys named Samuel going by Sammy? Students who are called by their last names? Students with nicknames that have nothing to do with any of their given names or a gender identity, but who use those names in their daily life? Do they need an affidavit or a legal name change to be allowed to use a nickname like 'Junior'?

These bills put students at risk of financial, mental, emotional, and physical harm. When we have as many as 2 to 3 of every 5 transgender students attempting suicide before their 18th birthday, this bill will have blood on its hands.

Thank you.

Samantha Bosco
Regarding Assembly Bills 100 and 103
March 6, 2025

Greetings members of the assembly and public, my name is Dr. Samantha Bosco, I am a WI resident here in Madison and I work as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Wisconsin. I am testifying about Assembly Bills 100 and 103, which seek to compel all public and private educational institutions in WI to enforce a completely false ideology of binary gender and immutable sex expressions, through government overreach in school sports and curtailing inclusive language to aid with social transitioning for trans youth in educational settings.

First, these bills are flat out discriminatory and dangerous. AB100 singles out trans women and girls, forcing them into places that will increase the risk of bullying and demoralization¹. AB103 discriminates against trans youth from using inclusive language, and makes them prove that they are not “sex offenders”, “fraudulent”, or “infringing on the rights of others”. And yet you can so hypocritically then go and infringe on the rights of trans youth. These bills will be vetoed and defeated in the courts, you are wasting our time and tax dollars.

In the case of AB100, how would you enforce this when discrepancies arise? How would you verify that a student’s birth certificate matches their anatomy or karyotype²? The doctors first designated it by visual inspection, does that mean school administrators will be visually inspecting student’s genitals? Is that not a sex offense and sexual abuse?! Is that not an infringement on the rights of WI students?!

If you truly want to help women’s sports, perhaps you could propose legislation to correct the funding discrepancies that actually favor men’s sports^{3,4} rather than waste taxpayer dollars on an estimated five, yes f-i-v-e trans middle and highschool athletes in this entire nation⁵.

Lastly, I speak to you today as someone with a PhD in agricultural sciences and who has taught biology at an Ivy League University. It is plain to see that both of these proposed bills are based on factually incorrect ideas about “biological” sex as only existing in a binary⁶.

You see, Something about me that often gets a lot of attention is my curly red hair. Did you know that 2% of the earth’s population has red hair? You can probably think of several... Did you know that about that same percentage of people on earth are born with, or later develop, intersex characteristics that do not fit into either male or female categories. In fact more than “two genders”, did you know that there are 30 genetic variations in human sex chromosomes⁷?

¹ https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2022%20USTS%20Early%20Insights%20Report_FINAL.pdf; pg 21

² <https://theconversation.com/genetic-testing-cannot-reveal-the-gender-of-your-baby-two-genetic-counselors-explain-the-complexities-of-sex-and-gender-217631>

³ <https://www.npr.org/2022/06/24/1107242271/the-ncaa-says-that-funding-for-women-in-college-sports-is-falling-behind>

⁴ <https://bold.org/blog/female-student-athletes-get-left-behind/>

⁵ <https://www.newsweek.com/how-many-transgender-athletes-play-womens-sports-1796006>

⁶ <https://www.nature.com/articles/518288a>

⁷ <https://www.healthline.com/health/transgender/types-of-intersex#what-qualifies>

Samantha Bosco
Regarding Assembly Bills 100 and 103
March 6, 2025

There is ample evidence of transgender youth successfully socially transitioning in the United States during the earth 20th century⁸ and records of trans people happily existing in medieval Europe⁹. Today, evolutionary biologists understand that across the animal kingdom, sex is not binary, but multivariate¹⁰. Learn from history. Trust the science. Nature is queer.

We, the public, are broadly aware that your goal is to limit the ability for trans youth to exist in public life and therefore reduce possibilities of becoming trans adults.


We, the public, know that this is discriminatory and genocidal in nature. And, as a proud trans adult myself, who despite growing up in the 90s and 00s in a world with virtually no social support, I persisted and flourished. And all the trans youth in WI today will too persist, flourish, and one day become trans elders. You can't stop us.

And so members of the Assembly, open your eyes. We, the public, are awake to the truth and your efforts to obfuscate it.

It is time to end the anti-american, subversive, and harmful sex-binary lunacy!

Vote "No" on assembly bills 100 and 103!

Sincerely,



Samantha Bosco, PhD

⁸ <https://www.upress.umn.edu/9781517904678/histories-of-the-transgender-child/>

⁹ <https://theconversation.com/trans-people-affirmed-their-gender-without-medical-help-in-medieval-europe-history-shows-how-identity-transcends-medicine-and-law-248559>

¹⁰ <https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icad027>

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education

RE 2025 AB103

I have lived in Wisconsin since 1992; I have two children, ages 4 and 7, who are in public school in Wisconsin, and I am opposed to this bill, because I feel it would negatively impact the lives of my children and their friends.

AB103 is a perplexing bill. My younger child, Malcolm, goes by "Mal," and has since he was born. He was, in fact, surprised to learn that was a nickname and not his legal name. Am I going to have to sign a piece of paper every year allowing his teachers to call him what everyone already calls him? This is patently absurd and a waste of everyone's time, as well as a violation of his right to choose what he should be called. He's not a chess piece for me to control, but a human being who gets to make his own choices about things, including his name and pronouns. This type of attempt to control what adult humans call themselves would never pass muster; I cannot think why we would try to inflict it on children.

Thank you for your attention in these matters.

Emily Lupton Metrish

Madison, WI 53705

AB103: Name change and pronoun change bill

Natalie Correa
Regarding Assembly Committee on Education
March 6, 2025

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Natalie Correa and I am a resident of the City of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for a few months now as a graduate student and have done research with college students on the introduction of bills, such as AB103 and AB100, and the negative impact they have on how students think about places.

In that research, I have become familiar with how even the proposal of bills such as this one can be harmful to youth, with the Trevor Project finding that 86% of transgender and nonbinary youth had negative impacts on their mental health from the discussion of these kinds of bills.

However, I write today in opposition to the measures proposed in AB103. I am currently 21, so my life since I was 3 has been spent in schools. Over those many years, I have had the pleasure of meeting many people who had transitioned, were in the process of transitioning, and folks who experimented with their pronoun usage. In knowing these people, I was able to see the impact that having access to the choice to change their name and/or pronouns (at least in the educational setting) had.

Particularly for friends I had come to know before they had begun to transition, I was able to see them blossom as people. People who seemed disengaged from school and life had smiles so wide and felt more invigorated once they were able to take the big step that is making a name change or a pronoun change. Classmates who were consistently quiet and withdrawn were then filled with the confidence that comes with being able to express oneself more truthfully.

It is my opinion, through observing these people I had come to know, that access to name changes, pronoun changes, and the freedom of expression provided through these actions allowed these students to be more engaged with their education.

Rather than proposing ways to strip rights from students, I propose that the assembly consider ways to further protect transgender and non-binary students from discrimination and to protect the right to experiment and express one's gender how they please.

Thank you for reading this testimony. Your consideration of these anecdotes is very much appreciated

Sincerely,

Natalie Correa

City of Madison, 53705

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jocie Luglio, and I am a resident of Madison WI. I've lived in Wisconsin for 25 years and owned my home here for 20 years.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is *unnecessary* and *harmful to my community*.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Jocie Luglio

Madison WI 53704

Jessica Ross

Regarding Members of the Assembly Committee on Education, AB103

3/6/2025

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jessica Ross and I am a constituent from Madison. I have lived in Wisconsin for 7 years. There are so many great things about the state of Wisconsin and because I care about our communities, I would like to testify against Assembly Bill 103 and urge you to vote no.

This is important to me because this bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. **No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.** We should be supporting and uplifting our students, rather than forcing them into identities that don't fit. It is not the state's responsibility to enforce such broad policy on something so personal that should be decided by each student.

This bill would harm our schools and students. We need to support youth in our state so that we can have healthy and functioning communities. This bill would create a distraction from quality education that our schools can provide.

I hope that, by voting no on this bill, the members of the assembly will stand up and protect our students. There are much more important things for the Committee on Education to focus on that could improve the quality of education for our students: providing free and nutritious school lunches and expanding access to school services.

Please vote no on Assembly Bill 103. This bill harms our students and, in doing so, all Wisconsinites. Thank you for your consideration.

Jessica Ross

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to you as a Wisconsin resident (since 2011), licensed mental health professional, and parent to urge you to oppose Assembly bill 103. I am deeply troubled by this bill's plan to impose additional barriers on trans and gender expansive youth who simply desire to be seen and honored for who they are. In my current and past roles as a therapist, I know all too well from both research and direct experience that trans youth are significantly more likely to experience mental health challenges and suicidal ideation when the people they come into contact with do not use the correct pronouns that correspond with their gender identity. I have seen personally the profound positive impact that a validating school environment can have for a child, as well as the devastating effect of an environment where a child does not feel accepted for who they are.

I believe that all of us want what is best for our children. I ask you to please think about what it would feel like to you to have a rule passed that would put your child at a higher risk of depression and suicidal thoughts, or what it would feel like to see a rule made that would create additional obstacles in the process of your children being allowed to be called by their name. You may not have a transgender child in your life, but I suspect you know a child who is in the process of learning who they are. I, like you, want my children to be able to grow up and fully realize their identity. Please do not make that harder.

I am so grateful to you for your consideration of my perspective, and for the work you do. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Sincerely,
Sarah Chodorow, LCSW (she/her hers)
413 Ring St.
Madison, WI 53714

To Chair Kitchens, Vice Chair Goeben, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Tony Panciera, I live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53211. I am opposed to the passage of AB 103.

I am a business owner and have the pleasure of working for clients across our community in Southeastern Wisconsin. I do small scale carpentry, woodworking, and cabinetry. I have clients that are queer. I have clients that are trans. I have people in my community with children who are trans. The impact of AB 103 putting barriers in place for schools to be able to support trans kids is that trans kids are less likely to have spaces where they are supported. These bills DO succeed in adding bureaucracy into schools and reduce safety for kids who might not have it at home. Trans people are 4x more likely to be victims of violent crime. (<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-trans-press-release/>). More than 40% of transgender adults in the US have attempted suicide (<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/transpop-suicide-press-release/>). To think that they only turned to self-harm as adults is asinine.

For a parent trying to support their kid (I have two children), requiring legal name change documents or an affidavit in order to change the name they are called at school, is truly wild. Navigating school selection, transportation, childcare, making enough money to pay for childcare, and figuring out how to support and develop socially well rounded and kind children is enough work. Perhaps it's easier for folks above my tax bracket, but for most of us normal folk, it's a lot. Adding legal barriers to make it more complicated for parents (and teachers, paraprofessionals, school resource officers, nurses, aides, secretaries, etc.) to love and be kind to children, feels like a particular type of cruel.

I aim to focus my life on loving others and my community, as Jesus did. I cannot imagine that Jesus would have supported this type of law, with the parable of the Good Samaritan coming to mind. You do not have to know someone or understand someone to be kind and loving. Adding barriers to parents and schools to support kids don't seem Jesus-like to me. I strongly encourage you to act out of love and vote against AB 103.

Sincerely,

Tony Panciera

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Brent Mecikalski, and I am a resident of Appleton, Wisconsin. I've lived in Wisconsin my entire life, 32 years, and I've had the pleasure of teaching in the state for over 10 years.

I'm writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. As a proud Wisconsin educator, I am opposed to this bill because it will directly harm the LGBTQ+ students who I work with every day.

Sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another. However, this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way that this bill specifically targets transgender youth is abhorrent and discriminatory. I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

Sincerely,
Brent Mecikalski

6 March 2025

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Erika Marin-Spiotta and I am a resident of Dane County. I've lived in Wisconsin for 16 years.

I am writing to urge you to vote **NO on Assembly Bill AB103**. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is discriminatory and promotes a culture of fear of trans people, and especially, children. As a cisgender woman, an educator, and mother of two, I want my children and students to grow up learning acceptance and love, not fear and hate. I want my children and students to learn to fully embrace who they are, whomever they may grow up to be, and to fully embrace their peers on their journeys of self-discovery and acceptance.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are. Our schools should be places of acceptance, learning, and love, not discrimination, fear and hate.

Sincerely,

Erika Marin-Spiotta
Madison, WI 53705

My name is Jennifer Smith, and I live in Madison, Wisconsin (zip code 53705). I initially moved to Wisconsin in 2010 for graduate school, and I made the decision to stay in Wisconsin after my education had concluded because I loved so many things about this state--especially its history of progressive values, always aiming to propel the state and its people Forward. But AB103 would push Wisconsin Backward.

In various teaching and tutoring capacities, I have worked with a wide array of students, from 6th graders through high school students and undergrads at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. One thing all of my teaching experiences have had in common is the paramount importance of trust. I am a better teacher, and my students are more engaged and receptive to learning, when we trust each other. That means that when my students tell me their names and pronouns, I use them. I make my students feel comfortable and safe, and they, in return, do the work I set out for them so that they can build skills and blossom into happy, educated, productive adults. When students cannot trust the adults around them, however, their academic performance suffers.

This bill would make that level of trust impossible to achieve. It would bar students from the chance to explore who they are in a safe environment, even when their home environment is less safe. And it puts an unfair burden on students and parents to jump through the difficult hoops of the legal system just for the chance to be acknowledged as the people that they are.

The bill makes an explicit exception for "a pupil using a shortened version of the pupil's legal first or middle name." This means that Thomas James can be Tommy or TJ, and that Margaret Leigh can be Peggy or Leigh. Clearly, the writers of this bill are aware that using a name that is not the student's full legal name does not, actually, place an administrative or professional burden on schools and teachers. Furthermore, in language classes, students often take a name from the culture of the language they're studying -- in my middle school Spanish class, I was Ana, and Ryan, who sat next to me, was Fabio. When students from other countries move to the U.S., they often take on a new "American" name at school, even as the name on their passport remains unchanged. There are many, many cases where students use names in school that do not match their legal documents. Why should trans children be treated differently?

I know many parents of trans children, and many trans adults, who are terrified of the direction our country is headed with regard to trans rights. Wisconsin has the opportunity to be a beacon of light and hope instead of adding to that darkness. I strongly encourage the Assembly to choose the light.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Nero Grok-Gallagher, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 4 years and plan to be here for a while longer.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill "103". As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is exclusionary towards students of many backgrounds, including transgender students. School is a place for learning about oneself and one's relationship to the world, not a place for student safety and wellbeing to be put at jeopardy; students should be allowed to choose their identity and be supported in that choice.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Nero Grok-Gallagher

Madison, 53704

To the members of the Assembly on Education,

We urge you to vote no on Assembly Bill 103.

Names and pronouns are important. Schools should make students feel like they belong so they can better learn. But this bill does the exact opposite, while trying to address a non-issue. Please imagine if your partner or someone in authority just started calling you by a name, or a different pronoun that you do not want to use. Would that create a better learning environment? This bill will cause harm. Our transgender youth should be supported!

Surely there are more pressing educational issues (funding levels, achievement gaps, teacher retention, curriculum, etc.) than this bill in search of a problem which will only continue to divide us.

Thank you for your time,
Tim and Mary Ellen Schmit
Madison, WI 53711
March 6, 2025

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

I'm writing to oppose AB 103. I have lived in Dane County for 26 years and I own a small business in the community. I have a transgender granddaughter and I can only imagine how confusing it would be to her to be forced to use a different name or pronouns than she is used to hearing. Your legislation is just cruel if that's the intention.

Why would you legislate personal identity? There is nothing that more clearly belongs to the deliberation of a family unit than how to name and gender a child.

The parents of trans children that I have met are consistently some of the most thoughtful and engaged parents I know. And the reality of our world is that thoughtful and engaged parents are not raising kids who are a problem in society.

The assembly should spend its time legislating against things that actually cause problems for children and society - like poverty, domestic abuse, etc.

Trans kids are a very tiny percent of the population. Don't create meddlesome laws that interfere with family parenting choices for these rare and exceptional people.

Thank you,

Colleen

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Kayla Petrie, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for my entire life, I attended all of my schooling here and currently own a small business.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because I have transgender family members. I remember the fear of them being outed to their dad. He is not a safe person and we were all afraid that he would physically harm them or kick them out of the house if he found out. Bills like this put students at an unnecessary risk. People like him are not an uncommon occurrence and this bill puts Wisconsin children in danger.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Kayla Petrie

Madison 53719

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Sol Kelley-Jones and I write to you today as a parent, an educator and a proud Wisconsinite who has had the privilege of knowing, working with, and loving many transgender young people in our community for the past 20 years. I am deeply concerned about Assembly Bill 103 and its attack on transgender and gender nonbinary young people and the educators and support staff who affirm their identities through using the pronouns and names that affirm their identity in their school communities. Research shows that using the chosen name and pronouns of transgender and gender nonbinary students dramatically improves their sense of well-being and belonging in school – things we want all students to feel at school! A 2018 study by the Journal of Adolescent Health found that transgender youth who were able to use their chosen name and pronouns had 71% fewer symptoms of severe depression, a 34% drop in reported suicidal thoughts and a 65% decrease in suicide attempts. Using transgender and nonbinary young people’s chosen names and pronouns literally saves lives.

I have a non-binary 1st grader who is kind and silly, loves animals and art and inventing things and is eagerly planning a very elaborate rainforest themed birthday party this next week for their 7th birthday. They remind us every day that when we let kids just be themselves, and be seen in their fullness – which includes calling them by the pronouns and name that affirm their self identity – young people thrive. Teachers and staff calling my child by their chosen pronouns makes my child - and young people like them - feel seen, valued, and part of a community. Why would we not want that for all our young people?

This bill targets some of our most vulnerable community members - transgender youth – and sends a dangerous message to kids across Wisconsin that our leaders are more interested in targeting already marginalized members of our school communities rather than working towards policies that nurture the health and safety of ALL of our precious young people. At a time when we should be focusing our efforts on building a Wisconsin where all students can thrive and feel belonging, this legislation would have an incredibly harmful, and even life-threatening, impact on many in our community.

I ask you to strongly oppose Assembly Bill 103 and stand strong for a Wisconsin that is affirming of the worth and dignity of all of our young people.

Thank you for your leadership,

Sol Kelley-Jones

4341 Crawford Drive
Madison, WI
53711

Dear Members of the Assembly,

I am a Milwaukee resident and future MPS parent. I am writing to ask you to please not pass Assembly Bill 103 for the safety of all children.

School should be a safe place for children of all walks of life to try things, learn, and grow. Not all kids live in a place that is safe for them to be themselves, and this bill will lead to increased harm, increased suicide, and increased homelessness for Wisconsin youth. For the sake of safety, please do not pass this bill.

Thank you,
Annie Rapach Lagowski
Milwaukee, 53207

AB103

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Ashley Paull, and I am a resident of Milwaukee. I've lived in Wisconsin for all of my 36 years and I'm saddened by the fact that I have to write this letter.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill "AB103". As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it does nothing more than legalize the bullying of some of our most vulnerable citizens by the very institutions and authority figures who are supposed to help them navigate their way through adolescence. Although this bill may not use the term 'transgender', the intention here is quite obvious.

I am not transgender. I do not have any close friends who are transgender. And yet, I know how terribly, awfully wrong this proposed bill is. If we expect our students to show respect to the authority figures in their schools by referring to them as Mr./Mrs./Ms., why can we not afford them the same respect?

The unfortunate reality is that for so many students, school is their safe haven away from a home life that does not afford them the safety and security they desperately need at such an early stage in life. The provision in this bill that requires the approval of a parent or guardian to determine the name and pronouns that teachers are allowed to use will strip away that safety net for many kids and, in some cases, put them in a potentially dangerous situation at home.

I am a product of the Wisconsin public school system and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison. During my years as a student I learned many things, but the lessons I was taught in a classroom about Math, History or Science were secondary to those I learned about how we treat others and interact with the world around us. I learned that not every person I meet has the same viewpoints, privileges, or lived-experiences as I do, and much of who I am today is because of the lessons I've learned from people who are different from myself. Do not strip the coming generations of the opportunity I was given to learn those lessons by forcing conformity and control on a population that is trying to figure who they are and how to navigate the world.

I could go on for pages about the absurdity and injustice of this bill, but instead I will finish by pleading that instead of attempting to control the lives of students simply because we don't understand their worldview, let's instead put our energy into understanding, respecting, and uplifting them.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are. Please, please vote NO on Assembly Bill "AB103".

Sincerely,

Ashley Paull

Milwaukee, 53227

I'm writing to share testimony for assembly bill 103. As the child of a teacher, I'm appalled by the absurd government overreach reflected by this bill. Why should it be the state government's business what name a kid uses in school?

The freedom to use one's correct name and pronouns can be lifesaving for trans youth. This is nothing more than a means to bully trans children out of school and out of public life. People don't go away just because you pretend they don't exist.

Amelia Soth, Madison, WI

Hello, my name is Sandra Rivera and I am a bilingual Educator within the Madison Metropolitan School District. My zip code is 53714

I fiercely **oppose** the bill that would require schools to use students' names and pronouns based on their sex assigned at birth, with changes only possible in the case of legal name change and parental permission.

This would require a change to current MMSD policy, which is based on best practice for supporting gender-diverse youth.

Furthermore, this bill would significantly jeopardize the following issues.

1. **Respect for Identity:** It is of utmost importance to recognize and respect students' identities. Using names and pronouns that align with a student's gender identity is fundamental to their mental health and well-being.
2. **Impact on Mental Health:** Research shows that affirming a person's gender identity can significantly reduce the risks of depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. This bill could negatively impact the mental well-being of many students.
3. **Autonomy and Personal Rights:** Students need to express their identities without unnecessary restrictions. This bill may undermine their autonomy and personal rights.
4. **Parental Involvement:** While parental involvement is crucial, the requirement for parental permission for name and pronoun changes can be harmful, especially in cases where a student may not feel safe discussing their identity with their parents.
5. **Precedent for Discrimination:** This bill could set a precedent for discrimination against LGBTQ+ students, fostering an environment that is not inclusive or supportive.
6. **Educational Environment:** Creating a safe and supportive educational environment for all students is essential for students. Policies that do not affirm students' identities can lead to bullying and exclusion.
7. **Alternatives:** Schools should focus on inclusive education and training for staff on how to support all students, rather than implementing restrictive policies.

Thank you for considering and opposing this bill in order to help stop the attack on human rights.

As a high school teacher, my own personal views and observations have remained solid for the 25+ years I have been teaching.

The state and federal governments have always emphasized to me that we need a safe place in our building for all kids. These bills contradict this mantra. All kids, especially our trans kids, need acceptance and inclusion. For the most part, at least at the high school and middle school levels these kids are using preferred names and pronouns with each anyway, and I really think it is important for a public school to validate these social norms already followed by trans kids and their peers.

Micromanaging this social reality would do more harm than good for trans kids and their ally peers. Please vote these bills down.

Nikki Schuster

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Harper DePagter and I am from Brown Deer, WI 53223. I am writing to express my opposition to AB 100 and AB 100. I am a transgender woman educator who taught social studies and science to 5-12th graders. Two weeks ago I lost my teaching position in part of the attack on DEI and transgender individuals. Wisconsin already has a teacher shortage so why are we trying to make it worse? Instead of focusing on improving our education in our schools like our reading and math scores, the elected officials of the Assembly and Senate take it upon themselves to target an extremely small minority group of people and make their lives more difficult.

Lessons can be learned from social studies teachers and the attacks on minority groups in American history. An example is the Declaration of Independence when women, freed blacks, and Native Indigenous people were left out of the identifying as "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Then when the Constitution was written once again women, freed blacks and Indigenous people were left out of the Constitution to have any rights. It has taken several movements and Constitutional Amendments to start to establish Constitutional rights for minority groups. Each time in American history when a minority group of people is "noticed" by the majority, the majority has the power to create laws to restrict and make the minority group of people's lives more difficult. How is it that we still have not learned from our past and continue to make the same mistakes over and over again? We are ALL human beings. The Constitution says "We the people," transgender men and women are people, or like I say to all my students we are ALL humans.

Transgender humans want to be like any other human being. They have emotions and feelings just like a cis human. In AB 100 it states "Sex" means the sex determined at birth by a physician and reflected on the birth certificate." I have taught science and unless each physician performs a DNA test to determine the actual chromosomal sex, the physical appearance at birth can be deceiving because there are intersex humans. "Intersex is a general term used to refer to individuals born with, or who develop naturally in puberty, biological sex characteristics that are not typically male or female. That is, a person with an intersex condition is born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia, or an internal reproductive system that is not considered typical for a male or female." Examples of chromosomal intersex are XXX, XXY, and X. The expression: don't judge a book by its cover resonates in this context.

As a transgender woman, I wish I had the opportunity to grow up as my authentic self in a safe space; however, growing up in Oostburg Wisconsin, which is a small rural Christian community it was extremely difficult to be my authentic self. I hid for almost 30 years and I caused severe microaggressions on myself because I lived in fear of the hate I would receive. When I came out in 2022 to my family who still live in Oostburg, I received the worst hateful things said to me by my mother, father, brother, sister, and grandparents. I wasn't accepted. I was cast out of the community. I was still human and I was just trying to live as my authentic transgender self and be joyful but for some reason, the beliefs they had were to hate me and attack me because I am different. The Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate are no different than my family attacking me with hateful messages. It is also no different than what the federal government is doing. There is no unity in these bills to make Wisconsin better when it focuses on such a small minority of people. Invest in our future by investing in our families, education, mental health, and our economy. Do not create a problem where there is no problem because then nothing gets accomplished for the people of

Wisconsin. There are working lower-class families who are feeling the effects of the Trump administration tariffs and what does this Wisconsin Legislature focus on, AB 100 restricting transgender girls from participating in girl's sports and AB 103 legal name change with pronouns. Nothing in the bills addresses restricting transgender boys from not participating in boy's sports. AB 100 is unconstitutional because it only focuses on only half the population of a minority group. AB 103 violates Title VII.

I have heard from both sides of the aisle of government overreach and the guilty party only has to look in the mirror. Why is the government and politicians so concerned with someone else's life and what they are called based on pronouns? I find it a little hypocritical that the Trump administration and Republicans wants Americans to call the Gulf of Mexico now the Gulf of America. Well, Gulf America is now its chosen name and we can't do that because that is considered DEI. See how ridiculous it sounds out loud when one gets that nit-picky about a name and pronouns. As a teacher who just wants her students to recognize me as a human being trying to be my authentic self and do the job she loves to be called Ms. D., I am not in the classroom to indoctrinate the students, if I was going to do that, I would have indoctrinated all students to complete all school work on time and never get off task. I loved my students and I loved teaching. The real issue has been creating problems for teachers and not letting them do their jobs. Students trust their teachers and teachers provide safe places for students. When I came out in 2022 as a transgender teacher I created a safe place for students; however, colleagues and community members had a different view of me. I was sexually harassed at the school I worked at in 2022 and I was blamed for the sexual harassment. The administration said it was my fault. Once again, they wanted to put the fear into the community that I was a groomer and predator in the classroom. Hateful words were spoken about me that were completely untrue. It's one thing to be an adult and hear these words but imagine a teenager who is transgender who might have to hear these same words said to them. Of course, none of you will ever know what it is like to be transgender. I encourage you to have a conversation with a transgender individual. Actually, have eight different conversations with them before voting on the bill because that is how many times it takes to make an impression on someone.

Transgender people should not see their rights restricted like all other racial, ethnic, and cultural groups and women before them who had to fight for over a hundred years for their rights. It is 2025 and we should be better than its 1789 restricting rights because someone is different. Only the guilty party needs to look in the mirror. Right now AB 100 and AB 103 are bills looking for negatives in a positive and you will get electrocuted. What I mean by that is this, There is always a positive in a negative, but if you look for a negative in a positive you will get electrocuted. These anti-transgender bills are exactly that, looking for a negative thing in positive individuals and trying to make their lives miserable. There are way better solutions than these two bills; however, what we call in education for those in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate; are those in a fixed mindset and not a growth mindset. Remember this, the Constitution says "We the people," meaning We the humans and we are ALL humans. Treat others how you would like to be treated because I'm pretty sure if the shoe was on the other foot and your majority rights were being restricted you would be upset too. I leave you with this thought to think about as you cast your vote. If these bills pass, I Harper DePagter will be running against you for your seat in 2026. I will not stand for this and I as a transgender human being, I have rights, and if the government does not protect my rights; then I have the right to do something about it by running for office myself and beating you and ousting those that do not uphold the Constitution and my rights. Thank you for taking the time for my testimony.

Harper DePagter

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Matt Finesilver and I am a resident of Janesville, WI (53546). My stepchild (currently age 9) was assigned female gender at birth, and last Summer came out as non-binary and asked to be addressed using the pronouns they/them. In the years leading up to their coming out, they were showing escalating symptoms of depression and anxiety, social isolation, and thoughts of shame and worthlessness. Since then, they have experienced acceptance from family, friends and the school system and it has led to a clear reduction in those symptoms and an increase in joy and happiness.

I'm sure I don't have to tell you the statistics on addiction and depression among LGBTQ+ youth, and that having family, friends, and a school that accepts the chosen identity is the single most significant factor in reducing addiction and depression. For those reasons, as well as my desire to see my stepchild thrive in a safe environment, I oppose AB 103.

Thank you,

Matt Finesilver

Sam Pabich
Madison, WI
53705

Oppose AB 103

Dear Legislators,

I am an endocrinologist who treats transgender patients.

You may wonder if I think it is "right" for people to declare themselves transgender. The complex biochemical variation within human brains that we cannot measure or quantify with medical science has led my assertion that "right" or "wrong" are moot points: to you and those creating laws, I encourage you to simply balance the questions of "who could this legislation hurt?" And "who could it help". You may also ask the question, "does it need to be a law?"

A law to restrict the capacity of children to say how they would like to be addressed at school.

Who does it help?

The mental health benefits of allowing people to live in their affirmed gender have been well-described, particularly via reduction in suicide rates and depression scores. I bear witness to these effects every day, and it is wonderful to see people who have had such improvements.

Who does it hurt?

I'm grasping at straws here: clerical workers?

Perhaps also, it might make some people feel "uncomfortable", and people might not like the pressure of remembering the right pronouns. While I understand this feeling, and do feel uncomfortable worrying about misgendering someone—I have to come back to my statement above—just because something causes a bit of discomfort doesn't mean there needs to be a law against it.

And a side note: many of the trans people living in our community never get mid-gendered because they are perceived by others as their preferred gender—no one even needs to know they are trans.

In a nation that prides itself on freedom of choice and self-expression, where people are allowed to take supplemental hormones of many ilks and purposes, (melatonin, DHEA, testosterone, estrogen, GLP1, may be some that sound familiar), where people wear makeup, have plastic surgery, legally change their names, go by nicknames, etc, why do we need to attempt to restrict people so?

I went to school with a William, "Dubs", Quinn "Fifi", and Christopher "Himiss". My father-in-law went to an elite East Coast boarding school with "Biffy", "Bussy" and "Budgy". None were (to my knowledge) trans, but also (to my knowledge) none were told that they could not use a preferred name, no matter how it sounded.

Please consider these points and reject AB 103.

Sam Pabich (I don't tend to use the long form of my name, Samuel or Samantha, and I believe it should not matter), MD, MPH

Hello, my name is Rachel Maziarka and I'm a school psychologist in the Madison Metropolitan School District. I fiercely **oppose** the bill that would require schools to use students' names and pronouns based on their sex assigned at birth, with changes only possible in the case of legal name change and parental permission. This would require a change to current MMSD policy, which is based on best practice for supporting gender-diverse youth.

Furthermore, this bill would significantly jeopardize the following issues.

1. **Respect for Identity:** It is of utmost importance to recognize and respect students' identities. Using names and pronouns that align with a student's gender identity is fundamental to their mental health and well-being.
2. **Impact on Mental Health:** Research shows that affirming a person's gender identity can significantly reduce the risks of depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. This bill could negatively impact the mental well-being of many students.
3. **Autonomy and Personal Rights:** Students need to express their identities without unnecessary restrictions. This bill may undermine their autonomy and personal rights.
4. **Parental Involvement:** While parental involvement is crucial, the requirement for parental permission for name and pronoun changes can be harmful, especially in cases where a student may not feel safe discussing their identity with their parents.
5. **Precedent for Discrimination:** This bill could set a precedent for discrimination against LGBTQ+ students, fostering an environment that is not inclusive or supportive.
6. **Educational Environment:** Creating a safe and supportive educational environment for all students is essential for students. Policies that do not affirm students' identities can lead to bullying and exclusion.
7. **Alternatives:** Schools should focus on inclusive education and training for staff on how to support all students, rather than implementing restrictive policies.

Thank you for considering and opposing this bill in order to help stop the attack on human rights.

--

Rachel Maziarka, Ed. S
School Psychologist
Nuestro Mundo Community School

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Rebecca Pochert and I am a resident of Pewaukee, WI. I have two children ages 12 and 15 and they both attend public school in the Pewaukee district. My 15 year old is transgender.

I'm writing today to ask that you please vote NO on AB103. Our state assembly should not pass a bill instructing schools to adopt policies that will make it harder for transgender kids to be recognized and respected in school. This bill unnecessarily targets the 1% of students who identify as Transgender in the state of Wisconsin by making them to go through additional administrative hoops in order to be addressed in school the way all other kids are addressed- by their preferred names and pronouns.

There are reasons why the school would need to keep the legal name and biological sex within the school system documents. There are certain documents like class transcripts that need to align with other state and federal documents so they can link back to the child in question. But there is absolutely no need for the school to create a process that makes it more difficult for staff to use the preferred names and pronouns for their students. Kids have long used 'nicknames' at school without issue. We do not need a bill passed that documents exactly what nicknames are or are not allowed. And we don't need a bill that dictates which pronouns a teacher will be REQUIRED to use. The request of the student should be enough, as it has been for many, many years.

Take for example a student at my child's school where everyone calls him Junior. He shares his father's Legal name which does not contain the name "Junior" and for his whole life everyone (family, friends, teachers) have called this kid Junior. Junior is not his first name or his middle name. It is a suffix which is not listed as one of the exceptions in this bill. So, presumably his family will be required to complete additional paperwork in order to use "Junior". Junior uses he/him pronouns so that part would not be of concern to him.

Or how about the girl that I went to grade school with 30 years ago? Her legal name was Michael- spelled exactly as it is, named after her dad. She (a biological female) did not use the name Michael- ever. She used a nickname at school. So, her family would be required to complete additional paperwork to use a nickname. She used she/her pronouns so that part would not be a concern for her.

My child uses his birth name and he/him pronouns but the documents on file with the school show 'female'. Our school already has a process for updating the school records with preferred names and pronouns. My child's preferred name and pronouns are on file with the school with his signature as well as mine and his dad so that the teachers use he/him pronouns when addressing my son with other students and staff. If this bill passes, it will not matter that me, my student, and my school agreed to this. The bill states that the school would not be allowed to use pronouns other than the pronouns provided at the time the pupil first enrolled in the school district. We enrolled in 2019 before my child started his transition and those documents all show 'female'. Please do not take this away from us. My son has come so far from the days of self-harm and suicidal ideation. He is getting As and Bs in school and the only major 'transition' for him was to cut his hair and use he/him pronouns.

I encourage you think about people in your own life. I'm willing to bet you can think of at least one person that you know that uses a nickname that doesn't align with their first or middle name. This bill creates unnecessary work for the schools and purposefully makes it harder for transgender students to be addressed the way they see themselves at school.

Please don't pass a bill that will inevitably force teachers to address kids by names (or pronouns) that they don't use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Pochert

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
My name is Sara Stephenson, and I am a lifelong Wisconsin resident, former high school athlete, and current parent to two children in the Madison Metropolitan School District.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103

Sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

In local and regional dialogue about trans athletes, I have heard zero evidence that allowing trans students to participate has a negative impact on other students, but causes demonstrable harm to the trans community by reinforcing stereotypes.

Sincerely,

Sara Stephenson, Madison

A written statement by Dr. Laura Berghahn, MD and Dr. Shefaali Sharma, MD regarding the Assembly Committee on Education hearing for Assembly Bill 103, relating to school board policies regarding changing a pupil's legal name and pronouns on Thursday March 6th, 2025.

Written Statement:

We are Dr. Laura Berghahn, MD and Dr. Shefaali Sharma, MD. Not only are we OB/GYN physicians, we are also mothers and working hard to raise children in a world that seems to be determined to crush the spirit of humanity while allowing violence, hunger, and misinformation to flourish.

We have written this testimony in opposition of the Assembly Bill 103. We are struggling to understand how respecting a student's pronoun choices can raise opposition enough to create this bill, while today, one of our children is currently undergoing a lockdown drill in their third grade classroom because of the very real, physical threat of gun violence in our schools. How is it that it is normal for lockdown drills, but not okay to respect a student's desire to use pronouns that reflect who they are? We question those who support this bill. Those who are willing to crush the well-being and happiness of individuals who want nothing more than to just simply exist. To simply be loved and be happy, be confident and who they are. How is using they/them any different than calling Michael, Mike? Or Stephanie, Steph? Those individuals didn't need to seek their parent's permission or legal changes for their name request to be honored and respected. Pronouns are no different.

Furthermore, while one might experience discomfort using words like "pronouns" or "they/them", this discomfort is far surpassed by the inner turmoil, depression, and oppression our children face as they encounter hate and disrespect, again, for simply existing as their true selves. According to the Trevor Project and ACLU, passage of these types of legislation are associated with increased risk of depression, anxiety and suicide among LGBTQ youth. Laws and bills like the Assembly Bill 103 being discussed today endanger LGBTQ youth and their allies and give rise to increased fear and lack of safety. Research points to an increase in stigmatization, bullying and anti-LGBTQ violence after these laws pass - the very antithesis of what a school environment should be fostering.

We should be creating bills to support more education, more knowledge, more humanity in our schools. We should be creating safe environments for learning and growth of our children instead of supporting bills that aim to depersonalize and demoralize our students. We staunchly object to Assembly Bill 103, a bill that will only harm our students, who only want to exist as they are.

Warmly,
Shefaali Sharma
(she/her)

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."

—Maya Angelou

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB103, a proposed law that eliminates the right for trans students to use the name and pronoun they identify with at school.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 30 years, have served the community as a special education teacher. Today I am writing on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose this bill because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a safe and caring educational experience free from harassment and discrimination.

I am especially concerned about enforcement of a law that bars transgender youth from using their preferred names and pronouns. These are essential affirming practices that show our respect for their identities. There is no way for this to be enforced without humiliating children.

--

Cody Sorlie Theis

Madison, WI 53714

Regarding AB103 – Restrictions on Name and Pronoun Changes
03/06/2025

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is jamie wohlgamuth, and I have lived in Wisconsin for 16 years. I am a parent of two children, one of whom has thrived in a school environment that respects and supports students in expressing their identities safely. I am testifying today in strong opposition to AB103, a bill that would place unnecessary and harmful restrictions on how schools recognize and affirm students' names and pronouns.

This bill seeks to take away a student's ability to be addressed by the name and pronouns that reflect their identity unless explicitly authorized by their parents or legal guardians. It places unnecessary bureaucratic barriers—requiring school staff to deny a student's identity unless specific documentation is provided and placing the decision in the hands of school administrators rather than the students themselves. It also forces teachers and staff to ignore a student's self-identification, even when it is critical to their well-being, unless parents approve.

As a parent, I have seen firsthand the power of a supportive school environment. My child was given the space to explore their gender and express themselves freely without fear of being dismissed or invalidated. Because of this, they were able to better understand themselves and, in the end, identify with their sex assigned at birth. However, this self-discovery would not have been possible in a school environment that ignored or denied their experiences.

AB103 places vulnerable students in harm's way by restricting their ability to be acknowledged for who they are. It sends a message that a student's identity is not valid unless approved by an adult, undermining their autonomy and well-being. Research has consistently shown that when transgender and nonbinary students are affirmed in their identities, they experience better mental health outcomes, greater academic success, and stronger connections to their school community. Conversely, when they are forced to suppress their identities, they face increased rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.

Furthermore, this bill puts educators in an impossible position, forcing them to either comply with harmful policies or disregard the needs of their students. Schools should be spaces where all students feel seen, heard, and respected—not institutions that enforce rigid, exclusionary policies that harm children.

Wisconsin prides itself on being a state that moves "Forward," yet AB103 is a clear step backward. I urge this committee to oppose this bill and instead support policies that create safe, inclusive, and affirming learning environments for all students. Every child deserves the right to be addressed in a way that reflects who they truly are.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

jamie wohlgamuth

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Robin Hosemann, and I live in Viroqua, Wisconsin, 54665. I have lived and voted in Wisconsin since 2003.

I oppose AB 103 as a teacher, licensed mental health counselor, and parent.

This bill will create unnecessary stress on children, families, teachers, school staff, and our communities in a time when more support for marginalized youth is vital.

Every child deserves the right to be safe, seen, and heard in school. It does no harm to address children by their preferred name or pronouns. The research on the negative impacts of failing to do so includes clear links to increased rates of anxiety, depression, self harm and suicidality in youth. As you know, mental health is of high concern in our state.

I have worked personally in schools and therapy sessions with many children and families where the use of their identified names and pronouns means the difference between feeling supported and cared for in their communities and the alternative: expressed desire to leave their schools, communities, and their lives. We cannot allow this as compassionate adults who are charged with looking out for young people.

Please consider the far-reaching negative impacts of this legislation and oppose it.

Respectfully,

Robin Hosemann
Viroqua, WI 54665

To the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

We strongly oppose the passing of Assembly Bill 103. Trans children deserve the right to live as everyone else, without the constant fear and threat of overregulation. Spending your valuable time and energy drafting legislation that is solely focused on controlling and humiliating such a tiny percentage of population is an insult to your constituents. We would strongly urge you to work on legislation that would actually improve the lives of all Wisconsin residents, not ostracize a few.

Sincerely,

John and Deb Laurence
2760 Aspen Road
Stoughton WI 53589

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Nero Grok-Gallagher, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 4 years and plan to be here for a while longer.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill "103". As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is exclusionary towards students of many backgrounds, including transgender students. School is a place for learning about oneself and one's relationship to the world, not a place for student safety and wellbeing to be put at jeopardy; students should be allowed to choose their identity and be supported in that choice.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Nero Grok-Gallagher

Madison, 53704

Testimony for the Record
Submitted to the Assembly Committee on Education
For the Public Hearing of Assembly Bill 103
03/06/2025
Hailey Connors
Bachelors of Social Work Student

I want to thank the chair, Representative Kitchens, vice-chair, Representative Goeben, and each of the members of this committee for the opportunity to participate in this hearing, and for the attention to the topic of the rights of queer, transgender, nonbinary, and other LGBTQ+ youth in Wisconsin schools. Particularly those students who do not identify with the names they received at birth. This is of critical importance to our state.

My name is Hailey Connors and my pronouns are she/they. I am a lifetime resident of Wisconsin. I live in between my hometown Evansville, WI and my college town, Whitewater, WI. I am a Bachelor's student of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin- Whitewater, and beginning this summer I will be a Master's student of Social Work pursuing my education and credentials to become a school social worker. I have every intention of spending my career in our great state supporting students, families, and communities to the best of my ability, and I am here to speak in stark opposition to Assembly Bill 103.

I care deeply about education, inclusion, and protecting Wisconsin schools as a safe space for every student. So much so that I am testifying at a public hearing for the first time. I proudly identify as a member and advocate of the LGBTQ+ community. My younger sibling, Biz, is non-binary and goes by they/them pronouns, and is rarely referred to by their birth name. Teachers, school administrators, family and friends all called Biz, Biz. This name is something they identified with, before ever identifying as non-binary, and choosing to be called as such was a safe and healthy way for them to explore their autonomy as an individual. Personal autonomy is a critical skill and strength for anyone, queer or not, and is something to be encouraged. This bill removes a student's ability to practice personal autonomy safely in a school. Perhaps home is not a safe space for them to express themselves. It should be our mission to provide such a space for students. If a student of mine in the future feels safe enough to be vulnerable, take a risk, and request to be called a name different than the one on their birth certificate, I will commend them

for their bravery and immediately implement the name of their choosing in our discussions. I will practice social work in a way that abides by the code of ethics I am bound to. I suggest that any law that would hinder my ability to do so as a professional be critically examined for flaws.

I now wish to pose a question for the members of the committee to consider. If a transgender boy wishes to be called Alex, and was born Alexandra, would they be met with the same exception of the law as a cisgendered boy, born Alexander, requesting to be called Alex?

This bill is dangerous, and could damage a student's ability to feel safe at school. This can then impact their social, emotional, and educational outcomes. This is a risk we cannot take with the students of Wisconsin and I urge each of you to vote in opposition of this bill when the time comes.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
My name is **Deborah Schaap**, and I am a resident of **Portage County**. I've lived in Wisconsin for **9** years and I have friends with transkids.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill "103". As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because **transkids need to be supported in their chosen pronouns and names. It is critical to their physical and mental wellbeing that they are affirmed in their identifying gender.**

Sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

Sincerely,
Deborah Schaap

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Chelsea Beiler, I'm a resident of the city of Milwaukee. I've lived in Wisconsin for my entire life, and I have strong ties to the local LGBTQ+ community through gay and transgender friends and family.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill "AB103". It's frankly appalling that this bill was even introduced - once again this is a direct attack on a minority group that is facing down hatred and discrimination simply for their personal identities. Children are not property that are under the total control of their parents and the designations their parents make for them, they are complete human beings who understand themselves and their inner lives more than people are willing to admit and deserve the dignity of being treated as such. All people should have the freedom to carve a path for themselves in their own lives, including minors, and forcing teachers to use a different name than what someone has chosen for themselves is fundamentally disrespectful to their personhood.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school, infringing on personal rights and freedoms.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Beiler

Milwaukee, 53220

Roam Wilde
Regarding AB103
March 6, 2025

My name is Roam Wilde and I am a resident of the Town of Grant. I've lived in Wisconsin for 13 years. I am a property owner and farmer.

I am testifying about Assembly Bill 103 and how restricting children from being themselves affects my community.

When I was in school, from preschool all the way through college, in every single classroom every child was asked what their name was and if they went by a nickname or shortened version of their name that they would like the teacher to call them. Our teachers, principals, and other employees within the school district were also given the opportunity to tell the students what they wished to be called.

I remember a Principal whose legal name was Robert asking to be called Principal Rob. A classmate whose legal name was Edward was called Eddie. Michael was called Mikey. Andrew Johnson was called AJ. Not a single person batted an eye, not a single person was ever harmed, and no one was subjected to discrimination for what they wanted to be called.

Assembly Bill 103 is a bill created with the sole purpose of discriminating against transgender children. There is no higher moral reason for a bill like this. It is literally only designed to hurt innocent children. It clearly comes from fear mongering people looking to assert power over children simply because they work at a school and want to harm children for viewing existence in a different way than they do. Schools should be about opening minds, not closing them. They should be about acceptance and celebration of the way children think, rather than causing harm for being different. They should not be environments where adults are allowed to spew hateful vitriol and control children.

If you want to pass Assembly Bill 103, then I fully expect you to allocate funds toward putting someone in a ridiculous position of having to sit in every single classroom to enforce this policy be used on every single child and adult who chooses to use any name that is not their full legal name. Because if Susan cannot be Elliot, and Steven cannot be Emily; then certainly in Wisconsin we cannot have any Haralsons being called Harry, Williams being called Bill, and definitely no Elizabeths being called Liz or Beth. If AB103 is so important and crucial to our education system then clearly us taxpayers should fund a position with the sole intent of keeping every child down and from being called the name and pronouns they prefer.

Don't pass Assembly Bill 103 because it is a ridiculous power trip driven by ego and insecurity. Let the children of Wisconsin be called by the names and pronouns that they desire to be called. They are not harming anyone by being themselves.

I would like to thank you, Members of the Assembly Committee on Education, for your time reading my testimony. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is appreciated.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Willa Brucaya, and I am a proud LGBTQ+ resident of Belleville, Wisconsin. I was born and raised in this state, and I treasure it as my home, and the place that I feel most connected to in the world.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it seeks to dehumanize and discriminate against an already vulnerable group, to restrict and limit personal freedom, and, fundamentally, to hurt children.

This bill takes the power away from children to determine their identity, which is a fundamental part of healthy human development and human experience. No one should ever be allowed to tell anyone else who they are. This bill is fundamentally discriminatory, harms kids, and only seeks to stoke division and hatred in our state.

Sincerely,

Willa Brucaya

Belleville, 53508

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Noah Reinkober, and I am a resident of Milwaukee. I've lived in Wisconsin for 28 years, my entire life, and I'm a queer person who loves my family, friends, and community members, especially the ones who are transgender.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because I believe it is nothing more than writing bigotry and discrimination into our laws. K-12 is a time when a child's sense of self is constantly developing and they are learning more about who they are and their place in this world. It's my belief that people, no matter their age, should have the right to self-determination and the ability to live as their most authentic selves. This includes the ability to be referred to by the name which they feel most suits them. While this bill's language is broad enough to make it seem like it applies to the general student body, it's very clearly targeted towards students who are queer and transgender and who may be trying to assert an identity that is counter to the one they've been assigned by others.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Noah Reinkober

Milwaukee, 53202

To the members of the Committee on Education,

I am writing to you to oppose AB103. My name is Elizabeth Ehrke, and I have lived in Wisconsin for nearly my entire life. I was born in Pewaukee, WI and I now reside in Milwaukee with the zip code of 53207. I am writing to you as a member of the community and a concerned citizen.

I am writing this testimony on behalf of all of the trans and non-binary kids that don't have parents like me. My 8 year old has known their assigned gender at birth has not matched who they are since they were three. My child came home sobbing from daycare when their teacher called them a girl. For the next two years, my child and I learned about gender and they explored what gender felt right for them. Shortly before starting Kindergarten, they identified as a boy and we started calling them Max instead of their birth name. I called and emailed the school for them to change their gender marker and name on all the records that were visible to school staff. Max started school as a boy. We did not officially change their name and we did not need to submit any type of documentation other than a written email. We were letting Max explore what felt right. It was the first environment they were in that everyone only knew them as Max and as a boy. This created the most marvelous change in my child. They were happy and expressive in a way I had never seen before. They seemed to come alive. About 2/3 of the way through the school year, my kiddo really started considering that being a boy might not fit either. After some hard consideration, they determined they were non-binary, wanted to use they/them pronouns, and wanted to use their birth name again. I called and emailed the school and made the appropriate name, gender and pronoun changes. This was all done the same day. This was so incredibly supportive for my child, and they were able to be their full selves at school. They are still identifying as non-binary and using they/them pronouns. Your bill would not have allowed these incredibly supporting and affirming actions by the school. My child loves school and is doing very well in school. I know they would not be in this place if they had not received this type of support from their school. They would have experienced significant distress if the school was required to call them by a name and pronouns that don't fit their gender identity. Given some of the things my child has said through this journey, I would be significantly worried about suicide or self harm if my child's school did not refer to them by their correct gender and pronouns, which obviously do not match their legal sex. This bill is targeting a small group of kids that are some of the most marginalized and unrepresented groups. What if my child did not have a parent that was willing to support and advocate for them? I worry about all the kids like mine that don't have supporting parents. From many of the trans and non-binary adults I have met through the journey of educating myself for my child, so many parents do not support their trans children. There are many stories of just one supportive adult or teacher in a kid's life that supported their self-identified gender, pronouns and name that made the difference between life and death for these kids. Schools should be allowed to support the state's children in this way. This bill will only harm children and absolutely no good will come of it.

Regards,

Elizabeth Ehrke

Johanna Schmidt
223 N. Livingston St., Unit 2
Madison, WI. 53703.
schm3955@gmail.com
414-803-4744
Testimony Against AB103

Dear Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and my apologies for not being able to be here in person. I am writing to **oppose AB103**, relating to school board policies related to changing a pupil's legal name and pronouns.

Frankly, it is difficult to know what to say about this bill when it is so obviously absurd. Students deserve to decide what they want to be called. This bill is explicitly discriminatory and violates teachers' freedom of speech. It is not right to prohibit teachers from using a student's chosen name and pronouns. It has protections for cis students to use nicknames—assuming the nickname is a shortened version or a middle name—but for trans students, it requires written permission from parents for a teacher to use a student's chosen name. This imposes a clear double standard for cis and trans students, where cis students can be called what they want to be called, while trans students must get written permission from their parents. This is something they may not be able to do, if their parents are unsupportive, but even for those whose parents are supportive, this imposes an added burden on these students that their cis peers do not have to face.

Beyond being transphobic, I also want to point out that this bill is sexist. The bill prohibits the use of "a name or pronouns that do not align with the pupil's biological sex." I ask this committee what it even means to have a name that aligns with one's biological sex. I understand that names tend to be gendered, but who determines whether a name matches someone's sex? Gender neutral names (Sam, Terry, Kelly, Charlie, for instance) exist. In high school, I knew a girl who went by Pinky—is that a feminine enough name, do you think? Or would she have had to get her parents' written permission to use that under this law? The language in this bill seems to ignore the reality that names do not have an inherent gender—they have the meanings and associations that have developed over time.

I do not understand what purpose this bill could possibly have aside from making it more difficult to be a trans student in Wisconsin. Good teachers want to support their students in any way they can, including by using the names and pronouns preferred by the student. This bill would prevent teachers from being able to support their students, and for what purpose? I genuinely question what alleged problem this bill is trying to fix. Parents deserve to have input on their children's lives, but that does not mean they should get to control every aspect of their lives. Being able to control the name and pronouns a child uses at school is beyond what is reasonable. Those decisions belong to the student and school staff.

Finally, this bill would negatively impact trans students' wellbeing. Trans youth already face a number of challenges, such as difficulty accessing care, lack of acceptance, and discrimination. Being able to socially transition and use the names and pronouns that align with their gender makes their lives easier. Please do not try to take that ability and agency away from them.

I oppose AB103 and urge you to vote against it. Please do not make students' lives harder than they already are.

Sincerely,
Johanna Schmidt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johanna Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

To the Members of the Assembly on Assembly Bill 103,

My name is Jesse Goyette and I am a 23 year old college student who has lived in Wisconsin most of my life. I am opposed to Assembly Bill 103. I was a freshman in highschool when I started socially transitioning. Being called the correct name and referred to by the right pronouns is a show of respect and costs nothing. Principals and schools should not be allowed to discriminate against their transgender students. Legal name changes are a lengthy process should not be required in order to be called the correct name.

My name is Jesse Goyette. Address is N49W6205 Western Avenue, Cedarburg Wisconsin 53013.

My name is **Emily Dufner**, and I am a resident of **Oregon, WI**. I've lived in Wisconsin for over 33 years, I received my degree in Biomolecular Engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering and I have worked both in the public and private sectors, most recently in STEM with a focus on developing treatments for challenging diseases and conditions.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill "AB103." As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it does not improve or benefit the learning and educational experience of pupils/students, but rather targets the autonomy of students in schools with regard to how they want to be addressed and referred to. This is especially detrimental to LGBTQ+ students, who are statistically at an increased risk of mental health issues and suicide as a result of factors including social stigmatization and mistreatment (as per a 2022 survey by the Trevor Project, in Wisconsin 44% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered suicide in the past year, including 56% of transgender and nonbinary youth; additionally from this survey, 74% of LGBTQ youth reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety and 59% of LGBTQ youth reported experiencing symptoms of depression). This unnecessary targeting of students who are often already part of marginalized groups only discourages and detracts from creating an environment in schools where students are supported and enabled to focus on learning and receiving an education, which ultimately impacts their ability to contribute to our state as adults in a negative way.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Emily Dufner
Oregon, WI

Committee Members,

I am writing to express strong opposition to AB103. This bill unwisely and misguidedly imposes state regulations on how teachers and other school staff communicate with students during a school day.

I am married to a public school teacher and I know that her success each day depends on her ability to engage, and connect with, students. She must understand how young people communicate and she know that earning their trust will help them thrive and learn in her subject area.

Maintaining the ability to speak with each student, using their name (whether the name their parents gave them at birth, or the name that they have assumed) is essential in creating connections for learning.

Please trust educators to act in the best interests of students, parents and learning. Vote against AB103.

Thank you.

Dan Streit
10 Rye Circle
Madison, WI 53717

Attn: Assembly Committee on Education, Wisconsin State Legislature

With respect to the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America, written with the intent to "establish Justice", "insure domestic Tranquility", "promote the general Welfare" and "secure the Blessings of Liberty" for the people of the U.S., Assembly Bill 103 does oppose the Preamble in denying the use of preferred names and pronouns to transgender persons. I oppose Assembly Bill 103, implementation of which has the potential to significantly harm the mental health of trans and nonbinary persons, given previous related experience as documented in the 2022 Trevor Project. As the parent of an adult daughter diagnosed with a SMI (serious mental illness), I have been witness to the stigma that society directs toward persons with SMI, and from my knowledge of the daily challenges of trans and nonbinary persons, this same societal stigma exists toward them, very unfortunately compounded by 'hate', as expressed by ill informed perpetrators. In accord with the Preamble of the Constitution, Wisconsin, in support of and with respect to this population, will join the other states which prohibit discrimination based on gender identity.

Respectfully yours,

Mary Ross
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Marta Swanson, and I am a resident of the City of Appleton. I've lived in Wisconsin for my entire life, 20 years. I grew up in Wisconsin elementary, middle, and high schools and now attend UW-Madison as a junior studying biochemistry and dance studies. Wisconsin as I know it, values inclusion and community, coming together to support and love those around us.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I oppose this bill because it strips individuals of their basic right to be called by their chosen name and pronouns, a fundamental aspect of identity and dignity. Schools should be a safe and supportive space for all students, including transgender and gender-nonconforming youth. Many of these students rely on school as a place where they can express themselves freely. Denying them this right devalues them as people and puts their well-being at risk. Many students—transgender or not—use names that differ from their legal names. For example, probably about half of my friends go by nicknames, middle names, or other preferred names that are not their legal names. I never hear anyone having an issue with cisgender people using preferred names over their legal ones; the issue seems to arise only when it involves transgender individuals. Everyone should have the right to decide how they are referred to in and outside of school, regardless of their identity.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed the right to dictate someone else's identity. Every student deserves to be recognized, respected, and supported for who they are.

Sincerely,

Marta Swanson

Appleton, 54911

To the members of the Assembly,

I write this today not just as a concerned Wisconsinite, but as a hopeful future parent. I am writing to express that I OPPOSE AB103.

My name is Naomi Duffy, I have spent all 35 years of my life in my home state of Wisconsin and am a proud homeowner on the Eastside of Milwaukee (53212) I have been paying state taxes diligently since the day I started working 19 years ago. My husband has been paying even longer.

After 16 years building a wonderful life together, we are trying to start our family. Our hope is to raise our family in this state we were both raised, however this type of malicious legislation is making that harder to imagine.

We were athletes. We still participate in outdoor and snow sports. Youth sports were a large part of our lives and will be an integral part of our family life once we have children. My husband very much looks forward to coaching soccer someday. I can't wait to get them out to Little Switzerland for their first day on a bunny hill.

But here's the issue: HB103. You are not protecting children, you are exposing them to abuse. You are not helping children, you are harming them. You are not showing children love, you are teaching them hate. Why would we raise a child in a state that promotes that?

I want my child (and all children in the state of Wisconsin) to grow up in a community where they are safe. That's it. No matter how complex the issues get, it's that simple. OUR CHILDREN DESERVE SAFETY.

This legislation will not only expose children to mental anguish, but its enforcement exposes minors to physical or sexual abuse. Excuse my language, but why the fuck would you do that?!

I will not be raising my child in a state that has legislation allowing adults to check my child's private parts for sport. My children will not grow up in a state where an abuser can slip by as a coach and wield power over a defenseless child.

I was born in 1989. I lived my childhood alongside the Catholic Church scandal. When Team USA gymnasts exposed their abusers, I spent the whole night awake doing a deep dive into my memory banks about EVERY single interaction in my gym growing up. Was he really just spotting my bars routine when he grazed me? Was that touch accidental? Did he do worse to someone around me and I was too young to see? Did he do it to them regularly and I just didn't spot the signs? Why did those grown men make us raise our tops to expose our midriffs before every cheerleading competition? Why didn't they allow our parents or female coaches to check for belly button piercings, then just take their word for it? I was not even abused, but the shock of how easily it could've been me is still haunting.

My child will not be raised in a state with legislation sponsoring and protecting sexual abuse. My child will not lift their shirt or drop their pants in front of strangers just to participate in a sport. My child will not feel abused or exposed.

So go ahead, weigh your options and vote on this bill. Just know that if this bill passes, you automatically lose an entire Wisconsin family. Two tax payers that have been working for local small businesses for 15 and 16 years respectively. A pair of homeowners who have been involved in neighborhood programs and community building. A loving couple on the cusp of starting their family. You are targeting trans kids, but you're actually hurting all children and families. Heterosexual cis-gender couples included. Kids too young to even know if they're straight or otherwise. Everybody.

We are lucky to have resources, we will just leave to raise our family elsewhere. No two ways about it.

Abuse is preventable.

And it should NEVER be state sponsored.

Sincerely,

Naomi Duffy

TO: Assembly Committee on Education

FROM: Rev. Julie Wilson, United Methodist Pastor

DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: Assembly Bill 103

I'm Rev. Julie Wilson (she/her) Lead Pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church in Madison. I'm writing against AB-103. I am a lifelong Wisconsin resident. I grew up on the NorthEast side of Madison and lived several places around the area before returning to live on the West Side of Madison a few years ago. My parents were hard working middle class people. My mom worked as a cook for Central Wisconsin Center often working weekends and holidays. My dad was lucky to get a "good" job working at Oscar Meyer as a ham deboner for more than 40 years. My parents taught me and my siblings many important lessons including being kind to others and always helping others if you could.

In the United Methodist faith our founder John Wesley had three General Rules for a Christian life. They are Do No Harm, Do Good and Stay in Love with God. These are similar to what my parents taught and modeled for me and my siblings. I believe this bill violates that very first rule - Do No Harm. Quite simply this bill will cause unnecessary harm to children. There is no harm caused to anyone by simply addressing a child by the name they prefer. No other students, teachers or administrators are affected in any way by the use of someone's preferred name. Every child deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and using their preferred name is a simple way to demonstrate that.

Your job as legislators is to protect our children and this bill does not do that. It will harm children and affect their ability to learn. Plain and simple this bill is mean spirited and hurtful in so many ways. I urge you to vote no on AB-103 and respect children as beloved members of our community. Thank you.

To the members of the Assembly,

I am writing in opposition of this bill. AB 103 would force teachers and other educators to use the wrong name and pronouns for students who are unable to obtain legal support, or who have home environments that do not support them. Names are an intrinsic part of human dignity, and the name a child chooses to use is no less valid than the one given to a child at birth. Children have extremely limited autonomy, and the United States is one of the only places that has not ratified the UN convention on the Rights of the Child. Trans, nonbinary, gender-non-conforming, and intersex children deserve to have the same dignity and respect for their personhood as any other child- and that includes using the correct name and pronouns at school.

I have lived in Wisconsin since I was in 2nd grade. My brothers and I were homeschooled for the majority of our lives. When we were involved in public school, the way school treated queer students had a very real, very powerful impact on every aspect of life. When the school choose to discriminate against LGBTQIA+ students, friends of mine could no longer focus on schoolwork, their mental health declined sharply, and their physical health suffered.

Yesterday, I heard from a 6th grader about how even the most gentle sign of support, "We are all equal." was taken down from her teacher's classroom.

School should be a place to seek out new horizons, to embrace curiosity, to learn about things different from yourself. Restricting the rights of students shows goes against the nature of learning, and is an affront to the personhood of every student who passes through school doors.

I urge you to stand up for the personal dignity and freedom that every child deserves. To take a strong stance for every student to be known and respected as the individual they are.

Caitlin Thiele
S65w38030 County Road ZZ
Eagle, WI 53119

Stephen Bartlett
205 South Allen
Madison, WI
53726

Dear Wisconsin Legislators,

I am a Wisconsin resident and father.

I am writing to you to testify in strong opposition to bill 103.

As a father, I do not require a bill such as this to keep me informed on the life of my son. This is because my love for him is unconditional and there is nothing he can tell me about himself that will change this. I am his father and firmly believe that this does not grant me rights but rather the highest responsibility to protect him.

This bill is designed to deliberately victimize trans children and to make them vulnerable to parents who disagree with their choice to transition. This bill will harm children. If a student wishes to transition at school and not inform their parents of this decision, they have good reason for doing so, up to and including avoiding violence inflicted upon themselves by their parents. It is not the role of the legislature of Wisconsin to undermine this choice.

Parents whose children do not inform them of their choice to transition should simply consider being better parents. They should remember their duty to love unconditionally.

Thank you,

Stephen Bartlett

I am writing to express my strong opposition for AB 103.

This bill will require the parent's and US to complete before a school can update the student's pronouns and name. Many supportive families are not able or ready to do a legal name change. This would isolate children- putting them at risk to bullying at home, at school, and create a toxic situation.

In this climate of social fear, where many parents are not supportive, allowing the child a space where they can feel safe is VITAL for the well-being of that child.

Additionally: School authorities do not deserve to usurp the autonomy of a child OR the parent's interest of having control, in order to know what a child's genitalia is. Children deserve a slice of self identity and autonomy, and privacy.

Thank you.

Sarah Hoppe-Savage
Assembly District 79

Assembly Committee on Education

Thursday March 6th, 2025.

Written testimony for Assembly Bill 103 hearing today

My name is Dr. Kathy D. Hartke Address 19655 Birmingham Ct
Brookfield, WI 53045. I am a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist, graduated from the Medical College of WI, completed residency at Mount Sinai in Milwaukee and practiced in Wisconsin for 40+ years. I am a mother of 7 children and grandmother of 9 children. I am also a member of the United Methodist Church which urges members to speak up for persons who face marginalization of any kind, including because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. "The United Methodist Church commits to befriending and caring for all persons, including LGBTQ persons in our churches and communities".

I am strongly opposed to AB 103 and I urge you to vote against this bill. It is a harmful bill that will have very negative impact on our students. Conversely, using a student's chosen pronouns is linked to lower rates of depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation and suicidal behavior

Not only do I have a brother and a son who are gay who have experienced injustice and hatred, but also have an 11-year-old grandchild who for the past year has stated their pronouns are "they/them". Maisie is a well-adjusted, well read, very intelligent, happy 5th grade student who attends a school that does not ban chosen pronouns, rather supports and respects them. The other students have NO problem with non-binary pronouns or those chosen by the youth . This is not unusual as adolescents often question their gender identity and expression and we must honor this and respect their dignity! Showing approval fosters a positive sense of self in a child and allows them to express preferences. It also helps keep lines of communication open and brings them joy and security!

PLEASE become educated on these issues and DO NO HARM!!!

I am including some materials and inviting you to the virtual WI United Women in Faith Social Action Day on April 12, 2025.

Sincerely,

Kathy D. Hartke, MD

Past Chair WI American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Social Action Chair WI United Women in Faith

Member of the UMC Church and Society Committee on Women and Girls

Member of WI Conference UMC Church and Society Committee

“Pronouns are important because they help us acknowledge and affirm someone’s identity.”

<https://www.childrensmn.org/blog/parents-know-pronouns/>

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

“Health Care for Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals” Committee Opinion Number 823 March 2021

Pronouns

Obstetrician–gynecologists should ask patients about their name and which pronouns they use. Asking all patients routinely for their gender identity and gender pronouns normalizes the interaction and allows patients to disclose without being targeted; good practice includes reciprocal disclosure (eg, “Hello, I am Dr. X and I use she/her pronouns. Is the name on your chart what you would like me to call you? What pronouns do you use?”).

The patient’s pronouns should be documented in the patient chart.

Common choices include (note: this is not an exhaustive list):

- She/her/hers
- He/him/his
- They/them/their: Neutral pronouns used by some who have a nonbinary or diverse gender identity.

Other gender-neutral pronouns include zie (ze) or hir.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Maddie, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 23 years, grew up going to public school in WI, and I identify as non-binary.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it limits youth from the essential and crucial self-discovery and self-identification process that helps them develop into young adults who can bring their full authentic selves to whatever they do. Specifically, this bill encourages the most vulnerable youth to hide who they are and encourages adults to control youth instead of allowing youth to freely explore and express. The role of adults in youths' lives should be to encourage positive decision-making out of empowerment, not control, and rules for youth should only be in place to protect their safety. **Using a different name and pronouns is not dangerous for a youth or anyone around them. Youth are humans who grow up into adults, and should be treated with the respect of self-identification that should be afforded to human beings.**

This bill would also impact any cisgender youth who wants to use a nickname. As a youth growing up in Madison schools myself, when I had no language for my own identity, using a nickname was empowering, and also a neutral, extremely normal non-issue for those around me. Nicknames are extremely common for youth and adults alike. Controlling cis and trans youth through this bill sends a strong message to youth: "the adults around you don't want you to grow up into an adult with agency and self respect: these adults around you want you to grow up rigidly controlled, into an adult who fears the world around you and the consequences of being even slightly outside of a social norm in any way." Is that really the world we're trying to create? Youth already bully and scrutinize each other, because AND regardless of their differences. Don't we want to be teaching youth kindness towards one another, instead of encouraging social control and state-mandated bullying towards anyone who is a little bit different?

If none of these arguments about human rights and autonomy feel compelling to you, **consider the administrative burden that a bill like this would place on schools and the wildly inefficient use of state dollars in public schools through excessive administrative time spent policing the genders of all children who use a different name or a nickname. I presume that the assembly would like to prioritize efficient and responsible use of state funds towards public education. If so, this bill should be opposed.**

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,
Maddie
53703

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education.

I am writing to express my opposition to AB 103. I am concerned about both aspects of the bill. I write in my roles as an educator, as a researcher, and as a parent.

- My 30 years of teaching experience have convinced me that students succeed when they feel safe, secure, and respected in the classroom. Conversely, they tend to struggle when they feel unsafe. Names and pronouns that reflect the student's gender are key elements of safety and respect.
- My experience as a researcher who has spent the past five years studying the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth, tells me that being misgendered and called by a name that no longer applies can have terrible consequences for their physical and mental safety.
- Finally, my experiences as a parent who deeply loves my own transgender nonbinary child have taught me that using the name and pronouns that make them feel safe and that reflect who they are is a fundamental act of care.

The requirement that students have legally changed their name in order to have their formal school record reflect their preferred name and gender means that families with fewer economic and logistical resources will be less able to support their child in this regard.

The requirement that teachers will be forced to ignore a student's name and gender preferences unless parents write and sign a document giving permission ignores the fact that not all students live with parents and/or guardians. Students whose parents are abusive and hostile and who would not sign such a document will thereby face a double-jeopardy of an unsupportive school environment.

Using a student's preferred name and pronouns harms no-one; not doing so is potentially life-threatening.

Marie-Louise Mares
Madison, WI 53711

To the Members of the Senate Committee on Bill 103,

I have been an educator for 17 years. I taught 4th and 2nd grade in public schools in Delaware and Milwaukee before becoming an instructional coach in the Madison Metropolitan School District. I am now an adjunct professor at Madison College, teaching aspiring educators. I vigorously oppose Bill 103, which would deny students the right to use their preferred names and pronouns at school.

There is nothing more important than schools being places of belonging for all students. If students do not feel a sense of belonging, they quite literally cannot learn. When we feel cared for, our brain is flooded with neurotransmitters and hormones like oxytocin, which tell our pre-frontal cortex, the thinking part of the brain, that all is safe. When the brain feels safe, it is able to take on new learning. When humans don't feel safe, stress hormones like cortisol flood the brain and divert blood from the pre-frontal cortex to the amygdala. When the amygdala is activated, our brains prepare for fight or flight - absolutely no learning can happen under those conditions. If we do not allow our children to be called by the names and pronouns that they prefer, that make them feel safe, then we are literally preventing them from learning.

Even more disturbing, if we deny our students the right to be called what they want, we are denying their humanity at school. Children are full humans and should have the right to be referred to by the names and pronouns that make them feel like themselves. There are disproportionately high rates of suicide risk and poor mental health among transgender and nonbinary youth, due to the stress and mistreatment they experience in an anti-transgender society. Data indicate that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide. How could anyone possibly support a bill that will make it even harder for transgender youth to feel safe at school, knowing these heartbreaking statistics?

In my 12 years in public schools, I knew 3 children who asked to be referred to by pronouns different than their biological sex. When these students' wishes were honored, I watched them thrive in school. I watched the children around them accept them with zero hesitation. It makes me sick to think of what would have happened to these beautiful souls had they been denied such a basic human right.

Schools should do everything they can to make sure all youth, including transgender youth, feel loved and accepted and politicians should not be making it harder for them to do so. Every student deserves the freedom to be themselves in school.

Sincerely,

Maura McKinley
5304 Tonyawatha Trail
Monona, WI 53716

To the Members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is **Dawn Berney**, and I live at **Madison, WI 53711**. I have been a proud resident of Wisconsin for several decades, am the retired Executive Director of Jewish Social Services of Madison, and I am writing to **strongly oppose Assembly Bill 103**.

My 20 year old son attended public school from kindergarten through 12th grade. When he transitioned in 7th grade, his school supported him fully with his name and gender changes—and as a result, his mental health improved significantly. By the time he graduated from high school, he was a percussionist at the highest level for the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra, volunteered regularly with older adults in the community, maintained nearly a 4.0 grade point average and scored in the 99th percentile on his ACTs. He would have been a great asset to the UW-Madison. However, despite growing up here, he chose to attend the University of Chicago in Illinois, in part because of worries about legislation like this. Wisconsin's population is expected to decline over the next 25 years. When my son graduates college, he'll be an incredible asset wherever he goes, but if Wisconsin does not protect children like the one he was, he will likely never return.

This story illustrates just how important it is for schools to be safe and welcoming places for all students, including those who are transgender. AB 103 imposes barriers that would make it harder for kids like my son to receive the support they need. Instead of letting them focus on thriving academically and socially, this bill introduces fear, uncertainty, and the risk of being outed to unsupportive parents—putting vulnerable students at risk.

I believe in a Wisconsin where every child can succeed and feel respected. AB 103 does the opposite: it creates a school environment that fosters mistrust and makes it harder for young people to safely and openly be who they are. Having watched my child, I know that he always knew who he was much better than I did. I respectfully urge you to **oppose Assembly Bill 103** and protect the well-being of all our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Berney

2201 West Lawn Ave. Madison, WI 53711

(608)345-2833

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Education Committee:

I'm writing to ask you to vote against AB103. As a parent whose children all came up through Milwaukee Public Schools, and as a former Milwaukee school board member and UWM education researcher, I can confidently say that this bill will not improve any of the lines of communication or relationships that it purports to improve. It does not grant parents any rights they don't already have or strengthen children's educational opportunities.

What it would do is force the outing of vulnerable children and put them in harm's way, particularly if a non-custodial parent is hostile to their gender identity or expression. It disrespects children's self-knowledge and puts school staff at risk of harassment and lawsuits.

I understood my queer sexual orientation at age 7 and my nonbinary gender identity at age 11. Due to social and family pressures, I tried to deny or change those things for decades, resulting in suicidal ideation, an eating disorder, and other mental and physical harms. I don't wish that path on anyone.

Children know who they are and we should trust them. They should not be forcibly outed to their peers or hostile adults. Our great Wisconsin school professionals should be trusted to honor their students' identities. Honoring children's identities lays the groundwork for every other good thing that can happen at school.

Please vote down this hateful bill.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Morales

Pronoun: Any human pronoun is fine, thanks.

711 independence St, Viroqua, WI 54665 (96th Assembly District)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is brianna neumann, and I am a resident of Sun Prairie. I've lived in Wisconsin for 7 years and I have built deep connections with our community here. I've worked for a couple local nonprofits and pride myself on supporting those around me. I believe all people deserve to be safe, happy, celebrated, loved, and protected.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is stupid and a violation of human rights. This weird and strange obsession with trans and queer people is unhealthy, misdirected, violent, harmful, and wrong. I don't even understand why we are wasting time, money, energy, and resources on something that is, quite simply, just about ignorance.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

brianna neumann

Sun Prairie

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

I wish to express my opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

I believe trans kids have the right to exist in our society. Period. All this extra attention persecuting trans people, particularly kids, is very unproductive to the general public and is rather harmful to trans kids.

Regarding Assembly Bill 103, the government should not concern itself with names and pronouns at school, other than to support kids being themselves. People use nicknames and such all of the time. Let's stop pretending you are protecting parents' rights. You are only looking to out a child or suppress their authentic selves. We need our government to work on actual issues that affect people every day, not persecuting a small group of people. This bill is a dog whistle.

Regarding Assembly Bill 100, trans kids do not transition to dominate girls sports. Trans kids who want to participate in sports should be allowed to do so. This bill is also a dog whistle.

Your exhausting and relentless attacks against a small population are ridiculous. Do actual work that improves lives rather than working to exclude trans people.

Sincerely,

Shane Gurno, concerned Constituent and supporter of trans kids and people

Jacob Wollinger

Regarding Assembly Bill 103

3/5/25

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jacob Wollinger, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 31 years. I come from a family of farmers, educators, and healthcare workers. I serve Dane County and the surrounding areas as a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist.

My colleagues and I are writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is highly oppressive and unnecessary. As a therapist, I oppose this bill because I understand the dire implications of disallowing students from living as their genuine selves. Respecting the names and pronouns of trans youth is the simplest, most common-sense way to treat them like a human being.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Jacob Wollinger, LMFT

Jacob Wollinger

Regarding Assembly Bill 103

3/5/25

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My name is Jacob Wollinger, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 31 years. I come from a family of farmers, educators, and healthcare workers. I serve Dane County and the surrounding areas as a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist.

My colleagues and I are writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is highly oppressive and unnecessary. As a therapist, I oppose this bill because I understand the dire implications of disallowing students from living as their genuine selves. Respecting the names and pronouns of trans youth is the simplest, most common-sense way to treat them like a human being.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Jacob Wollinger, LMFT

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Testimony for ABI03:

Hello, my name is Valerie Klessig-Palm, and I am a 4th grade bilingual education teacher within the Madison Metropolitan School District. My zip code is 53705.

I fiercely oppose the bill that would require schools to use students' names and pronouns based on their sex assigned at birth, with changes only possible in the case of legal name change and parental permission.

This would require a change to current MMSD policy, which is based on best practice for supporting gender-diverse youth.

Furthermore, this bill would significantly jeopardize the following issues:

Respect for Identity: It is of utmost importance to recognize and respect students' identities. Using names and pronouns that align with a student's gender identity is fundamental to their mental health and well-being.

Impact on Mental Health: Research shows that affirming a person's gender identity can significantly reduce the risks of depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. This bill could negatively impact the mental well-being of many students.

Autonomy and Personal Rights: Students need to express their identities without unnecessary restrictions. This bill may undermine their autonomy and personal rights.

Parental Involvement: While parental involvement is crucial, the requirement for parental permission for name and pronoun changes can be harmful, especially in cases where a student may not feel safe discussing their identity with their parents.

Precedent for Discrimination: This bill could set a precedent for discrimination against LGBTQ+ students, fostering an environment that is not inclusive or supportive.

Educational Environment: Creating a safe and supportive educational environment for all students is essential for students. Policies that do not affirm students' identities can lead to bullying and exclusion.

Alternatives: Schools should focus on inclusive education and training for staff on how to support all students, rather than implementing restrictive policies.

Thank you for considering and opposing this bill in order to help stop the attack on human rights.

Sincerely,
Valerie Klessig-Palm

Valerie Klessig-Palm
she/her/hers/ella
4th Grade Bilingual Teacher
Nuestro Mundo Community School

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Eyrekr Wiemer, and I am a resident of Waukesha. I've lived in Wisconsin for 50 years.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on AB 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is proposed under false pretense and a wasteful use of my tax dollars.

What does it matter if a teacher calls a kid their name on a birth certificate or one they prefer? My name is an odd name so I used a nickname all through school. And as for pronouns, this bill is a solution looking for a problem. No such problem exists. There are no teachers changing name or gender on a student's record. The accusation is without warrant.

Thanks for wasting taxpayer money on the backs of trans kids & their families. Could you focus on making sure our kids can go to school free from gun violence instead?

I don't believe politicians should interfere with the life, liberty, & pursuit of happiness, of transgender kids & their families. Stop harassing them. It's just poor legislation.

Eyrekr Wiemer
Waukesha 53188

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members,

My name is IndiAna Gowland. I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for almost three years and am choosing to raise my daughter in Wisconsin. I am a former teacher and currently work in public school administration.

I urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. I am opposed to this bill because it threatens the physical and emotional health of children.

Children, just like all people, have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Part of that respect includes calling them by a name and pronoun that aligns with their identity. And quite frankly, affirming a child's identity hurts absolutely no one.

The rules you expect schools, teachers, and districts to create and follow are arbitrary, restrictive, and take resources away from what our children desperately need right now-- a strong education. Educators have enough important work to do without spending time harassing a child and family for legal documents about their name and gender. This bill would require schools to meet an absurd and counterproductive expectation, especially in our current educational environment where US students are falling far behind academic expectations and Wisconsin in particular has atrocious educational equity.

Please direct your focus to what actually benefits children rather than singling out children for harassment. Please vote NO on Assembly Bill 103.

Sincerely,
IndiAna Gowland
Madison, 53718

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

I oppose the bills being introduced that limits the rights and dignitary of LGBTQ youth.

Assembly Bill 103 has no place and no purpose but to be disruptive and prohibitive on young people's education. The schools are there to educate, inspire, and guide our children to be content and competent adults. They must be safe institutions where there is freedom to explore the possibilities of their future and place in the community, a space conducive to learning. This bill does nothing but create havoc and discord.

Please oppose this bill.

Truly,

Jennifer Kelley

Appleton, WI 54914

Amelia Hansen

Regarding Assembly Committee on Education

March 5, 2025

To all members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Amelia Hansen, and I am a resident of Madison, WI. I've lived in Wisconsin for 26 years and I am a biology graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am testifying to oppose Assembly Bill 103.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

If passed, this bill will cost lives. At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin.

Thank you for reading my testimony, and please oppose Assembly Bill 103.

Sincerely,

Amelia Hansen

(she/her)

Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

As a straight married Christian woman, I am horrified by the limits to civil rights this Wisconsin legislature has passed and continues to try to pass. There is nothing in AB103 that is in line with American values, family values, nor Christian values. Let people make their own choices about themselves. Stop this bill before it gets any further.

Darby Puglielli
Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am opposed to Assembly Bill 103—denying preferred names and pronouns

My grandson, who transitioned from female to male 6 years ago, is a happy well adjusted junior in High School. He has achieved good grades, a wonderful group of friends and a healthy attitude toward his future. All of this will be at risk if he has to use his former name at school and if his school district is forced to do this as well. He would become a target for bullies in his community. This will be detrimental to his mental health and all he has worked for.

Bonnie Dill

Madison, Wi. 53719

March 5th, 2025

To: Chairperson Representative Kitchens, Vice Chairperson Representative Goeben and all members of the Committee on Education (Representatives Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps and Sheehan),

My name is Ann Wingate, I am a constituent from Madison, WI, zip code 53713. I am writing today in opposition to AB103 that will stop children and adolescents in WI schools from being able to use their chosen names and pronouns.

As a recently retired psychotherapist (05/24) I can attest to the mental health importance for children to feel accepted and included in their school environment and in the community. In order to feel accepted all people need to have their identities validated by those around them. Children and teens who become aware that they are transgendered need to have society reflect back to them the internal identity that they experience and express. Often times it is with peers, such as at school, that young people first feel safety in exploring and expressing their transgendered identity both by using pronouns that match the gender they experience and by choosing a new name. It can be a challenge for parents and families to accept that their child is transgendered. In some families this readily happens and children are supported from an early age. In other families parents may struggle to accept the changes in their offspring when they realize they are transgendered. Each person has a unique experience of themselves. It is important this be respected and that children not be required to first come out to their parents who might be the people who will most struggle with this life change.

For more information on transgendered children and their needs I refer you to a National Geographic issue devoted to the study of children who are transgendered, published January 2017. Please familiarize yourself with the research available regarding transgendered individuals.

Committee on Education I implore you to not choose harm toward transgendered children in WI schools by denying their existence by denying their chosen pronouns and names that match their internal sense of self. To do so will cause mental health issues such as depression and anxiety to increase amongst these children. Such discrimination would be unfair and unjust to transgendered children. Respecting and supporting transgendered children will benefit schools and society as secure sense of self is important for academic learning and to be able to ultimately contribute to the workforce of WI.

Sincerely,
Ann Wingate

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Education Committee:

I'm writing to ask you to vote against AB103. As a parent whose children all came up through Milwaukee Public Schools, and as a former Milwaukee school board member and UWM education researcher, I can confidently say that this bill will not improve any of the lines of communication or relationships that it purports to improve. It does not grant parents any rights they don't already have or strengthen children's educational opportunities.

What it would do is force the outing of vulnerable children and put them in harm's way, particularly if a non-custodial parent is hostile to their gender identity or expression. It disrespects children's self-knowledge and puts school staff at risk of harassment and lawsuits.

I understood my queer sexual orientation at age 7 and my nonbinary gender identity at age 11. Due to social and family pressures, I tried to deny or change those things for decades, resulting in suicidal ideation, an eating disorder, and other mental and physical harms. I don't wish that path on anyone.

Children know who they are and we should trust them. They should not be forcibly outed to their peers or hostile adults. Our great Wisconsin school professionals should be trusted to honor their students' identities. Honoring children's identities lays the groundwork for every other good thing that can happen at school.

Please vote down this hateful bill.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Morales

Pronoun: Any human pronoun is fine, thanks.

711 independence St, Viroqua, WI 54665 (96th Assembly District)

To Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Grayce Payne and I'm a concerned Madison resident. As a Wisconsinite and a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, I oppose Assembly Bill 103 because students should feel safe to bring their whole selves into the classroom and this bill will actively prevent that from happening. I always felt like school was a safe environment where I could express myself, but by passing this shameful bill, school will become an unsafe space for countless students who will have their identity determined by others simply because they are in a position of power at the school. I can assure you, children already know who they are and no one else should be allowed to dictate how they identify or what pronouns they use.

I hope you will join me in opposing this bill by voting "No" on Assembly Bill 103.

Sincerely,

Grayce Payne

Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Re: AB103

3/5/25

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Alyce Koon and I am writing to you from my apartment on the east side of Madison, WI and I oppose AB103. When you all sit down to read this bill on March 6, 2025, I ask that you think of your child in this moment.

If you do not have children, a child for whom you have loved and or cared for at some point in your lifetimes. When you think of this child, what comes to mind? Their favorite food, the way they laugh, their innate kindness? Children tell you who they are, what they like, and how they want dress to go to school. They deserve to be able to identify with their own pronouns just like everybody else.

This bill would harm an already vulnerable group of children who just want to go to school and be themselves. I am a social worker who abides by a code of ethics and it is imperative that we speak up for those who continue to need our support. I continue to see the harm done when people do not listen to the voices of children. LGBTQIA kids are already at higher risk for suicide in our communities please do not make it harder for them to exist. I hope you consider this written testimony and protect our children at school.

Alyce Koon, LCSW

53704

Carlee Kessler
Regarding Assembly Bill 103
March 5, 2025

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Carlee Kessler and I am a concerned resident of Madison, WI. I am testifying to urge you to vote no on Assembly Bill 103.

I have grown up in Wisconsin and attended public schools in our state from grades K-12 and onwards. Never once did I feel unsafe or unable to present myself in my most authentic form. Nor was I denied some of my most basic expressions of my autonomy—being referred to by *my* name and *my* pronouns. If passed, however, this bill will strip *any* child of these most basic forms of expression—transgender *and cisgender* children alike. Insisting that it is not a child who decides what their teachers and peers call them but their parents is not only absurd, but an egregious breach of one's agency and self-determination.

I, as I am sure many of you can relate, have witnessed first hand what satisfaction, validation, and joy using someone's preferred name and/or pronouns produces. Having attended a high school in Appleton, WI with many queer peers, it was never a question of whether or not someone's name was their "Legal" name; how one introduced themselves was how they were to be addressed. If that name or their chosen pronouns changed, so did how I addressed them. It was simple as that—easily validating their identity and respecting the trust they put in me as someone they could count on to see them just as they saw fit. To incriminate this will only bring harm upon children. There is no merit in forcing kids to go through their parents, principals, and potentially school boards to be addressed in the way they have asked to be addressed. Not only is this time consuming, it also can be a source of immense amounts of unnecessary and avoidable stress and anxiety for children, and put them in potentially dangerous situations. School is supposed to be a place of safely learning, growing, and discovering oneself—what good comes from limiting one's ability to do just that?

I sincerely appreciate you for reading my testimony and considering what I have shared with you as you vote on Assembly Bill 103.

Thank you,

Carlee Kessler
Madison, WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am not a trans person. I just believe that pronouns are something a person can and should decide for themselves. I am the expert on me and you are the expert on you. It's just basic decency to trust what a person tells us about their own, internal identity. This means allowing them to use the pronouns and names that match their own understanding of themselves.

Please don't pass this bill (AB103).

Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Geyer
Washburn, WI
54891

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Nick Neumann, and I am a resident of Sun Prairie. I lived in Wisconsin for 25 years until 2012 and now again for the last 7 years and I believe everyone has the right to express themselves and be whoever they are.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is discriminatory and takes away peoples' rights. It is very damaging to deadname or misgender an individual and contributes to mental health struggles.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Nick Neumann

Sun Prairie, 53590

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Kevin Baird
Holmen, WI 54636

Assembly Committee on Education

I am writing tonight in opposition to Assembly Bill 103, which would deny trans youth the right to use their name and pronouns they identify with at school. It makes no sense to me to target these young people to deny them their individuality and exclude them from relationships with their classmates through this discriminatory bill. I don't understand this recent perverse fascination to target this population for exclusionary actions, not only in our state, but our country as well. All of our youth need to be supported, encouraged, included, and loved to help them reach their potential and share their strengths with all of us. Trans youth are valuable parts of our families, communities, state, and country. There's nothing "wrong" with that fact. We need to defeat this bill and protect the rights of all members of our state to be the best Wisconsin we can be. Let's be a leader for the country and say no to this bill.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Mary, and I am a resident of Dane County. I've lived in Wisconsin for 2 years and am a cis-woman who grew up in a neighboring state and actually studied women's studies in undergrad before pivoting to public affairs for a master's degree.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because I believe trans girls and women ARE girls and women. Children are children and deserve to play sports with their peers without fear of discrimination because their birth sex does not align with their gender. I do not believe this bill protects anyone but harms our youth who should feel free to be themselves without judgement.

Sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

Sincerely,
Mary Leier
Dane county, 53726

3/5/25

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Shauna, and I've been a resident of Madison for 14 years. I'm a librarian who has partnered with LGBTQ+ organizations for many years. I've had very positive experiences providing educational opportunities for the public on topics regarding gender and sexual identity.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,
Shauna Koszegi

Madison, 53713

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jenni, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for my whole life.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it does nothing to improve children's education and instead, only harms innocent kids.

Jenni is not my legal name, but it is the name that I have asked people to call me my entire life, at school, at work, and at home, simply because it is the name that I prefer. Every person, cis or trans, should have the dignity to use the name and pronouns that they want. This bill would harm students by taking away that dignity.

Sincerely,
Jenni Schimanski
Madison, WI 53705

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Elizabeth Kuchinka and I reside in Washburn, WI 54891 and I am writing in opposition to AB103. My daughter is transgender attending public school. This bill would be detrimental to her and our family. It is every citizen's right to be addressed how they feel most comfortable whether their parents agree or not. It is my feeling the sole purpose of bills such as this are to humiliate and ostracize marginalized groups who just want the same rights as others. There is no "privilege" in calling someone by their preferred name. My name is Elizabeth, but my preferred name is Liz. Would that not be allowed under this change?

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Uri Donnett and I am a resident of Madison, WI. I am a transgender man and I am very concerned about the ramifications of bill AB103, if passed. When I was growing up there weren't many public LGB figures let alone transgender people. In elementary school I had a male nickname, which resulted in my teacher sending me repeatedly to the school counselor. This damaged my ability to learn and participate in the classroom. I came out as transgender in high school and at that time my mother was also a teacher there. I was not allowed to go by my chosen name or use pronouns that felt appropriate. School is supposed to be a place where students feel safe and able to learn but that is not what school was for me. It was a place where I felt as trapped as I did at home. Now as a parent I have two children who do not identify as transgender but who do both use nicknames in school because that is what makes them most comfortable. To require teachers to ensure those names are ok with parents before creating a welcoming and safe learning environment for our children is ridiculous. Children know who they are. They are aware of the world around them and their place in it. Showing them respect by supporting them as they develop a sense of who they are, both in use of name and pronouns, creates a safe learning environment where they can be their best. There are so many issues that face our schools and our children and the fact that time is being spent on bills like this that demonize and ostracize such a small number of students while creating additional red tape and steps that overburdened principals and teachers have to go through is frankly alarming. As a parent who would have to submit documentation for two children with nicknames I would be irritated but as a trans person who experienced their parents rejection of their identity I know all too well the harm and pain these bills will cause if passed. I urge this group to fail these bills in committee and to instead focus on ways that you can improve educational outcomes for all our children in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Uri Donnett

Crystal Zhu

Regarding 2025 Assembly Bill 103

March 5, 2025

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Crystal and I am a concerned resident of Madison. I currently work as a software developer, but only a year ago, I was a student.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. I am opposed to this bill because addressing people with the correct name and pronouns is the bare minimum of being respectful. In grade school and college, I went to school with several trans peers. Some peers had a home environment that was hostile or did not accept their gender identity—the only place they felt accepted was at school with their friends. For those youth, their lifeline was that they could be themselves at school.

This bill will take that lifeline away from them. School and the outside world will become an increasingly hostile place. Attacks against trans youth have already done enough damage without taking away the ability to socially transition and placing it in the hands of an arbitrary individual who happens to be in a position of power. Trans youth have the right to determine their own identity.

Sincerely,

Crystal

Madison, 53713

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Eyrekr Wiemer, and I am a resident of Waukesha. I've lived in Wisconsin for 50 years.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on AB 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it is proposed under false pretense and a wasteful use of my tax dollars.

What does it matter if a teacher calls a kid their name on a birth certificate or one they prefer? My name is an odd name so I used a nickname all through school. And as for pronouns, this bill is a solution looking for a problem. No such problem exists. There are no teachers changing name or gender on a student's record. The accusation is without warrant.

Thanks for wasting taxpayer money on the backs of trans kids & their families. Could you focus on making sure our kids can go to school free from gun violence instead?

I don't believe politicians should interfere with the life, liberty, & pursuit of happiness, of transgender kids & their families. Stop harassing them. It's just poor legislation.

Eyrekr Wiemer
Waukesha 53188

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Kaitlyn Moorhead, and I am a resident of the City of Fitchburg. I've lived in Wisconsin for 3 years and I have peers and family members being harmed by the anti-trans legislation that is spreading across the country.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because I know firsthand the importance of learning about identity, personhood, and self-expression in a school setting. To lose those rights and be forced to hide parts of yourself – harmless parts of yourself – does irreparable damage to the very youth whom you hope to protect.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Moorhead

City of Fitchburg, 53711

To the members of the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Katie Steen and I am a resident of Madison, WI 53704. I am opposed to AB103. I believe that all people have the right to self-determination and that schools should be a place where students feel safe to be themselves. Many of my closest loved ones are transgender as are the children of many of my friends and family members. I care deeply about students having the freedom to express themselves and be themselves, as long as it poses no harm to others.

Allowing students to determine the names and other words used to refer to them while they are at school poses no harm to anyone. Rather, it promotes a feeling of safety and creative freedom that should be fundamental in school settings. Furthermore, it is essential that students feel safe sharing personal details with their teachers, as those are the adults that they spend the most time with after their parents or guardians. Giving unequal amounts of decision-making power to principals in these scenarios sows distrust between students, teachers and families.

I believe that students, teachers, families and school administrators should work together to support the health and well-being of students, and that students themselves should be central in determining what that looks like. I urge you to consider these points and oppose AB103. Thank you for your time and consideration.

March 5th, 2025

To the members of the Committee on Education, and Representatives DITTRICH, BEHNKE, B. JACOBSON, KREIBICH, MAXEY, O'CONNOR, TUSLER and MURSAU, and Senator JACQUE.

I am writing today to voice my opposition to Assembly Bill 103, which seeks – quite honestly – to gum up K-12 school administration by making simple kindness (respecting a person's preference to be referred to by their own name and identity) more difficult.

I do understand that the concept of “preferred name” and “preferred pronouns” can freak people out, but just as our parents may have told our siblings to stop referring to us as Stinky Butt or Slime Mold or Dip Sh*t, it is common politeness to call people by the names they prefer. Michael may prefer Mike or Mickey or M. Virginia may prefer Ginny or Ginnie or Gingin or Ginger. That's just politeness. Call people what they prefer.

With regard to pronouns, it apparently matters to some men that they are called by their male-identified pronouns, and to some women that they are called by their female identified pronouns...and yet these folks would deny other humans their preference to be called by the pronouns with which they identify.

I cannot but think that the introduction of this legislation is grandstanding and currying favor with some political arms – and I would think it was the dumbest legislation ever introduced, but for the fact that it seems mostly intended to punish children and make more work for school districts.

The taxpayers of the State of Wisconsin deserve better work than this.

Elaine M. Klein

Fitchburg, WI 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the committee,

I'm writing to oppose AB 103. As an educator, I have seen firsthand the positive impact on students when they are seen and acknowledged by their teachers. This creates a climate of respect, inclusion, and value for every single individual. Students know themselves best – when we call them by their affirmed name and pronouns, it lays the groundwork for their best learning. In contrast, requiring educators to use students' dead names will cause harm to already vulnerable students. This proposed law goes against best practice for educating LGBTQ youth, and we can do better as Wisconsinites. Please oppose this bill.

Sincerely,
Katie Hayden
Madison, WI 53716

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Madeline Topf, and I am a resident of Madison, WI. I've lived in Wisconsin for 5 years and am co-president of the graduate worker labor union at UW-Madison.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because trans people deserve to be treated equally. As a cis woman who played Division 3 collegiate soccer, I support trans athletes having full rights to participate.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,
Madeline

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Dana Dahhan, and I am a resident of Dane County. I have lived in Wisconsin for 9 years and am concerned for the welfare and safety of my transgender K-12 Wisconsinite neighbors.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. The proposed legislation restricts the abilities of schools and teachers to respond to the needs of transgender youth and their parents' requests for recognition of the student's name and gender identity. Additionally, by granting principals final authority in the recognition of a student's name and gender identity, this legislation has the potential to interfere in the ability of parents to support their transgender child or teen in educational spaces during critical, formative years.

As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it hinders local control at the school board level by dictating what a school board's policies must include.

Sincerely,

Dana Dahhan, PhD
Madison, WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Vote No on Bill AB103

Dear Wisconsin Lawmakers,

I am writing this email on behalf of my 9 year old child. They would like to tell you how this bill disallowing their name and correct gender identity to be used at school would affect them.

“My name is Esme and I am in the 4th grade Challenge Program at my school in Janesville, Wisconsin. My pronouns are they/them and I started using those pronouns at school this year. If people don't use my correct pronouns at school, at the end of the day I come home and cry in my room sometimes. I feel very sad and mad if my teachers are doing it. I feel like if teachers don't care about me then the kids won't care either. When people use my current pronouns, I feel cared about and I can focus on school “.

Lindsey Schilling
3203 S Oakhill Avenue
Janesville, WI 53546

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Wisconsin Legislators

I am writing to urge you to vote "No" on Bill AB103. I am the parent of a nonbinary 9 year old. They were assigned female at birth and have told us since they were 4 years old that they "don't feel like a girl". My kiddo experienced an incredible amount of social anxiety and depressive indicators from the time they started kindergarten until this past summer. In the summer of 2024, I was called to pick them up from summer camp because they were having a full-blown panic attack. After returning home, they shared with me that they did not think they could continue living because who they were in the inside did not match who people thought they were on the outside.

That day, my kiddo began using they/them pronouns with family and friends. When school started a few months later, they shared their identity with their school and the student cohort in their gifted classroom. They began seeing a mental health therapist that specializes in LGBTQIA youth, and have made huge strides in advocating for themselves, building self esteem, and managing depression and anxiety.

Sharing their nonbinary identity and having that identity respected at home, at school, and in the community has allowed my child to function in their home and community again. It has allowed them to excel in their classroom and focus on their education. It has ensured that they are emotionally healthy and stable. Trans kids are at risk of depression, substance abuse, and suicide. Honoring my kid's identity may save their life.

I understand that we live in politically charged times, and that trans youth have been caught in the crossfire to further many individual political goals. But while the legislature is considering bills that seek to define the identity of entire groups, I ask that they also consider the individual lives of children like mine.

Urgently,

Lindsey Schilling

Lindsey Schilling
Janesville, WI 53546

Hello,

My name is Megan Spielbauer Sandate, and I am a queer Madison resident. I am testifying to state my opposition to AB103. Like AB100 and other bills like this one, this type of anti-trans legislation is harmful to all students but particularly trans and nonbinary students. This type of legislation steals liberties from students and allows an agent of the state, a principal, to tell an individual who they are and what they should be called by their friends and teachers.

Trans and nonbinary students deserve to have the people around them call them **by their name**, not refer to them by a name that is on a piece of paper. The legal name change process is difficult and expensive. It's unreasonable to expect students to navigate that process as a minor for the simple human right of being called by your own name.

What are we teaching young people as a society with a bill like this? This bill tells young people that you do not need to respect a person if they ask you to call them by their name. This tells young people that they can be the arbiters of who another person is just by looking at them or reading a piece of paper about that person. How are we to build a more kind society if this is the type of legislation that we are passing?

Additionally, I don't think that the legislators who have brought forth this bill have thought through the complexities and logistical issues that it presents. For example, what about an individual whose birth certificate says they are female and they go by the name "Sam" instead of "Samantha"? According to this legislation, shortened versions of names are allowable; however, "Sam" is a nickname used for both "Samantha", a "girl-coded name" by society, and "Samuel", a "boy-coded name" by society. Is it only okay for this student to go by "Sam" if they dress in typical "girls" clothes? If they dress more "boy-ish", will the principal have the leeway to decide that using a shortened name is inappropriate? All Wisconsinites should be extremely concerned that Wisconsin would be giving principals' the power to "look at" our students and determine who they are.

What about people who are from other countries or have names in other languages? How will a principal determine if a name is aligned with their perception of a student's gender identity? What about students that use "American" names in classrooms so they do not constantly deal with their teacher saying their legal name wrong? Will the state be paying for each teacher to receive multilingual training? Or, will students and families of color and of immigrant backgrounds be required to do more work so they can experience school in the same way their white, US-born peers do?

This is why I encourage you to strike down this bill. This bill is not rooted in science or logic but hatred. Politicians and others are scapegoating and vilifying the trans community in order to push their agenda, and they are stealing the rights and liberties from all students in order to do so. There is nothing moral about forcing people to claim a gendered identity that is not their own. It is also inherently an overstep of the government to enforce that students' use their legal name in school.

Thank you,

Megan Spielbauer Sandate

She/They

Madison, 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hi folks,

My name is Bill Wohlgamuth, I have several students who are MMSD pupils, and I've lived in the 53716 zip code for 15+ years.

I'm writing today in opposition to Assembly Bill 103. This bill is a blatant, and disgusting attempt to trample on the freedoms of some of the most vulnerable in society to pander to the conservative fringe. The freedom to choose how you'd like to be addressed in the world would seem to be a right so basic as to be considered "core" and "inalienable".

While there are a great many children who have parents that support them unconditionally, there are many that aren't so lucky. These vulnerable students often look to their school as a place to feel welcome; a place where they can find community and belonging. There are innumerable studies (e.g. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3662085/>) that indicate LGBT students are at an increased risk of depression and suicidal ideation. This increases when students are victims of "institutional discrimination", like having a name and/or pronoun that doesn't align to how they feel assigned to them.

Additionally, it's the height of hypocrisy for a party that so values individual rights and freedoms and local control to here use the power of State government to quash both. To reach all the way down to school districts and dictate policy for a community, potentially in opposition to the desire of that location shows a profound lack of respect for the individuals that elected these representatives.

For the safety of all children in this state, this bill should be dropped. Thank you for your time.

Bill Wohlgamuth
Madison, WI

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Corinne Thomas, and I am a resident of Madison, WI.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it strips people of their agency and their rights to self-expression. The school board should not be the arbiter of individual identity and it should not restrict self-expression that poses no harm to others. This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Corinne Thomas

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Rachel Niesen, and I am a resident of Dane County. I've lived in Wisconsin for 31 years and I am a licensed psychotherapist who has been working in Madison with adults, youth and families for 6 years.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it would be detrimental to the well-being of Wisconsinites of any and all genders. Mental wellness is highly related to a person's ability to live authentically as themselves. Gender diversity has been a part of the human experience for time immemorial as has been documented by historians studying indigenous populations across the globe. Yes, it is hard for many parents and families to accept when their child or family member turns out to be different from who they thought their child or family member would be. These parents and families need and deserve patience, support, care and education. The feelings of parents and individuals who are confused or scared about the reality of someone being different from what they expected should NOT be allowed to set policy agendas for other people.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Rachel Niesen, LCSW, SAC

Dane County, 53703

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Kristi Hill and I am a resident of Outagamie County. I've lived in WI for 47 years, am a mom to an incredible teenager, and currently serve as a school counselor to our future's greatest asset - our kids.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on assembly bill AB103 As a Wisconsinite I am opposed to this bill because I believe that all students, despite their gender, sexuality, or identify, have a right to participate in any school activity, organization, or club. To do anything else, is discriminatory and hurts the mental health of our kids.

Sports should be a place where kids can learn about teamwork, communication skills, relationship skills, and how to accept one another. This bill creates a scenario where people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

Kristi Hill

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on AB 103,

I am writing testimony regarding AB 103 as a Board Member of the LGBT Center of SE WI. This bill will irreparably harm transgender youth I am tasked with protecting and uplifting. This bill isn't just about paperwork—it's about the dignity, safety, and well-being of transgender and nonbinary students across Wisconsin. It puts unnecessary government control over students' identities, making it harder for them to be themselves in school.

Under this bill, teachers and school staff would be forced to ignore a student's chosen name and pronouns unless they have explicit parental approval. It also requires schools to notify all parents and guardians of a name or pronoun change, even if that could put a student in danger. Instead of supporting students, this bill creates additional barriers for those who are already vulnerable.

Every student deserves to feel seen, respected, and safe in their school. Politicians should not be making it harder for transgender youth to navigate their daily lives or forcing schools into harmful policies that strip students of their right to self-identify. Schools should be places of support, not surveillance.

This bill is a direct attack on LGBTQ+ students, and we must stand firmly against it. Every child deserves the freedom to be themselves—without government interference.

Esther Roberts

Kenosha, WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My husband and I as Wisconsin citizens wish to be included in the official written March 6, 2025, testimony being filed against two proposed bills of the Assembly Committee on Education, AB 102 and AB 103, in the Wisconsin State Legislature that would prohibit trans students from sports, using locker rooms consistent with their identity, and the right to use the legal name and pronouns with which they identify in their lives at school.

Our opposition to the proposals is based on our support of one of our beloved grandchildren, avowing her rights - and the rights of other trans children like her - to be recognized and not denied their rights.

These aspects of our grandchild's life - primarily being recognized for the gender she clearly identifies with and participating with peers in school sports activities - are essential for her well-being. They are crucial for her mental and emotional health, as affirmed by various studies and guidelines. She is a citizen of the state of Illinois, but we are in protest on her behalf in support of her counterparts, other trans children, in Wisconsin.

That this issue has been made into a political and not a human rights issue for rational, state-wide, informed discussion, is sadly evident to us. Our disappointment that ingratiating political stances in alignment with controversial dictums of one national party are guiding the legislative agenda in Madison is profound. We go on record as opposed to the aforesaid two bills on the March 6, 2025, agenda.

Respectfully,

Colleen Murphy Klein and Frank Klein

3375 Fiebrantz Drive, Brookfield, WI 53005

5th Senate District/15th Assembly District of the State of Wisconsin

Written Testimony: AB 103

Catherine Yu

Regarding Assembly Bill 103

March 5, 2025

My name is Catherine Yu – I am a dog owner, casual baker, and a concerned Madison resident. I am testifying about how Assembly Bill 103 is a direct attack on our community and our students.

As someone who used to work in the Madison Metropolitan School District (working with students from kindergarten to 12th grade), I've seen firsthand how important advocacy for student autonomy and safety is. I've directly seen how my choice to affirm a student's gender identity helped that student feel safer in my classroom and more confident in themselves.

I am pleading for you to vote NO to AB 103 because it directly harms members of our community/neighborhoods. Trans youth are already at greater risk of bullying, depression, and suicide - a bill like this would only increase these risks for our students. Furthermore, this bill is an infringement on free speech. I find it extremely hypocritical that when a student uses hate speech/slurs it is viewed as "free speech" and something that can't be stopped, but when a teacher chooses to use a student's chosen name/pronouns it is no longer "free speech". Speaking as someone who used to teach in K-12, it is also wild for principals to have the final say/authority over whether a student can use their chosen name/pronoun. This takes away student autonomy and violates their freedom. Is the principal the student in question? No, so why in the world would they get to have any say on the student's name? Additionally, the bill states that it is the parent who determines the name and pronouns used for the student (not the student) and disallows teachers/other school staff from using a different name or pronoun than what the student is enrolled with. This kind of strict policing of name and pronoun usage puts transgender students at further risk of bullying and could potentially put transgender students from abusive homes at risk if they are outed by school personnel.

If you truly care about our students and our community, you will vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. If you truly want to create a safe school community where ALL students can thrive and grow in confidence, you don't take away their autonomy and freedom – you support their individuality as a human being and provide protections for the marginalized members of

our community. A safe school does not out a student, potentially putting them at further risk of bullying and abuse, both at the school and in their home environment.

Thank you for reading my testimony, your consideration on these matters is very much appreciated.

Written Testimony: AB 103

Catherine Yu

Regarding Assembly Bill 103

March 5, 2025

My name is Catherine Yu – I am a dog owner, casual baker, and a concerned Madison resident. I am testifying about how Assembly Bill 103 is a direct attack on our community and our students.

As someone who used to work in the Madison Metropolitan School District (working with students from kindergarten to 12th grade), I've seen firsthand how important advocacy for student autonomy and safety is. I've directly seen how my choice to affirm a student's gender identity helped that student feel safer in my classroom and more confident in themselves.

I am pleading for you to vote NO to AB 103 because it directly harms members of our community/neighborhoods. Trans youth are already at greater risk of bullying, depression, and suicide - a bill like this would only increase these risks for our students. Furthermore, this bill is an infringement on free speech. I find it extremely hypocritical that when a student uses hate speech/slurs it is viewed as "free speech" and something that can't be stopped, but when a teacher chooses to use a student's chosen name/pronouns it is no longer "free speech". Speaking as someone who used to teach in K-12, it is also wild for principals to have the final say/authority over whether a student can use their chosen name/pronoun. This takes away student autonomy and violates their freedom. Is the principal the student in question? No, so why in the world would they get to have any say on the student's name? Additionally, the bill states that it is the parent who determines the name and pronouns used for the student (not the student) and disallows teachers/other school staff from using a different name or pronoun than what the student is enrolled with. This kind of strict policing of name and pronoun usage puts transgender students at further risk of bullying and could potentially put transgender students from abusive homes at risk if they are outed by school personnel.

If you truly care about our students and our community, you will vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. If you truly want to create a safe school community where ALL students can thrive and grow in confidence, you don't take away their autonomy and freedom – you support their individuality as a human being and provide protections for the marginalized members of

our community. A safe school does not out a student, potentially putting them at further risk of bullying and abuse, both at the school and in their home environment.

Thank you for reading my testimony, your consideration on these matters is very much appreciated.

Jamie Blessing
Re: AB 103
3/5/25

To the Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Jamie Blessing. I am a resident of Madison, WI and have lived in the state for 15 years. I am testifying with regard to AB 103, and vehemently urge you to vote against this discriminatory legislation.

Students deserve to feel welcome at their schools. This is a prerequisite for engaged learning. Teachers foster classroom participation when they respect their students' names and pronouns. This contributes to a positive learning environment and causes no harm.

The requirements proposed in AB 103, however, benefit nobody. This bill would take the power away from individuals to determine their identity. Instead, this bill would give that right to another party simply because they are in a position of power in the school. This bill would force teachers to antagonize their pupils. This bill would jeopardize the safety of transgender students who may face hostility at home or school if they are outed.

Who wants to actively cause harm to children? Who wants to deter students from participating in or attending their school? The only reason a person would vote for this bill is to intentionally cause harm. No one should be allowed to dictate another person's identity.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and acting with consideration for the well-being of our state's students.

Sincerely,

Jamie Blessing
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To all members of the Assembly Committee of Education:

My name is Anna Kraft and I'm a resident of Milwaukee, WI, 53207. I am contacting you in opposition of Assembly Bill 103. I am a licensed professional counselor and I provide outpatient counseling services to gender diverse people. I have a master's degree in professional counseling. I have completed over 30 hours of specialized training to serve gender diverse communities and promote the wellness of gender diverse communities. For gender diverse youth, social transitions, such as changing their name and pronouns, are critical to supporting mental wellness, reducing the severity of gender dysphoria, and increasing social acceptance. When students can successfully request to have their teachers call them by their affirmed names and pronouns without a legal name change or other formal processes, it enhances the students' self-efficacy and self-confidence. Assembly Bill 103 would create significant barriers to gender diverse youth being able to transition socially and to utilize their affirmed names and pronouns in school settings. I implore the entire assembly committee of education to oppose assembly bill 103.

Sincerely,

Anna Kraft, MS, LPC, NCC

She/They

Mount Mary University | MS in Professional Counseling

University of Iowa | BA in Psychology

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Anna Spiekerman. I am a resident of Monona, Wisconsin (zip code 53716) lifelong resident of Dane County, public school attendee in Madison from Kindergarten through undergraduate degree, and I am submitting this written testimony in opposition of AB103.

I urge the committee members to think about how this bill might have applied to their own schooling experiences. Do any of you on the committee use a name other than your full legal name in your day to day life?

What if a student in a Wisconsin public school has a long legal name that they prefer not to use in daily conversation? What if they instead prefer a shorter nickname version of their name? For example: Jeff instead of Jeffrey, Pat instead of Patrick, Barb instead of Barbara, or Will instead of William.

If their parent didn't approve of this nickname, would teachers be prohibited from using it?

But of course, this bill isn't about nicknames, it's about prohibiting someone from being called a name that resonates with their personal identity. And are those things really so different? Shouldn't we as Wisconsinites, members of a statewide community, support and respect our neighbors? I think the bare minimum is using the name and pronouns that each individual prefers.

I encourage you to focus your time and energy creating legislation related to educating the youth of our state, rather than drafting policies related to students' preferred name or pronouns.

Thank you,
Anna Spiekerman

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello, my name is Al Stefanich. I am reaching out to say that I oppose bills LRB 0479 (trans healthcare ban) and AB 103 (forced outing), as they wrongly target trans children who are already vulnerable. If these bills pass, a lot of these children will lose the last safe haven they have as some of them come from abusive homes, suicide rates will increase, and their academic performance will plummet. I know this because I have trans friends who have expressed their childhood experiences to me.

TO: Assembly Committee on Education

FROM: Rev. Douglas Clement, United Methodist Pastor

DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: Assembly Bill 103 – relating to school board policies related to changing a pupil’s legal name and pronouns

My name is Rev. Douglas Clement, my pronouns are he/him/his, and I am an ordained United Methodist pastor serving in the state of Wisconsin. I am writing in opposition to the proposed AB 103.

Growing up, I was taught that being a Christian and being an American meant embracing the wide diversity of thought, practice, and personhood that exists in our communities. I remember learning how Jesus told us we were to “love one another” (John 13:34) and how, as people living in the United States, we had the right to “live, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”. While there have certainly been times when we haven’t always lived up to these ideals, the act of striving for them (and of believing they should be for all people) were (as I understood it) fundamental to who we are.

As a United Methodist, I am part of a tradition and a movement that has fought throughout our history to make this a reality. Our own Social Principles call us to “condemn all attempts to deny individuals their basic rights or freedoms or to strip human beings of their inherent dignity and worth” and to “reject within the church and wider society any act of discrimination, hatred, or violence directed against individuals or groups based on national origin, tribal affiliation, ethnicity, age, gender identity, disability status, economic condition, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or any other factors.” (§163, *The United Methodist Book of Discipline, 2020/2024*). Which is why I feel compelled to speak out against these bills.

AB 103 seeks to amend statute 118.125, such that it would “prohibit school staff from referring to a minor pupil by a name or pronoun that does not align with the pupil’s biological sex without written authorization from the pupil’s parent or guardian”, and bar transgender students from living into their gender identity. By singling them out because they are transgender, this bill gives credence to the falsehood that they are somehow “dangerous” and “unsafe to be around”. It gives space for hateful rhetoric, for bullying behavior, and for discriminatory practice. In fact, it *requires it* (by prohibiting these particular individuals from being identified and addressed according to their identity when no such prohibition exists for any other category of student).

There are multiple instances, both in scripture and in the history of our nation, where we have witnessed the consequences of our failure to include and care for those on the margins. As the Apostle Paul observed in his letter to the churches in Corinth, we are all members of one body (i.e. community). “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26). Yet, rather than encouraging this kind of relationship and community-building, proposed AB 103 creates further division among young transgender folks and their peers (at a time when they are most in need of such relationships), and puts them at greater risk for lasting harm.

The truth is, our brothers, sisters, siblings who are transgender are made in the image of God, same as you or me. They deserve the same love, acceptance, and affirmation. They deserve the same chance to be able to share their skills, talents, and passions. And they deserve to participate with their peers *according to their gender identity*.

I ask you to give them the same opportunities that have been afforded to generations of young folks. Vote “no” on AB 103.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Tony, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for my whole life.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it does nothing to improve children's education and instead, only harms innocent kids.

Tony is not my legal name, but it is the name that I have asked people to call me my entire life, at school, at work, and at home, simply because it is the name that I prefer. Every person, cis or trans, should have the dignity to use the name and pronouns that they want. This bill would harm students by taking away that dignity. You are going after kids trying to live their life. I hope you don't lose the childlike joy you used to have before you grew up.

Sincerely,

Tony Salituro

Madison, WI 53705

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Robyn Hietpas, and I am a resident of River Falls. I've lived in Wisconsin for 36 years and my child goes to River Falls schools. Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, parent, and advocate for mental health wellness, I am opposed to this bill because it threatens the mental health and well-being of trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive children in our schools and community.

Allowing trans children to use their chosen name and pronouns is protective for mental health. Research indicates that transgender youth who are able to use their chosen names in various settings experience significantly lower rates of depressive symptoms and suicidal thoughts compared to those who are not allowed to do so. Gender dysphoria, the distress caused by a mismatch between one's assigned sex and gender identity, can be significantly alleviated when a trans child is allowed to express their gender authentically through their name and pronouns.

When a trans child is consistently referred to by their correct name and pronouns, it creates a sense of acceptance and belonging in their social environment. Being affirmed by using the correct name and pronouns contributes to a positive self-image and increased self-worth among trans children.

At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin. Please vote NO on Assembly Bill 103.

Sincerely,
Robyn Hietpas
River Falls, 54022

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly,

My name is Katie McGlasson, I'm a public high school teacher in Madison Wisconsin and live within the 53703 area code of Madison. I'm writing to encourage you to vote against the 2025 Assembly Bill 103. I'm honored to spend my days caring for and teaching some of the most vulnerable students in the 2nd largest district in our state, and have witnessed first hand how this bill will negatively impact and endanger students. Aside from the direct harm to the young people it will impact, this bill perpetuates dangerous and divisive narratives that distract from the real issues facing our state & specifically the real issues facing our schools.

A 2018 study in the Journal of Adolescent Health found that transgender youth who could use accurate names and pronouns experienced 71% fewer symptoms of severe depression, a 34% drop in reported suicidal thoughts and a 65% decrease in suicide attempts. Studies since then have reiterated these findings, and have outlined the connection between use of preferred names & pronouns and positive impact on mental health and suicide prevention.

Each year, I have students who want to be referred to by names or pronouns that for a variety of reasons, they do not feel comfortable being called at home. Explanation as to why youth would prefer to be referred to by different names and pronouns at school rather than with guardians have ranged from risks of being unsafe or becoming unhoused because of disagreements in beliefs within their household, youth wanting to be sure of their identities within a safe environment of peers before coming out to parents, or simply unnamed reasons. Whatever the student rationale is, this is something that I know goes towards improved mental health outcomes and can in some cases be an act of suicide prevention. That's enough for me. If an action I take can directly contribute to the positive wellbeing of my students, that is the course of action I am going to take.

As a teacher my priority is that students are able to learn. However, learning can only take place when students are safe, cared for, and are not overwhelmed by stress or anxiety. Respecting the wishes of students in how they're referred to is an easy way to address the safety and care needs which means they're more likely to engage in the learning aspect of schooling. Supporting student identities is a direct effort to support student learning.

Additionally, this topic hits close to home from when I was in school as a student. My own sibling, and many friends experienced severe mental health crisis' in their teens directly stemming from the unwillingness of family members to respect (not even support, just respect) their gender identities. When students aren't supported or safe at home, school can be one of the only places they experience structure, consistency, and care. By forcing schools to become an unwelcoming place, we're further isolating youth who are already deeply isolated.

I wish that I had the eloquence in this moment to really get my point across. This bill is part of a larger trend in narratives that divide our communities. It casts unwarranted distrust on our schools, isolates youth from their school & home communities, and puts staff in a position where they're forced to choose between care & basic human decency to the youth we've devoted our lives to and compliance with this bill. Additionally, it's another attack upon communities who are facing constant attacks in media & the legislatures. Continued legal attacks on LGBTQIA people only encourages

hateful rhetoric in schools, homes, and communities as it shows the government supports the dehumanization of this marginalized population. Hateful rhetoric leads to violence, which this community is already disproportionately subjected to.

I think as humans our decisions should be based on making sure we do the most good and the least harm to those around us. As those in some of the highest seats of power in our state, I ask you to take this into consideration. This bill does no tangible good. No one's lives will improve because of this bill. However, the harm that would be perpetuated by this bill is vast and will ripple out from our schools, creating greater harm within our broader community.

This bill has no respect for our youth nor any concern for their safety and wellbeing. I oppose it wholeheartedly and I request you do the same.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Committee on Education Members

I strongly oppose this bill. It is cruel and serves no good purpose whatsoever. Please don't even let it get out of your Committee. I am so disappointed that our government is spending time on this issue which has such devastating effects on people who are already dealing with monumental challenges. They are causing no harm to anyone. Nothing will be accomplished by this bill other than fueling judgement and causing further pain and a suffering to good people. Please stop AB103.

Darlene Cornell
Eau Claire 54701

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Amelia Speight, and I am a resident of the City of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 29 years, my whole life, and I am proud to be a product of schools which empower students to grow and become who they are.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because I know that education suffers when we deny everyone the right to be themselves. In order for all our children to be able to focus on learning, growing, and cultivating a future in our schools, we need to preserve their freedoms and rights. The idea of allowing principals, administrators, and school boards to make decisions on behalf of individuals and families is a threat to the safety of children, and represents a larger threat to all of us who hope to live in a free and just society.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power. That is a foundational disrespect to American principles. No one in this country should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,
Amelia Speight
Madison, WI 53714

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Grace Lucas and I am a resident of Outagamie County. I've lived in Wisconsin my entire life - 32 years - and have built a strong community with my partner.

I implore you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. I am opposed to this bill because it undermines the rights of students and families by limiting their ability to make personal decisions about identity, privacy, and how they express themselves in a school environment. It risks infringing on personal freedoms by allowing authority figures to make decisions that should be left to the individual and their family.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another simply because they hold a position of authority within the school. No one should have the right to dictate who someone else is.

Sincerely,

Grace Lucas, Appleton, WI 54914

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Andrea Chaffee, and I am a resident of River Falls. I've lived in Wisconsin for all of my 42 years and my five children go to River Falls schools. I am also an educator and well-trained in culturally competent, developmentally appropriate, and trans-affirmative equity and inclusion practices. Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, parent, and educator, I am opposed to this bill because it threatens the mental health and well-being of trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive children in our schools and community.

Allowing trans children to use their chosen name and pronouns is protective for mental health. Research indicates that transgender youth who are able to use their chosen names in various settings experience significantly lower rates of depressive symptoms and suicidal thoughts compared to those who are not allowed to do so. Gender dysphoria, the distress caused by a mismatch between one's assigned sex and gender identity, can be significantly alleviated when a trans child is allowed to express their gender authentically through their name and pronouns.

When a trans child is consistently referred to by their correct name and pronouns, it creates a sense of acceptance and belonging in their social environment. Being affirmed by using the correct name and pronouns contributes to a positive self-image and increased self-worth among trans children.

At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin. Please vote NO on Assembly Bill 103.

Sincerely,
- Andrea Chaffee -
River Falls, 54022

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Michelle Hatheway, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 11 years and my children go to Madison schools. I am also a Clinical Psychologist trained in the provision of culturally competent, developmentally appropriate, and trans-affirmative psychological practice. Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, parent, and psychologist, I am opposed to this bill because it threatens the mental health and well-being of trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive children in our schools and community.

Allowing trans children to use their chosen name and pronouns is protective for mental health. Research indicates that transgender youth who are able to use their chosen names in various settings experience significantly lower rates of depressive symptoms and suicidal thoughts compared to those who are not allowed to do so. Gender dysphoria, the distress caused by a mismatch between one's assigned sex and gender identity, can be significantly alleviated when a trans child is allowed to express their gender authentically through their name and pronouns.

When a trans child is consistently referred to by their correct name and pronouns, it creates a sense of acceptance and belonging in their social environment. Being affirmed by using the correct name and pronouns contributes to a positive self-image and increased self-worth among trans children.

At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in school and in Wisconsin. Please vote NO on Assembly Bill 103.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hatheway, PhD
Madison, 53718

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello. My name is James Newcomb and I live in Appleton, WI.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on assembly Bill AB103. I am opposed to this Bill because it is a total overreach of government. No government body has the right to determine the identity of a human being. Thank you.

Abby Frank Taylor | Regarding AB103 | March 6, 2025

My name is Abby Frank Taylor, and I'm a concerned resident here in Madison. I'm writing today to express my grave concern about AB103 and the ways in which it will impact trans youth in Wisconsin. This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

By insisting that we ignore trans kids' chosen names and pronouns that they identify with, we are actively harming these children. We are restricting their ability to find themselves. Many of us go by names that were not assigned to us at birth. For example, my full legal name is Abigail, but I ask to go by Abby. Respecting someone's identity harms no one. The harm caused by ignoring or actively contradicting someone's identity is immeasurable.

This policy feels like fear mongering and is distracting from the actual issues at hand. It is not addressing the very real issues students face - a shortage of teachers, constant fear of school shootings, inadequate pay for school staff. It is ridiculous to believe that calling a student by a name they chose will protect anyone. We are not dense.

I feel the need to voice my concern about this issue, because it feels, frankly, like lawmakers bullying children. The last thing kids need when they are finding themselves is to have adults and systems tell them they are something they are not. Students deserve our support. They deserve to feel bolstered by their community, by their peers, by their educators. We can not expect them to be able to learn and grow in a space that actively ignores who they are and who they want to be. That is counter to what we hope for in a learning environment.

I strongly urge you to vote against AB103 and protect trans youth in our state. They deserve a safe and supportive learning environment, as does every child.

Thank you for your consideration.

Abby Frank Taylor
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Kathleen Barrow, and I am a resident of the town of Harrison in Calumet County Wisconsin. I was born in Wisconsin and have lived in Wisconsin most of my life. I am a licensed marriage and family therapist in the state of Wisconsin and I personally treat Members of the LGBTQ community. Therefore, I know first hand the impact a bill like this can have on our LGBTQ youth.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on assembly Bill AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this Bill because it is a total overreach of government into the personal lives of kids and families in Wisconsin. No government body has the right to determine the identity of a human being and it is creepy and disgusting that our government officials are so obsessed with the bodies of children and how they identify. Moreover, in my professional experience, this type of legislation increases distress and mental health symptoms for kids and teens who simply want to be seen for who they are.

Sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another. However, this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way this Bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Barrow
Appleton/Town of Harrison
Calumet County, Wisconsin

March 6, 2025

**Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education
Testimony in Opposition of Wisconsin Assembly Bill 103**

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

Please include this testimony as the official bill of record.

My name is Alenna Beroza, and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I am a Midwesterner, born and raised, and currently a medical student in Milwaukee. I write to you in strong opposition to AB103.

This bill is in direct opposition to fundamental American values of liberty, justice, and individual autonomy. All children, regardless of their background or identity, deserve to feel safe, respected, and affirmed in their school environment. AB103 undermines this basic right by dictating how students can be addressed, infringing upon their ability to express themselves authentically.

The ability to use chosen names and pronouns is not a trivial matter of personal preference; it is a critical aspect of self-determination and mental well-being, particularly for transgender and gender non-conforming youth. Research consistently demonstrates that respecting a student's chosen name and pronouns significantly reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation among these vulnerable populations.^{1,2} By denying students this fundamental respect, AB103 places their mental health and safety at grave risk.

Furthermore, this bill represents an unwarranted intrusion into the professional judgment of educators. Teachers are trained to create inclusive and supportive learning environments. They understand the importance of fostering positive relationships with their students and respecting their individual needs. AB103 ties the hands of these professionals, preventing them from providing the individualized support their students require.

The argument that allowing students to use chosen names and pronouns somehow infringes upon the rights of others is baseless. In a diverse and pluralistic society, respecting individual differences is not only a matter of basic decency but also a cornerstone of a healthy and functioning democracy. AB103 promotes a culture of exclusion and intolerance, sending a harmful message to students that their identities are not valid or worthy of respect.

Moreover, the assertion that parental consent should be required for a student to use a chosen name or pronoun disregards the rights of young people to self-determination and privacy. Many students, particularly those who are transgender or gender non-conforming, may not have supportive or accepting families. Forcing them to seek parental consent could expose them to further harm or discrimination.

In conclusion, AB103 is a misguided and harmful piece of legislation that undermines the rights and well-being of Wisconsin's students. I urge you to reject this bill and instead focus on policies that promote inclusivity, respect, and support for all children.

Sincerely,

Alenna Beroza
Medical Student
1260 N Prospect Apt 507
Milwaukee, WI 53202

1. Russell ST, Pollitt AM, Li G, Grossman AH. Chosen Name Use Is Linked to Reduced Depressive Symptoms, Suicidal Ideation, and Suicidal Behavior Among Transgender Youth. *J Adolesc Health*. 2018 Oct;63(4):503-505. doi: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.02.003. Epub 2018 Mar 30. PMID: 29609917; PMCID: PMC6165713.
2. Jacobsen, K., Davis, C. E., Burchell, D., Rutherford, L., Lachowsky, N., Bauer, G., & Scheim, A. (2023). Misgendering and the health and wellbeing of nonbinary people in Canada. *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 25(4), 816–830. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2023.2278064>

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Fallon Morrissey, and I am a resident of Madison, WI. I've lived in Wisconsin for 13 years now, and I am proud to be *finally* considered a "true Wisconsinite" by my most discerning "born & raised in Kewaskum" friends. I chose to build my life in Wisconsin, away from my family and support network, because I love this state, its values, and most importantly, its people. I am truly so proud to be a Wisconsin resident, and I think that is important context for the rest of my testimony.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because I believe that it goes against the true, Wisconsin values of "minding your own business" and "trusting your neighbors." While I've only been a Wisconsin resident for 13 years, I have lived in the Midwest my entire life. It was only when I moved to Wisconsin that I understood true community. We look out for our neighbors, shovel their sidewalks if they're older, drop off their mail when it gets misdelivered, share waves and smiles when we see each other, compliment each others' gardens, but what we *don't* do is get into each other's business. I believe that decisions on identities are **personal decisions**.

Frankly, I think it's silly for this to even be a discussion. The truth is, regardless of what you think this bill will accomplish, the only true outcome will be further alienation and ostracism towards a group of students that are already feeling excluded and singled out. It is reminiscent of the 80s movies where the outcasts are picked last in gym class. Who were the protagonists in those stories? I don't believe it was the ones leaving out the marginalized. You can legislate away their right to participate in sports, sure, but you cannot legislate away their personhood. Trans people and trans children will exist whether the State Assembly of Wisconsin recognizes them or not. This bill is nothing but fear mongering and bullying, and I refuse to participate in the charade that has been concocted. The people elected to represent the great people of our state should be less concerned with leaving people out, and more concerned with bringing people in. And frankly, why are my tax dollars going toward a witch hunt aimed at, what, 1.2% of the population? Let the kids play sports.

Sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

Sincerely,
Fallon Morrissey
Madison, WI 53704

Members of the Committee on Education,

I **oppose** AB103. As the mother of a transgender daughter and the grandmother of a non-binary grandchild, I know personally how important the use of personal pronouns is to the mental health of all people. Just because you have not experienced the pain caused by discrimination does not mean that you should pretend that it is not real.

Please let this bill die in committee!

Mary Hayden
54701

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing to urge you, most strongly, to **vote against AB 103** regarding use of student preferred names and pronouns in schools in Wisconsin. I believe it would lead to harmful results in several ways, with impacts on the students themselves and for school administrators and staff.

While a policy requiring parental written approval to change how a student is addressed may sound reasonable at first glance — sure, it would be nice if all children and teens felt comfortable discussing sensitive personal issues with their parents or guardians, and if all these adults were open-minded and supportive — we all know this is not the case. Many children who are wrestling with their identity start by keeping it close, among friends then perhaps at school if they feel staff will be supportive. Many parents would NOT accept these changes, and forcing children to keep their identity hidden will lead to more harm, anxiety, and mental health struggles.

Furthermore, a policy requiring written notification from parents will create new burdens for school administration and staff, who will have to collect and keep track of the forms, instruct and remind teachers which students are or are not allowed to request use of a different name or pronoun, develop procedures to monitor for and react to “violations” of said policy, etc. Our teachers are already burdened enough — please don’t add more mandates and rule-following-requirements to make their jobs yet more stressful and force them to act against students’ best interests.

As for my experience, I am a lifelong Madison resident, having attended public schools here while growing up. I now have two children who are MMSD high school students. My older child was struggling with anxiety and depression as they entered high school but mostly kept it hidden from parents and family. They came to identify as gender-nonconforming, and began using different pronouns and a variant of their given first name, first with friends and then at school. Even with liberal, supportive, LGBTQ-ally parents, the child was not comfortable raising the subject with us, despite having no overt reason to fear a hostile reaction. And we parents were appreciative of how the school handled it and supported our child. School was a safe place for them to “try out” a changing identify and build up to making it more widely known. I fear for other students in a similar situation being deprived of this path by forcing parental involvement and approval before anything can change.

Thank you for listening to people who have personal experience in these matters.

Respectfully,

Melissa Schultz
Madison WI 53705

Robin Pegau
Regarding AB103
March 5, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm Robin, a Verona resident and member of the queer community. My day-to-day work involves doing all I can for ensuring everyone, regarding gender identity, sex, or sexuality, is respected and have everything they need to be in good health. I am testifying on AB103, which would have schools establish councils that decide whether a student can go by a different name or pronouns.

Frankly, taking away someone's self-determination and giving who they are to a council is an absurd violation of anything resembling common sense, empathy, or ethics. It is also a massive waste of school resources, which are already limited and better spent on helping students prepare for adult life rather than handwringing over a few words. This is pathetic and embarrasses me as a Wisconsinite to think my state would ever consider it.

It does not harm anyone for a student to explore who they are. Considering the plethora of research showing how accepting transgender youth and being supportive while they explore their identity drastically reduces suicide rates, this bill reads as, at best, an uneducated attempt to control what someone does not understand and cannot be bothered to understand. At worst, it is an outright attempt to harm and kill our children. Do we not remember Nex Benedict? Or are you hoping Wisconsin's children will follow in their footsteps to early graves?

The kids will be all right if the state lets them be. Spend these resources on supporting all our students and actually teaching them.

I hope you consider this testimony and let our children live as they are.

Thank you.

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

it is a simple act to see a child for who they are, and many agree that it takes a brave child to insist on being seen for their truest selves even when it can cost them so much. while I do not refute their bravery, I also know that often these children do not themselves believe they are brave - they simply have no other choice. to not be who they are openly and fully would cost them even more - their sense of self, their hope for a future, their feelings of safety and bodily autonomy, their self-determination, their agency, I could go on for pages. across the country children are being denied the right to access medical treatments that would affirm their existence and alleviate much personal suffering. so why also take away the small, every day ways they can simply be seen and uplifted until they reach an age when they have those medical choices available to them? why refuse to use their pronouns, their new name, why refuse them to use a toilet, why turn them away from the sports that bring many enrichments into an athlete's life? (I mean, why are any sports, but especially childrens', even separated by sex anyway - but I digress)

these children are not asking for anything more than to be seen, accepted, and left in peace to learn and grow.

why take that away from any child, trans or not? why risk wisconsin families losing their children to depression, suicide, or other such atrocities that can happen to children who are repeatedly put into these positions? trans children deserve a future, and they also deserve a present.

thank you

alma horlock, madison resident & voter

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Isabel Haynes, I have lived in Madison my entire life, currently in the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood, 53704. I am a high school teacher. For the sake of the young people I teach, I am writing in opposition to Assembly Bill 103.

Adolescence has always been a time of transformative self discovery. For many young people, it is a time in their life when they first really begin to grapple with the question, "Who Am I?" In English class, I see students explore that question every day, in their writing, in their style, and in the conversations they have in and out of the classroom. I have had many students come through my classroom who have used a name that is different from the one their parents chose. In every single case, choosing that name and having it respected at school made the student feel more comfortable and more empowered to learn.

Many students who experiment with their gender in high school choose not to undergo a full gender transition. A girl in my 9th grade class this year spent most of her middle school years being addressed as a boy and going by a different name at school. Upon reaching high school, she decided that it no longer suited her and returned to the name her parents had given her. In a reflective essay she wrote last month, she spoke about her experience prior to middle school, feeling depressed, lonely, lacking the confidence to make friends or make herself seen in or out of school. Changing her name helped her feel independent, in control of her own self image, her own life, and her own learning. Knowing that she could change something so fundamental to her identity gave her the confidence to shape herself into the person she wanted to be. Now, she is a social butterfly; I could hardly believe that the 6th grader she described in her essay was the same person.

I often think about how stressful it must be for a teen, who is totally dependent on their parents, to tell them that the name they gave you doesn't feel right. To stand up and say, "In this part of my life, I know myself best." To take such a stand feels so significant, such a big leap, that to then go back on one's decision must feel like a surrender—an admission of being wrong. I can tell you with confidence that teens do not often admit they were wrong. This bill would force teens into legally changing their name before they can even use it where they learn and interact with their peers.

One of the most important aspects of high school education, in my professional opinion, is helping students become independent thinkers. Free thought is a cornerstone of our democracy and of a functional society. In an age where teens are constantly inundated with information and other people's opinions, blasted at them from a dozen social media sites every hour, they need to learn to think for themselves. To deny them the right to choose how they present themselves, how others refer to them, seems directly contrary to that ideal. It seems to project the message, "You are too young to know yourself or to make a decision about who you are." If they believe they are too young to have an opinion about their own name, why should they believe they are old enough to have an opinion about anything else?

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention the detrimental impact this policy will have on the safety and educational outcomes of transgender students. There are students who have made up their minds that they are not the gender they are assigned at birth and that the name they were given is not

the name that represents them. Whether anyone else likes it or not, these students are committed to their identity. Using the wrong name for these students disrupts their learning and their often fragile mental health in a way I think many of you in this room would struggle to understand. One student described the experience as, "touching the side in operation but across your whole brain and body." Such a stressful experience completely shuts down the students cognitive functioning and makes them often entirely unreceptive to new information.

You might say that parents have a right to know if their child feels this way, but in many cases telling one's parents that one is transgender is a catastrophic life event. Many teens are disowned, kicked out of their homes, berated, or generally ostracized for even expressing these feelings. This causes further decline to their mental health and further reduction of their ability to learn. In cases where teens believe that their parents would be receptive to learning about their identity, they share their feelings with their families when they feel confident about their identity and their safety. I have had several conversations encouraging teens to speak with parents about their gender feelings and supporting them in having those conversations, rather than bottling those feelings up and suffering from them.

It is my job to educate every single child that comes into my classroom. Regardless of their identity or my own personal views. I want every student I teach to be comfortable partly because it is proven that a comfortable mental state significantly enhances learning outcomes. I have seen students use school as a place to explore who they are and in doing so, they become more outgoing and more actively engaged members of the class.

To conclude, I don't believe it is the job of the government to dictate how our young people choose to shape their own identities or to police the independent thoughts they have. In order for educators to do our jobs, we need students to feel safe and comfortable in school and I believe this bill directly undermines that objective. In addition to worsening some students' mental health and their trust in their educators, it deprives them of a method of self expression. It takes away an opportunity to learn something about themselves, to explore who they are. In my personal and professional opinion, this is directly contrary to the free thinking education we want our young people to have.

Thank you.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Hope Jackson, and I am a resident of Milwaukee. I've lived in Wisconsin for 14 years. I am a graduate of Brookfield Central High School and the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Hope Jackson

Milwaukee, 53211

March 5, 2025

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my opposition to AB103. My name is Julia Collins, I live at 20 Sherman Terrace, Unit 6, Madison WI 53704.

I oppose AB103 because of the harm it will cause our youth as well as for the undue administrative burden it will place on our public schools.

I have personally known many individuals who have changed their names, pronouns, or both to better fit their identities and the common thread is a clear improvement in their quality of life. The first time a friend of mine came out as trans and changed their name, I was truly astonished at the improvement in their mental health - from such a seemingly simple switch. Everyone deserves a chance at this kind of peace and happiness, as early in life as possible. Children and adolescents need the freedom to explore their identities in pursuit of their most fulfilling life - and educators need the freedom to support that exploration. Putting restrictions on what names and pronouns teachers are able to use will limit students' ability to cultivate their sense of self on their own terms. Notably, students who are under increased stress also perform worse academically - we not only limit our youth's freedom of expression, we jeopardize their educational attainment as well.

This bill will also place a cumbersome burden on our educational system, which already struggles for sufficient resources. I want my tax dollars to pay for our teachers' excellent work in the classroom and continuing professional development - not time spent consulting with their principals about whether or not it's OK to honor a simple request from one of their students.

Thank you for your consideration,
Julia Collins

To the members of the Assembly or Senate Committee on Education, Representatives Dittrich, Behnke, B. Jacobson, Kreibich, Maxey, O'Connor, Tusler, Marsua, Senator Jacque and Tomczyk.

My name is Jennifer Cook from Bloomer, WI 54724. I am writing to oppose Assembly Bill 103. As the mother of a trans daughter I am well aware of the benefits to gender affirming care, including calling someone by their preferred name and gender. Studies have shown that even having one person in a trans persons life that is affirming lowers the risk of suicide greatly.

I believe that you all want the same things for kids as I do. Kids that are happy. Kids that are healthy. Kids that go to school, make friends and do well. Kids that grow up and contribute to society. It's been shown over and over again that by affirming kids' identities at school and at home we can achieve that.

My child came out in high school, and found a supportive group of friends and families. We used her preferred name and pronouns. She is on her way to becoming a functional member of society and is ready to do great things in the world. She wouldn't be here with us without supportive schools and family members. As a parent, I cannot picture a world where any kid didn't have this support.

Please vote no to Bill 103, and let Wisconsin kids know that you support them no matter their chosen name and pronouns.

Thank you

Jennifer Cook

14999 222nd Ave

Bloomer WI 54724

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee,

I am writing with particular concern regarding Assembly Bill 103. Beyond the concern of introducing a type of legislation that has been empirically proven to harm a group of people, the provisions of this bill require a wasteful system of monitoring the legality of names in schools. It would require principals to spend time and resources to create and enforce new policies in our state where over 1/3 of fourth graders read below the expected level and teacher-student ratios are escalating. Only a few months ago, a Madison school experienced a tragic shooting, yet I am reading about legislation that would dedicate more resources to policing names than were dedicated to addressing mental health issues and systemic failings in my home town.

With all due respect, I urge the members of this committee to reject this bill, on the grounds of waste if for no other reason.

Sincerely,
Carson (Plymouth, 53073)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Wisconsin Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bill 103, school board policies related to changing a pupil's legal name and pronouns.

Legislative attacks such as this bill work to foster environments of exclusion and discrimination, sending a message that some gender identities are not valid, that LGBTQI+ lives do not matter, and that young people can't be fully themselves at school. The impact of a hurtful bill like AB103 affects more than just the mental and emotional well-being of transgender students, but also contributes to broader societal misunderstandings about gender diversity, the use of pronouns, and bodily autonomy.

I implore you to oppose any legislation or policy that seeks to prevent students telling us exactly who they are. Let us work towards an educational environment that is truly inclusive, respectful of diversity, and upholds fairness and equality. Listen to people when they tell you who they are.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Emile Gunovich, MPH
4325 De Volis Pkwy
Madison, WI 53711

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Fuad Shatara, and I am a resident of Dane County. I've lived in Wisconsin for 5 years and have been an active member of UW-Madison community as well as the city of Madison.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because I believe that all people should be free to express their identity as they choose, and not follow rules and guidelines set forth by the government to dictate who they are and what they do.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Fuad Shatara
Madison resident, 53705

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I'm a lifelong Wisconsinite and a proud product of Wisconsin public schools from kindergarten through college. I'm also the proud wife of a public school teacher, and it is with this perspective that I write today to strongly oppose Assembly Bill 103.

I've had the pleasure of spending a great deal of time with teachers over the years, as a student, as a friend, and as a partner, and while I know it is cliché to say, you will truly never find a more hardworking group of people. In fact, the very reason I'm writing this instead of my husband is that he is spending this evening (as he does nearly every other night of the week) doing even more teaching.

Teachers do all this work while facing circumstances that seem impossible - in the past year alone I've watched teachers I'm close to deal with layoffs, administrative overreach, and multiple school shootings, all while making less money than their peers in comparable jobs. While I am genuinely grateful that the Assembly is finally paying some attention to our state's schools, I can confidently say that this bill would do nothing to fix the very real issues in our public schools while making the problems our teachers face even worse.

Teachers need many things - better pay, smaller class sizes, more administrative support with behavior issues - but one thing they absolutely do not need is their school board meddling with their classroom management and forcing them, regardless of their personal beliefs, to disrespect their students by ignoring their requests regarding something as simple as the name they choose to use. All teachers really want is for their students to learn, but that requires that they have their students' trust and respect. This bill will only serve to erode trust between students and teachers, which will make an already difficult job nearly impossible.

Over the course of my life I have seen it become extremely popular for conservative politicians to disrespect teachers, public schools, and the very concept of education. However, I believe that even the politicians most excited to throw educators under the bus to further their political careers - if they had the courage to be honest with themselves - could think of a teacher who made a positive impact on their life because they trusted that teacher and felt seen by them. It is unbearably cruel and shortsighted to deny future students the experience of being known and understood for who they truly are because you insist you know better than professional educators. Let these experts in their field manage their relationships with their students and if you will not provide them with the help they actually need, at the very least do not get in their way with this overreaching and frankly ridiculous bill.

Thank you for your time,

Victoria (Tori) Dexter
Madison, WI 53714

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

As a proud resident of Wisconsin and college educator, I feel it is my duty to speak out in opposition to proposed anti-trans legislation.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 103 is an explicit attack on the rights of transgender and nonbinary youth. This bill imposes unnecessary, and I believe unconstitutional, barriers that will harm their well-being. This bill prioritizes a parent's control over a child's identity rather than respecting the young person's independence and self-awareness of their own gender identity. Authentic gender expression, and a safe place to do so, is essential for a student's mental health and academic success.

To that point, research shows over and over again that affirming a trans person's chosen name and pronouns dramatically reduces mental health risks. A 2018 study from *The Journal of Adolescent Health* determined that transgender youth who are permitted to use their chosen names had 71% fewer markers of severe depression and a 34% decrease in suicidal ideation. Additionally, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Psychologists emphasize that affirming gender identity is essential for student success and well-being. This is why I have always used a student's chosen name and pronouns with no questions asked.

Policies like AB103, which require parental approval before a student can be called their chosen name and pronouns, could expose trans youth to outing themselves in dangerous situations, such as if they live in abusive home environments where parents will take retaliatory transphobic action against them. Thus, this bill should be rejected as it may unnecessarily expose students to harm at home.

Moreover, this bill places an undue burden on teachers and school staff by requiring educators to police students' identities instead of fostering an inclusive learning environment. As a teacher myself, I firmly believe that schools should be places of support and must fight tirelessly against discrimination. We must resist our nation's recent backlash against trans people, which goes against our constitutional protections against discrimination based on an individual's gender identity.

In sum, AB103 would strip trans students of their fundamental right to determine who they are. This bill will undoubtedly push these children further into the margins and will increase their susceptibility to mental health struggles. I strongly urge our Wisconsin lawmakers to reject this harmful bill. I entreat our state to instead prioritize policies that uplift and affirm all our students.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rachel Kathman
Milwaukee, 53212

March 5, 2025
945 Saint James Circle
Platteville, WI 53818

TO: Assembly Committee on Education

RE: Assembly Bill 103

Dear Committee on Education:

I am writing to oppose Assembly Bill 103 which addresses the use of a student's preferred names and pronouns at school. I grew up in Wisconsin and I am a graduate of Platteville High School and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. I am a long term resident of Wisconsin, a physician and the parent of a transgender child who graduated from Platteville High School in 2016.

The goal of our schools is to educate our children. Schools try to create an environment that is conducive for learning. Using preferred names and pronouns shows respect for the students and does not detract from the learning experience. Misnaming or misgendering a child's preferred name and pronouns disrupts the child's ability to learn. I saw this when my child was misgendered or misnamed at school. My child would shut down mentally, not sure if they should correct the teacher and draw attention to themselves or let it slide and deny their identity. My child would not be able to focus on the class or to concentrate on school work. My child did much better academically in classes where a preferred name is used.

It takes time and money to legally change a name in Wisconsin. Changing gender on a birth certificate can be arduous if not impossible. These documents may not reflect a student's identity. I was trained as a physician to ask what name my patients want to be called by. This shows respect and facilitates the doctor patient relationship and doesn't require any paperwork or documentation. It is not hard to use a person's preferred name and pronoun. Many people go by a nickname which is used at school without needing to show documentation.

The process for a student to be called by their preferred name and pronoun seems lengthy and unnecessary. It is a hurdle that will disenfranchise a student and make them feel not a part of their school. Schools need to promote unity and inclusivity for an environment conducive to learning.

Many parents are supportive of their child using a preferred name and pronoun. Some parents are not. Outing a name and pronoun preference to a parent may put the child at risk of emotional and physical abuse. Some may be kicked out of the home. For their own safety at home a student may choose not to go by their preferred name and pronoun so as to not be outed to unsupportive parents. This will further isolate the student and add to their emotional stress. Again a situation that does not facilitate a learning environment.

In conclusion, using a student's preferred name and pronoun at school is respectful and does not interfere with the student's ability to learn. Using a student's preferred name and pronouns is not difficult and certainly does not require a lengthy process and legal documents. Teachers do this already. This bill would add stress to students and interfere with their education and potentially place them in harm's way. Please promote a quality education for all students in Wisconsin and do not move this bill forward.

Thank you for your concern about the students in Wisconsin,
Sincerely,

Lynn R Verger, MD

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Miranda Hassett and I'd like to speak to AB103. I have read this bill in detail, and I can see how it probably sounds really reasonable to a lot of people. It's just saying that schools and teachers need parental permission to change the name or pronouns they use for a child; who could object to that? But as with a lot of proposed legislation dealing with transgender people, it actually makes things more complicated and difficult under the guise of something simple.

I'm a pastor, and my church community and extended church network includes a lot of families with transgender or nonbinary members - adults, youth, and kids. It is certainly true that we don't have a clear societal consensus on what to think when a young person says that they are trans or wants to try out a different name and pronouns. One way that manifests is that it's pretty common for parents not to be on the same page. Sometimes they work through it, listening to their child and each other, and learning from experts and from other families, and get to a place where both parents can support their child. (This process is explored really beautifully in the book *Becoming Nicole*, which I heartily recommend for anybody who wants to understand better what it's like for a family to learn that one of their young children is transgender.)

But sometimes disagreement over how to handle that situation deepens and can even become part of the fracturing of a marriage - or another battleground in a contentious co-parenting relationship after a marriage has already ended. In such a situation, it is deeply unfair and damaging to hold a child's needs hostage to a requirement that both parents have to sign off on allowing a different name or pronouns to be used.

More broadly, I just don't understand what legislation like this is trying to accomplish. Republican legislators claim to be very concerned about gender-affirming medical care for transgender kids - though your concern would be more convincing if you were equally concerned about the same care when it's provided to cisgender kids. If you're concerned that medical care is too big a step, why are you making it more difficult for children to socially transition, and at least explore their identity and meet their needs in those ways? It makes it seem like you're not really concerned about the kids' wellbeing at all.

Thank you for reading.

AB103

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Rachel Rovinsky, and I am a resident of Madison, Wisconsin. I've lived in Wisconsin for 3 years and I am a transgender adult. I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because kids deserve dignity in their education and deserve to not experience bullying from school administration or teachers. Imagine if you were called the wrong name and pronouns as a child throughout your K-12 experience- would you be able to recover from that and grow into a mentally stable adult? I don't think so.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sincerely,

Rachel Rovinsky
Madison, WI 53715

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Holly Kingsbury, and I am a resident of Milwaukee. I've lived in Wisconsin for 32 years, and have been serving children in my community for the last 15 years, 7 of which were as a school psychologist for Milwaukee Public Schools. Additionally, I am a mother of a pre-school aged daughter.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it strips trans children of the right to be named and labeled by their teachers and school staff in accordance with the name and gender which they identify with. There is no way that this decision should be given to a principal. There are very often circumstances of unsupportive parents, so this cannot even be a decision given to parents. Children must be allowed to ask their teachers to call them by a name and use pronouns that are in line with their identity - *regardless of the support of their parents or principal*. Supporting the mental health of trans youth is paramount - given statistics like the extreme rate of suicidality among trans youth, this is an issue of life and death for many children. Legislation and policies like this only create schools, spaces, and communities that serve to further degrade trans children's autonomy, acceptance, and therefore mental health.

Please vote NO to Assembly Bill 103.

Sincerely,
Holly Kingsbury
Milwaukee, 53207

Written Testimony: AB103 (School district policy provisions regarding student legal names and pronouns)

Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in lieu of personal attendance. I am writing in favor of the advancement of AB103 through committee.

In a civil society, one assumes that the parent or legal guardian of a minor child holds the primary responsibility for their child's upbringing and welfare. Even more basic than that, however, is the constitutional right of the parent or guardian to name their child. Frankly, the fact that this creates any contention at all is simultaneously laughable and tragic, so I commend Representative Dittrich, Senator Jacque, and all of this bill's co-sponsors for taking steps to secure our most basic constitutional rights.

Parents and guardians should not be faced with the battles that have plagued Eau Claire, Madison, and other Wisconsin school districts who have placed student privacy above parental rights. Parents and guardians have the right to direct the education of their children, and that includes the environment and identity of their children. The 2023 KMSD decision made great strides in clarifying this order of primacy, but we still lack statute. Unfortunately, this leaves our state vulnerable to bad actors who unduly place themselves into a position superior to a parent or guardian in a child's life. Schools are subject to parents in the natural and constitutional order, and it's time to enshrine this order statutorily.

Speaking colloquially: It's silly that we're even at this point, but here we are. I appreciate that the "adults in the room" are accepting the responsibility to advance this legislation that, hopefully with many other bills, will restore common sense and order in our great state. Thank you for advancing this bill; in doing so, you are protecting our children and our parental rights.

Please pass AB103 through committee as soon as possible. Thank you!

Bill Brewer
Moms for Liberty Ambassador
Bill@MomsforLiberty.org

From: Delaporte, Bob <Bob.Delaporte@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2025 9:27 AM
To: Bender-Olson, Katie <Katie.Bender-Olson@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Please reject AB 100 and AB 103

Dear Representative Kitchens,

My name is Kristy Bark, I am a Wisconsin constituent living here in Madison, WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103, currently proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and AB 103 are clearly designed to act as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US, and they do nothing but alienate transgender kids and make life less safe for them.

As one of your constituents, I urge you to vote against both AB 100 and AB 103. **As a Christian, I am appalled that we would try to use the power of the Legislature to be cruel to a small, minority population.** A 2024 study (linked below) showed that anti-transgender laws cause up to 72% increase in suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth. **Passing anti-trans legislation is not pro-life.**

I am not at all concerned about trans athletes playing sports. I am VERY concerned about the health and safety of trans kids - I want them here in the world, I want them to feel seen and included (just as I want my own kids to feel seen and included).

Please reject these cruel and unnecessary bills.

Sincerely,
Kristy Bark
1101 Marg Street
Madison, WI 53716

Study: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/anti-transgender-laws-cause-up-to-72-increase-in-suicide-attempts-among-transgender-and-nonbinary-youth-study-shows/>

From: Rep.Kitchens
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:45 AM
To: Bender-Olson, Katie
Subject: FW: Oppose AB100 and AB103

From: Sara Strom <sarastrom@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 7:48 PM
To: Rep.Kitchens <Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Oppose AB100 and AB103

Representative Kitchens,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 47 years, have served our community as a healthcare worker, foster parent and community volunteer, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all students, have the right to a supportive, caring, equal education free from harassment and discrimination.

Targeting children—who are just learning who they are—is unethical-and teaches all children that their community in Wisconsin does not support its children for who they are. Trans and non-binary youth have a very high suicide rate (Four-times increased risk compared to cisgendered youth) —and trans youth of color are even more at risk (upwards of 33% increased risk). We need to do all we can to help all children survive their childhood and thrive—and limiting them from sports and using the correct names/pronouns is only going to hurt them. Using the correct names/pronouns and allowing them to participate in sports that align with their gender identity does not harm anyone —and is life-saving for trans and non-binary youth. It is time to stand up and oppose these harmful bills. Please do the right things and save lives!

Sincerely,

Sara Janowski
Verona, WI 53593

From: Rep.Kitchens
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:44 AM
To: Bender-Olson, Katie
Subject: FW: AB100 and AB103

From: Laura Riley <laura.riley14@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 9:29 PM
To: Rep.Kitchens <Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: AB100 and AB103

Dear Representative Kitchens,

My name is Laura Riley, and I am a lifelong Wisconsin resident living in Madison. With a Master's in Higher Education, I am deeply committed to supporting all students.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

AB100 fosters exclusion rather than teamwork. Sports should teach young people cooperation and acceptance, not fear and discrimination against their trans peers.

AB103 disregards a fundamental right: the ability to be called by the name one chooses. Every person deserves that dignity—just as you and I expect to be addressed by our chosen names and titles.

I urge you to recognize the humanness of every person and oppose these harmful bills.

Sincerely,
Laura Riley

City of Madison, 53703

From: Rep.Kitchens
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:46 AM
To: Bender-Olson, Katie
Subject: FW: AB 100/AB 103 testimony

From: Dana Churness <danachurness@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 5:54 PM
To: Angela Stroud <angstroud@gmail.com>; Rep.Kitchens <Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: AB 100/AB 103 testimony

Dear Representative Stroud Education Committee Member Chair Representative Kitchens:

I am a constituent of Assembly Representative Stroud. My address: Dana Churness, 86495 Lenawee Rd, Herbster, WI 54844.

I am writing to register my strong opposition to AB 100 and AB 103. As you know, these bills seek to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender. They eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with.

This amounts to no less than State sanctioned discrimination. As the parent of a gender diverse child, who will be impacted directly by the trans athlete bill, I can speak personally to the harm that these bills cause. (Even by merely being introduced and considered.)

1 in 3 trans kids will attempt suicide by the age of 18. Bills such as these will create an even more hostile environment for our children to have to learn in. This is absolutely unacceptable. The attack on trans youth, initiated by unconstitutional Executive Orders and enforced by bills such as these amounts to ruthless, heartless bullying behavior by grown adults who should know better.

We are not asking you to believe in something that you don't. We are asking that you kill these bills which will actively harm (physically and mentally) our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dana Churness



Sun Prairie Area School District

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education Members -

My name is Bryn Horton. I am a school board member and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this hearing in person due to prior obligations and due the short notice of the hearing, I was unable to reschedule. I appreciate the ability to submit written testimony to the committee instead.

I would like to start my testimony by focusing on the fact that, once again, the legislative body is considering interfering in the local control of elected school boards. Wisconsin school districts are many and varied. They are urban, suburban and rural and range in size from 68,000 students to 50 students. The local needs of those school districts can be vastly different from each other. This is why each district has a locally elected school board (who sometimes represent more people than our state representatives do) to manage the needs of their community's schools and students. We do not need the state legislature to dictate a one size fits all "solution" to a perceived problem in our schools. I think, in fact, that you would be hard pressed to find a district that doesn't have some sort of policy or procedure that covers every scenario that could exist in schools. Instead, I would love to see the legislature focus on partnering with us to ensure our schools are better places to learn and grow. Support school boards and school districts as they work to educate our future. We do not constantly need to be at odds with each other. I would love to sit down and have a conversation about what education in Wisconsin could look like if we worked together.

While I could continue and tell you all the things that are wrong with this bill because they are myriad, I would instead ask that you make space to hear (and hopefully learn) from the experts who are here in support of one of our most vulnerable populations of students and most especially, the people who have personal experience and will be the ones most harmed if this bill moves forward.

Thank you for your time.

Bryn Horton

Sun Prairie Area School District, Board of Education member

From: [Delaporte, Bob](#)
To: [Bender-Olson, Katie](#)
Subject: Fw: Testimony regarding bills AB100 and AB103
Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025 12:07:58 PM

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From: Paul/Margit Churness <pmchurness@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 10:08 AM
To: Bob.Delaporte@legis.wisconsin.gov <Bob.Delaporte@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Testimony regarding bills AB100 and AB103

To the members of the Senate Committee:

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to bills AB100 and AB103. I have family members who have been and are experiencing first hand what it's like to live in a country where their teenage child is being persecuted and condemned. I've witnessed so many mean spirited politicians over the past few months who seem to revel in degrading these young people publicly. We must be better human beings than this.

Please do not allow these bills to pass. This is another example of an issue that needs to be decided at the local level.

Sincerely,
Paul Churness

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Chair Kitchens,

Thank you for your service to our great state, and for the opportunity to submit thoughts regarding AB 103, and AB 100.

Speaking from the experience of one school board member to a former, I would ask that you focus on legislating real change that can help the districts in your area and around the state. I know you care about our kids.

Given the current state of affairs both in the state and at the federal level regarding education and education funding, I respectfully request that you and your committee work to address current issues that can make the lives of all Wisconsin students better, rather than on bills that are from a national mandate, override the local control (that you appreciated as a board member), or have already been addressed through collegiate or state organizations like NCAA or WIAA.

For example, the disparity in special education funding and reimbursement is the single most important issue for districts around the state. We also have child care, early childhood education, and literacy challenges in all counties of Wisconsin. Consideration of sum sufficient special education funding, fully funding early childhood education (4K), public-private partnerships, wrap-around care, and teacher training would go much farther in helping all Wisconsin families.

Additionally, how many students in Sturgeon Bay are receiving free and reduced price lunch or the community eligibility provision? How many students benefit from Title dollars? How would changes to Medicaid impact your students and constituents? How many of your students benefit from Pell grants, UW schools, or the technical college? These are all at risk at the federal level. What are you and your committee working on for these contingencies, are you considering what would happen if these programs all come back to the state?

There are some simple things that could be done by your committee legislatively that could help all school districts. For example, changing the start date for public schools to be commensurate with private schools, making the payment structure for school districts to have more state funding at the beginning of the budget cycle rather than at the end (to avoid short-term borrowing), and revising the seat time requirement so districts can innovate in delivery of career and technical education. These are all low hanging legislative fruit that will benefit all.

I respectfully ask you to focus on the many issues that can make real, positive change for kids and families in the communities your serve.

Sincerely,

Lauri Asbury

Lasbury2@gmail.com

Limekiln Drive, Neenah WI

920.810.1635

To the 2025 Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Catherine Porter. I'm a resident of Madison, zip code 53719. I adamantly oppose bills AB 102 and AB 103. As a transgender person myself, I empathize deeply with our transgender youth. These bills are blatantly stripping rights and freedoms from transgender youth. Regarding AB 103 specifically, it is cruel to not always allow someone to be addressed in a way that aligns with their identity and sense of self. For everyone reading or hearing this, try to understand what it would be like to every day be referred to as your opposite gender. It would be uncomfortable, frustrating, upsetting. All that and more is what transgender youth could experience every single day at school if this bill were to pass. I urge you to oppose bills AB 102 and AB 103. We need to support and protect the transgender community and transgender youth especially. These bills do exactly the opposite and will directly harm them. This is a matter of protecting rights and continuing to set precedent that transgender people are deserving of rights, freedom, dignity, empathy, and respect. Please vote no on AB 102 and AB 103.

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello, my name is Al Stefanich. I am reaching out to say that I oppose bills LRB 0479 (trans healthcare ban) and AB 103 (forced outing), as they wrongly target trans children who are already vulnerable. If these bills pass, a lot of these children will lose the last safe haven they have as some of them come from abusive homes, suicide rates will increase, and their academic performance will plummet. I know this because I have trans friends who have expressed their childhood experiences to me.

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing as a life long Wisconsin resident and a parent with kids in Wisconsin public schools for the last 9 years. Trans kids play sports and using the correct pronouns for people hurts no one. Doing the opposite hurts everyone. How can we claim that Wisconsin is "moving forward" when issues like this are so behind the times. I am against my kids being in a school system that would not protect them if they were trans!

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Welsh

53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Annalise Syverson and I am a constituent in Madison Wi 53704 and I would like to address the entire committee in saying I strongly oppose both AB 102 and AB 103. Even if these bills don't become law their introduction itself is very harmful. Every student deserves the freedom to be themselves at school, schools should be doing everything they can to make students feel accepted and politicians shouldn't be making it more difficult to do so. Thank you.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Annalise Syverson and I am a constituent in Madison Wi 53704 and I would like to address the entire committee in saying I strongly oppose both AB 102 and AB 103. Even if these bills don't become law their introduction itself is very harmful. Every student deserves the freedom to be themselves at school, schools should be doing everything they can to make students feel accepted and politicians shouldn't be making it more difficult to do so. Thank you.

As a lifelong citizen and taxpayer of the state of Wisconsin, I want to express my strong opposition to assembly bills 100 and 103. Why would our state legislate an attack on our most vulnerable children?

I have friends who celebrated when their transgender child reached adulthood healthy and reasonably happy without self harm or any of the other disasters that threaten children just trying to become their true selves.

Even with supportive parents, these children are assaulted daily from all sides and many don't make it. The statistics I found said 82 percent of transgender people consider suicide and 40 percent attempt it, mostly youths.

With this legislation, assembly bill 103, you want to make it illegal for their teachers or counselors to offer any recognition or support at this crucial time in their lives. If they have no support from family or at school, they are no less trans. They are just even less likely to survive, to grow up with a sense of self worth. Allowing them to be called whatever gender or name they identify as doesn't take away any rights from the parent. It just acknowledges that the child is a thinking feeling human being who deserves some respect.

As for bill 100, legislating to prevent the tiny number of trans female athletes from participating in their chosen sport, what is so frightening? Provide a reasonable accommodation of private changing and shower space. Figure out a relatively fair handicapping scale. Figure the average difference between boys' and girls' scores in a particular sport. If the trans female athlete is willing to play with that uniform handicap added to the challenge, let them play!

This legislation is small minded and harmful. We should be better than this. Every child deserves to be themselves. Protect trans kids. Don't abandon them.

Marilynn Miller
Sun Prairie WI
53590

Dear Representatives,

My name is Adam Donahue, and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident in Madison, WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed to the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. Trans kids are not "problems" to be prohibited. In my experience of playing in athletic activities with other people, I never found any trans athletes to hold any notable advantage over cisgender male or female athletes. They should be allowed to choose their identity and not be barred from competitions in the gender they identify with.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Thank you,
Adam Donahue

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing as a psychologist and concerned citizen of Madison, WI to oppose in the strongest possible terms the bills AB100 and AB103. It is unconscionable that the State of Wisconsin is considering stripping transgender and non-binary children of their right to an educational experience that upholds their wellbeing and dignity.

The research is clear that when childrens' identities are respected by the institutions that serve them, they are able to flourish. Conversely, the consequences of discriminatory policies, such as AB100 and AB103, have clear negative consequences for affected children, including increased rates of negative peer interactions, deleterious mental health outcomes, and increased rates of suicidality.

Instead of using trans/non-binary children as political pawns to distract from the very real problems facing Wisconsinites, the legislature should consider fulfilling its intended role of finding and implementing solutions to the real issues of the day, which include rising income inequality, erosion of civil liberties, and dissolution of the social safety net that has historically protected all Wisconsinites.

Sincerely,

Jaime Lam, PhD
Licensed Psychologist
Madison, WI

To the members of the Assembly,

I'm Julia Richard writing from Milwaukee WI, 53212, and strongly oppose the bills AB 100 and AB103. I am a mental health professional and can say from professional experience how much of a negative impact these bills will have on the mental health of our youth who are already very vulnerable. I've lived in Wisconsin my whole life and feel most scared for its future when extreme conservative Ideas like these try to take away rights of the people in my community. Please consider this testimony when making such an argument that effects the lives of everyday children.

My name is Tina Meister and I am speaking in strong opposition to bill AB100 & 103. I am here because the most beloved person in my life is trans. I am here because not too long ago I was sitting in the back of classrooms next to kids who knew their parents well, and that's precisely why they were scared. They were scared because they knew that they were entirely dependent on these adults who were the only ticket to their survival, no matter the cost, and some of them did put their survival on the line.

It's frustrating to me that my government hasn't managed to fulfill the basic needs of student's physical and mental wellbeing in their public education system, but is instead devoting time and resources producing bills to police children's bodies and safe personal expression.

Access to extracurricular activities should be the right of every child, no matter their gender presentation. I am alarmed and saddened to imagine the further exclusion and ostracization of children based on such an invasive and harmful bill. Children's sports are, fundamentally, about teaching our children teamwork, inclusion, and diversity of ability. What message are we sending to our kids when we strictly categorize and exclude a child based on information that, frankly, our schools should not be in the business of regulating? The emotional harm of forcing children to change in rooms they do not feel comfortable points to a solution more focused on gender-inclusivity and neutral options, not regulating and maintaining records of children's assigned sex.

I would also encourage the committee to probe what is really being prevented by Bill 103; to imagine the difficult situation in which a child is approaching a teacher requesting to be called a name and/or pronouns that make them feel more comfortable, that their parent does not know about.

I see this bill's biggest impact on children, already made vulnerable in a home that rejects their identity, perhaps even in circumstances that would threaten their physical safety, made to be further ostracized by the only remaining support network they may have access to. This bill is not a matter of parent's rights. Parents do not have the right to every thought in their child's head or to control their every exertion of selfhood both in the home and outside the home; a child's personhood is not the right of a parent to control.

I believe every parent dreams that their child will trust them enough to share their most important and deep senses of selfhood. I believe many of the parents in this room have fostered that very relationship of trust with their children, but these parents do not reflect every child's situation. Unfortunately many children have already had to learn the hard lesson that their voice and true self must be hidden in exchange for physical or emotional safety. I request that this bill not be passed, in order to preserve children's safety and wellbeing within their school systems. Thank you for your consideration and time.

To all the members of the Assembly Committee on Education, I oppose the bills in consideration, AB100 and AB103. It is unacceptable to pass bills that infringe on our constitutional rights. Is it not free speech to use any pronouns of our choosing? Not to mention pronouns are simply a part of grammar that have always existed, there is no defense for this. Additionally, again banning transgender athletes or any restrictions against them on the basis of their PERSONAL orientation is again, an infringement of basic constitutional rights, specifically, the first amendment. This is not a debate of opinions, it is not a debate on "nature" and what is "natural" or not. This is not a debate, because people's freedoms and therefore lives, are at stake, and if we can deny freedoms to some groups, what is stopping the opposition from denying freedom to everyone? We cannot let our transgender youth be hurt. They too are valued members of society and are human beings just like the rest of us. My name is Sierra Divine-Scott, I am a senior at East High School and am attending University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in the fall. I live in Madison, 53704, I oppose bills AB100 and AB103 and demand that we protect our children's unalienable rights.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Katherine, and I am a resident of Dane County. **I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100 and 103.**

These bills would take the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

Sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

Sincerely,
Katherine Velguth
Dane County, 53704

AB100

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is **Sydney Tardrew**, and I am a resident of **Madison, WI**. I've lived in Wisconsin for nearly 30 years and I am a former Cross Country athlete, both at the high school (Madison West High School) and collegiate level. I also have a 2.5 year-old niece who lives in Monona, WI, so this hits close to home. I also am a Physician Assistant actively working to improve the health of my fellow Wisconsinites every day. I care deeply about the members of my community. I am a proud Wisconsinite, and as such I have to speak to the events that are shaping my patients, friends, and neighbors.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill "AB100". As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because **I believe that sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another. I dream of a world where my niece can participate in sports as I did and build lifelong friends and community. I built some of my lifelong friends through my time as a Cross Country athlete, and imagining trans youth having to worry about their peers having power to discriminate against them, when all they want is to be a part of the team quite literally, it breaks my heart.** This bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

Sincerely,

Sydney Tardrew
Madison, WI 53704

AB103

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is **Sydney Tardrew**, and I am a resident of **Madison, WI**. I've lived in Wisconsin for nearly 30 years. I also have a 2.5 year-old niece who lives in Monona, WI, so this hits close to home. I also am a Physician Assistant actively working to improve the health of my fellow Wisconsinites every day. I care deeply about the members of my community. I am a proud Wisconsinite, and as such I have to speak to the events that are shaping my patients, friends, and neighbors.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill "AB103". As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because I want my niece to grow up in a world where she is not told what it means to be a boy or a girl. I want her to feel comfortable expressing herself in whatever way she desires. I want her to feel limitless. Discrimination like this bill does not just hurt LGBTQ kids, it also hurts girls and boys who are different than others in the way they express themselves. I do not want such power over my niece to be decided by adults who do not know her.

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are. Our children should feel limitless.

Sincerely,

Sydney Tardrew
Madison, WI 53704

Sydney Tardrew, MPAS, PA-C

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Physician Assistant - Neurology Headache Clinic (UH)

stardrew@uwhealth.org

Cell: 608.332.9630

March 6, 2025

To the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing today to express my opposition to Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

Growing up when and where I did, the LGBTQ+ community was not visible or supported. I know that this did great harm to those within and alongside this community. Harm that in some cases resulted in death, and other psychological harm that still isn't resolved to this day. Schools should be places where our younger community feel safe, protected, and given space to be who they are and see who they will become. Bill 100 and 103 puts not only our trans youth at risk of irreparable harm, it does a great disservice to our communities, and our state as a whole.

With care,

Marla Sanvick
Milwaukee, WI 53208

To the Assembly Committee on Education,

Thank you for reading my testimony against both AB100 and AB103. My name is Blair Mosner Feltham. I live in Madison (53704). I am a long-time public school worker -- this is my 13th year working in public schools. I am also an elected member of the Madison Metropolitan School Board. Today, I write to you as an individual with experience in public schools, expertise in adolescent development, and a hope to see our state have a bright future.

The reason I am against these bills is because I don't think they support my hope for our state to have a bright future. These bills are both repressive, seeking to curtail the rights of individual children. I think in general, a bill that limits a child's expression of who they are or might be is probably a mistake. When you think about the future you want to live in, I wonder if you imagine that future as one where all children are forced by law to subscribe to particular ideas about who they are, or one where children's exploration and expression are protected by law.

Sometimes I hear that these repressive laws are necessary because, somehow, trans children are a threat to other people. That couldn't be further from the truth. Not only are trans children generally much more endangered (including by bills like this, which stigmatize them) than children who are not trans, their transness is not a threat to others. It is **not** true that trans athletes are damaging the sports experiences of non-trans students. I think that hateful, socially corrosive forces have manufactured this fear of threat, and I think they use the relative numbers of trans people to non-trans people to do it. I think members of this Committee should be skeptical of claims that a very small group of people who are themselves vulnerable are a threat to the whole and should think critically about why this issue is taking center stage when there are so many more pressing issues for children generally (including inadequate state funding for schools) and for girls in particular.

As for the question about school and student names and pronouns, the purpose of this bill is not to protect parents' rights--that claim is false rhetoric. The purpose of the bill is to tell young people and the people who serve them that being trans or wondering about who you are is a bad thing. Wondering about who you are, exploring, and experimenting are part of human development. Of course parents have rights, but I do not believe it is the right of the parent to say who the child is. Do you know the poem by Kahlil Gibran? It's beautiful and beautifully set to music by Sweet Honey in the Rock. Here's an excerpt:

"[Your children] come through you but not from you
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you

You may give them your love but not your thoughts
For they have their own thoughts
You may house their bodies but not their souls
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow

Which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams
You may strive to be like them
But seek not to make them like you
For life goes not backward, nor tarries with yesterday"

Being trans is a wonderful way to be. Trans people, in making room for themselves, make more room for the rest of us. I know that there are people out there, maybe including you, who don't understand it or think it's weird, but the fear and distaste some people have about trans people is manufactured in order to repress and control all of us. This is an old manufactured fear, but it is not innate and it is not helpful for our state moving Forward to a brighter future.

Discomfort and danger are different things, and I urge you not to pass laws that are based on your personal discomfort.

Thank you,
Blair Mosner Feltham
Madison, WI
53704

To the members of the Assembly committee on Education,

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to two bills: Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

-

Assembly Bill 100 is the latest step by lawmakers to discriminate against transgender people in our community. Transgender athletes make up less than a tenth of a percent of highschool athletes, and there is no research to prove that transgender students outperform or in any way receive greater recognition than other students in highschool sports. A transgender sports ban does NOT make sports safer for female athletes, who are much more likely to be endangered by their coaches and medical personnel than their fellow athletes. How would this ban be enforced, a genital inspection? The thought of such should make any reasonable person sick.

I was a student athlete, and I believe welcoming anyone interested into sports creates a better environment for all. It is apparent that transgender individuals have become the latest scapegoat for politicians to draw ire against for their own political gain. This hate has no place in Wisconsin. By banning transgender students from sports, you would be opening the gateway for further discrimination and erasure of transgender people. I oppose Assembly Bill 100.

-

Assembly Bill 103 would take away individual liberties and free speech. An administration is in power now that champions free speech, yet bills like this keep getting pushed to censor the rights of the individual. Referring to a student by their chosen name and pronouns hurts no one and makes the student feel more validated and welcomed in their classes. Many students live in abusive situations at home, and informing their legal guardians about their chosen pronouns or names could lead to more abuse, neglect, or even suicide. I support youth counseling, therapy, and any actions possible to make students feel welcome and included at school. This is how you can improve students' mental health. A teacher who feels they have the right to disrespect the identity of a student does not belong in Wisconsin schools. I oppose Assembly Bill 103.

-

Let it be known that I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Thank you for **your** consideration.

-

Wyatt Taylor

Monona, Wisconsin 53713
(937) 620-2936

To the members of the Assembly,

I am writing today in opposition to bills AB 100 and AB 103. I am a social work professor and mental health researcher and a parent. While Republicans declare themselves to be for small government and personal liberty, they have taken aim at trans people's rights to normally engage in day to day life and define themselves in their day to day interactions. As a mental health researcher, I'm concerned about the effect of anti-trans legislation, as a 2024 article in the journal Nature Human Behavior (State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA, by Lee, Hobbs, et al) has found that the introduction of state-level anti-trans legislation increases the risk of suicide attempts in transgender youth. At a time when youth suicide rates are already higher than the historical average, we must take every possible step to avoid the irreparable harm of bills such as AB 100 and AB 103.

Regarding AB 100 - it is an example of governmental overreach, with no public benefit. Rep Dittrich stated that approximately "a half dozen" transgender youth are involved in school sports in Wisconsin. Creating legislation that is targeted at less than 10 youth in the entire state is inappropriate and harmful. This also violates the privacy of youth athletes, by aggressively questioning by their presenting gender.

Regarding AB 103 - youth should have the freedom to define themselves and how they wish to be addressed. Parents do not own their children and school districts should honor their right to choose how they are acknowledged and addressed in the school room. Schools should work to make sure all youth are accepted by their school communities, not create barriers against self expression. There is no one harmed by a student being able to make choices regarding how they prefer to be addressed.

Thank you for your time,
Dr. Jane Hereth

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education, I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 67 years, worked in healthcare for 44 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen. I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, equal, inclusive, caring education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,

Ellen McAllister
Oregon, WI 53575

Laura Schade Stroik
1001 Lindbergh Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481
schade.stroik@hey.com

Committee on Education
Capitol Building

Subject: Opposition of AB100 and AB103

To the Committee on Education:

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

I am writing to express my opposition to legislation regarding student name and pronoun use (AB100) and gender-based restrictions in school sports (AB103). These bills impose unnecessary and harmful restrictions on students and infringe on personal and parental rights while also creating exclusionary and hostile environments for transgender, non-binary, and potentially gay and lesbian youth.

Both bills strip students of individuality and uniqueness and disregard their fundamental right to be unique. While it has been a while since I attended elementary, middle, or high school, it was awkward for all of us. Schools often represent safe spaces for youth. It is a space where we can find adults to confide in, grow our circle of friends, and experience all the weirdness of growing up. Forcing schools to effectively out a small population of students removes the safety net provided by schools. It ruins the trust of instructors, principals, and administrators. These policies are not in place to protect students but to discriminate against them. There is nothing supporting student well-being in these bills. Forcing children to withhold their identity leads to poor mental health, poorer grades, and poor overall well-being.

Restricting sports to "biological sex" ruins intramural sports and team building at large while creating exclusionary environments. What is crucial about sports is that they allow people to participate in athletics, which affirms and builds confidence regardless of identity. Athletics also provide mentoring, leadership, discipline, and personal growth opportunities. If the fear is trans or non-binary youth sharing locker rooms and bathrooms with cisgender youth, the remedy is simple: Gender-inclusive locker rooms and bathrooms make those spaces safer for all.

Moreover, we are discussing a student body comprising 0.6-1.5% of the teen population. The LGBTQ youth of Wisconsin is fragile and tender and needs any support they can find. They feel more awkward than their peers. My students know I may not recall their names, but my goal as an educator is to see them for who they are and not what they are. When we start seeing youth for who they are, their confidence blossoms.

These bills do not serve the best interests of Wisconsin students. They contribute to stigma, discrimination, and harm against a vulnerable population. I urge you to oppose these measures and focus on policies that better support our students and educators. We must ensure our schools are welcoming, inviting, and inclusive learning environments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will oppose these bills and advocate for policies supporting Wisconsin students and educators.

Sincerely,
Laura Schade Stroik
Stevens Point, WI

Some resources:

Ravindranath O, Perica MI, Parr AC, Ojha A, McKeon SD, Montano G, Ullendorff N, Luna B, Edmiston EK. Adolescent neurocognitive development and decision-making abilities regarding gender-affirming care. Dev Cogn Neurosci. 2024 Jun;67:101351. doi: 10.1016/j.dcn.2024.101351. Epub 2024 Feb 12. PMID: 38383174; PMCID: PMC11247355.

Tordoff DM, Wanta JW, Collin A, Stepney C, Inwards-Breland DJ, Ahrens K. Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care. JAMA Netw Open. 2022 Feb 1;5(2):e220978. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978. Erratum in: JAMA Netw Open. 2022 Jul 1;5(7):e2229031. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.29031. PMID: 35212746; PMCID: PMC8881768.

New estimates show 300,000 youth ages 13-17 identify as transgender in the US. - June 2022

Laura Schade Stroik, IIDA, WRID

To the members of the Assembly Committee

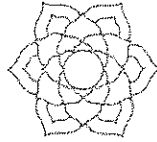
My name is Mack, I live in Eau Claire, zip code 54701. I strongly oppose bills AB100 and AB103. Excluding trans students from participating in sports teams that align with their gender identity and requiring all Wisconsin school boards to adopt policies regarding a student's legal name and pronouns in official school records is discriminatory and pernicious to students' learning environments.

These bills violate students' privacy and create unsafe learning environments. Requiring written authorization from a student's parent/guardian to refer to a student by their preferred pronouns and requiring notice of a name or pronoun change request be provided to a student's parent/guardian violates trans students' privacy. No child should be required to answer invasive questions or undergo physical inspections of private parts by adult strangers.

I identify as trans myself. People like me deserve to have childhoods just like any other. Schools should be a safe space for *ALL* students, including trans students. Trans children are not a threat and deserve to be protected and included as any other child. Trans people have always existed and always will. Being trans is not a choice or an ideology. Passing AB100 and AB103 is a blatant attempt to make trans youths' lives more difficult, to make them feel excluded and unsafe at school.

I ask that you please, do *NOT* support these bills.

Thank you



EMPOWERED
THERAPY LLC

March 6th, 2025

Honorable members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Ashley Jolly, and I am a counselor working in Janesville, Wisconsin at Empowered Therapy LLC. I am writing to you today to speak on behalf of the mental health and well-being of all students, particularly transgender and nonbinary youth, who are directly impacted by policies AB100 and AB103 which aims to restrict students' choice of name and gender use in schools and limit their participation in sports. I firmly oppose AB100 and AB103 and hope that you will do the same.

As a mental health professional, I work with young people every day. I see the devastating effects of rejection, isolation, and systemic barriers to identity affirmation. Research is clear: when transgender students are supported—when their names and pronouns are respected and they are allowed to participate fully in school life—their mental health outcomes improve significantly. Conversely, when they face restrictive policies, their risk of anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicide increases. A study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* found that using a trans student's chosen name in affirming environments reduced suicide risk by over 56%.

School should be a place where every student feels safe, valued, and able to learn. Forcing educators to police names and pronouns, or banning students from sports teams that align with their identities, sends a message that some students don't belong. This is not just a political issue—it's a crisis of mental health and human dignity.

Policies that target transgender youth do not protect anyone; they harm some of our most vulnerable students. Instead of placing unnecessary restrictions, we should be fostering environments of belonging, where every student has the chance to thrive. As legislators, I urge you to listen to the mental health professionals, the educators, and most importantly, the students themselves. Their well-being and lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

Ashley Jolly

Licensed Professional Counselor - In Training

Empowered Therapy LLC

4465 Milton Ave STE 107

Janesville, WI 53546

Phone: 608-302-6395 Fax: 608-302-6381

www.empoweredtherapyllc.com

Citation:

Russell ST, Pollitt AM, Li G, Grossman AH. Chosen Name Use Is Linked to Reduced Depressive Symptoms, Suicidal Ideation, and Suicidal Behavior Among Transgender Youth. *J Adolesc Health*. 2018 Oct;63(4):503-505. doi: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.02.003. Epub 2018 Mar 30. PMID: 29609917; PMCID: PMC6165713.

Dear WI State Assembly Committee on Education,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103. These bills discriminate against trans people and deepen the harm for them and put arbitrary restrictions on the freedoms of people.

Don't discriminate.

Don't prevent people from living their lives.

Wisconsin doesn't need you spending time on things that are not problems. These bills are based on made-up problems, false, and ridiculous reasoning. Do your job and focus on solving the real problems that are impacting our state.

Trans people belong everywhere.

Sincerely,
Kathryn H Thompson (she / her)
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

As a Wisconsin resident, I am strongly opposed to Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. This legislation targets a minority group for no other reason than to be cruel and scapegoat rather than focus on real issues that the people of Wisconsin need to have addressed.

Every student deserves to feel comfortable and safe in their learning environment, whether that be participating in sports or being addressed how they choose.

Thank you.
Morgan Thompson
West Allis, 53214

Dear Representatives,

My name is Kristy Bark, I am a Wisconsin constituent living here in Madison, WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103, currently proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and AB 103 are clearly designed to act as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US, and they do nothing but alienate transgender kids and make life less safe for them.

As one of your constituents, I urge you to vote against both AB 100 and AB 103. **As a Christian, I am appalled that we would try to use the power of the Legislature to be cruel to a small, minority population.** A 2024 study (linked below) showed that anti-transgender laws cause up to 72% increase in suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth. **Passing anti-trans legislation is not pro-life.**

I am not at all concerned about trans athletes playing sports. I am VERY concerned about the health and safety of trans kids - I want them here in the world, I want them to feel seen and included (just as I want my own kids to feel seen and included).

Please reject these cruel and unnecessary bills.

Sincerely,
Kristy Bark
1101 Marg Street
Madison, WI 53716

Study: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/anti-transgender-laws-cause-up-to-72-increase-in-suicide-attempts-among-transgender-and-nonbinary-youth-study-shows/>

To the members of the Assembly or Senate Committee on AB100 and AB103,

My name is Heaven Goldbeck and I am concerned about the consequences of AB100 and AB103. If these were to pass, it would be detrimental to all children, not just the ones they target. We tell kids to treat everyone fairly, to respect everyone, and these bills push the opposite. I have lived in Wisconsin my whole life. I have several people in my life who identify as trans and nonbinary, through all of which I have seen how life saving equality can be to them. Using the right pronouns and being included in spaces like sports and school activities. If these types of bills were to pass here, this would be incredibly detrimental to our trans youth here in Wisconsin. If we say we care about our children, we need to respect and protect them ALL. For these reasons, I do not support AB100 and AB103. I hope you consider testimony when making your decision on these topics. Thank you.

Heaven Goldbeck
MADISON WI, 53715

2025 Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103 address no cognizable harm and will inflict needless harm on innocent students. Furthermore, decisions on who plays in what sports league and what children can be called at school and in school records are best made by the athletic organizations, the school boards, and the students themselves, not the state legislature. For these reasons I oppose both bills.

David Giersch
Thiensville, WI 53092

Dear Representatives,

I am a Wisconsin resident of Madison. I am submitting written testimony AGAINST Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting today, March 6, 2025.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans-athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. As such, they promise absolutely no benefit to anyone, but do promise to alienate and endanger transgender children.

As your constituent and a steadfast voter, I implore you to vote against these hate-filled bills. If you vote for them, you are inviting violence into the lives of innocent Wisconsinites. Please uphold your commitment to serve the good of all who call this great state home.

Sincerely,
Lailah Shima

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 13 years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an education free from harassment and discrimination.

Gendering sports hurts all of us. Sports was the way I was able to connect with my dad who was a man of few words but was always ready to throw a ball with you in the backyard. Those are some of my most cherished memories with my dad so when I had the opportunity to play baseball through the local community center the summer before 5th grade, I jumped at the chance. When I went to sign up, we were told that in spite of me being 10 years old because I was a girl I would have to start with T-ball and play with 5 year old boys. If I was a boy, I would have been able to play baseball with boys my own age. Since I wanted to improve my skillset, I opted to play softball with girls my age instead of baseball. This was short lived since a couple summers later when I was 12 years old, the softball team changed their uniforms from the same uniform the boys playing baseball wore - pants and a jersey to shorts and a sleeveless v-neck. I'm almost six feet tall so the shorts barely covered my backside and I'd need to wear a sliding pad to actually play the sport. That with the comments grown men made about how good I looked in those short shorts was too much for a young child to continue enjoy the sport. I quit and haven't played softball since.

Today I enjoy playing basketball, kickball, and volleyball in co-ed rec leagues but am still disappointed by the negative experiences I had as a child around gender segregated sports. Everyone deserves to be respected and treated with dignity and to have the opportunity to learn valuable lessons sports instill about teamwork and community. I hope that you all will take these important lessons and focus on policies that support and uplift our children like funding public schools and addressing mental health provider shortages instead of promoting discrimination of our children.

Thank you for your time.

Elizabeth Doyle
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Representatives,

My name is Christina Jones, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Monona, WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills because I care about trans kids in my community and I want them to feel safe, loved and respected at school, as all children should.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Christina Jones

To the members of the Assembly,

My name is Kailea Saplan. I have lived in Madison (currently 53704) since 2016, when I moved here to attend the prestigious University of Wisconsin, Madison as a graduate student. I study learning and educational design.

I am emailing to say that I oppose AB100 and AB103.

I could speak against these bills as a non-binary (aka trans) adult who has found immense joy and peace in my identity. But I would rather speak against it as an educator. Schools are places of learning; we learn about math, science, and the arts, but we also learn about ourselves, who we are and who we want to be. Developmentally speaking, it's important for young people to try on new ideas and identities in a safe and supportive space. That way, they can step into the world as adults with a stronger sense of who they are and what they want to do. These bills do not allow for nuance, understanding, or safety for any student. They push gender queer and questioning students to hide and possibly make unsafe choices. They prohibit non-trans students from learning about and navigating space with people who are different from them, leaving them ill-prepared for the real world.

The bottom line is we all care about student safety. Let's find a way to support trans and non-trans youth with legislation that does not effectively single out and discriminate against one of these populations. Please do not support these bills.
Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Kailea Saplan

they/them
University of Wisconsin, Madison

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100 and AB103 that take away the rights of transgender people to live happily in society and participate in sports as teenagers. As a cisgender woman and a former high school varsity athlete from Port Washington, Wisconsin, I can tell you that the genitalia of my teammates were not among my many high school concerns. I was a lot more concerned about the mental health of my teammates, a common challenge for transgender people. There is research that shows that teens who get gender affirming care have better mental health than transgender people who wait until they are adults--I have attached the scientific study here.

Just because a competitor was born male doesn't mean they're going to be better than every girl on the team. This bill totally ignores the complexity of the biologic picture and the variation of human ability, in addition to the mental health of transgender students being forced into a role that doesn't fit them. It ignores the fact that transgender girls on hormone replacement therapy are likely to perform similarly to other girls on the team--and if they're better, it might just be because they're great athletes, not because they're transgender. There were plenty of girls that were significantly better than I was, and plenty that were worse, and transgender kids can fall anywhere on that spectrum just like anyone else. Additionally, the risk that boys are going to put up with the daily intolerance and fear that transgender people contend with, the changes of hormone replacement therapy, not to mention the legislature trying to systematically strip their rights away, in order to win at girls' sports is frankly laughable.

The huge administrative burden you'd be putting on kids, families, and school districts with AB103 is also completely unnecessary and functions only to strip the rights away from kids who are coming to terms with who they are as they become teenagers. Making families go through a formal legal name change before you will call kids their preferred name and pronouns is ridiculous. If all my life I've been called Joey but in high school I request that my friends and teachers call me Joe, nobody requires me to fill out a million forms and pay money and go through a waiting period at court and publish it in the newspaper and then allow the principal to decide if anyone can call me Joe. But if I want to be called Jo, that's different? And the insinuation in this bill that people wanting to change their names might be sex offenders or changing their names to "interfere with the rights of others" is just ugly bigotry.

Transgender people are people. They have a long history in many cultures all over the world, and they have always been here with us, it is just that now we are seeing them. Legislating bigotry is not going to make them go away. It is not going to make transgender kids decide they aren't transgender after all.

Support our kids. Vote against AB100 and AB103.

Sincerely,
Erin Lemley
Madison, WI 53704

This is my testimony for Madison meeting on two Trans bills on 3/6/2025.

My husband and I were on a trans journey with our son when he was in high school. Being transgender is not a choice and is not an ideology. Our son and all transgender people are real and are human beings! They deserve acknowledgement and respect for being their authentic selves!

Their lives are difficult enough without laws being introduced that say trans athletes cannot participate in any sport they choose. None of us know how important a sport can be to a school age child or teen.

And about pronouns. YES! They are important! Finally when a person has the courage to come out as their authentic self, they need to be acknowledged for who they are, and our language does a majority of that through pronouns. As unique as every person is, and to reduce genders to only two, is not respectful nor intelligent. Scientifically, it even borders on the ridiculous!

Thank you for reading this.

Ruth Granger-Wellens

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 14 years. I am a parent of two young girls, both of whom are involved in club sports, and an active member of a Lutheran church. I am writing on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of children and youth, have the right to participate fully in school without fear of harassment or discrimination.

My daughters have both been on girls' sports teams that include both trans and straight girls. They both have classmates and friends who use pronouns and names different from the ones they were given when they were born. In all cases, interactions with those teammates and classmates have been about being a team or a peer together—typical kids...building skills, learning lessons, and having fun together.

In all their years of playing and learning together, there has never once been an instance of harm done because cis and trans girls were playing together or because cis and trans kids were expected to use each others' preferred names and pronouns. On the other hand, I know many stories of kids whose sense of belonging, safety, and ability to learn has been damaged because they were prevented from being part of a team that matched their gender identity or outed at school or repeatedly called by a name different from the one they'd choose. These bills are based on adult prejudices, not kids' realities or the preponderance of data and evidence—and they have no business becoming law.

Let kids play. Let kids learn.

Sincerely,
Christa Olson
Madison, WI 53711

To the members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing to you today as a woman on behalf of her chosen family. When I think of trans kids, I see them as my own, and I view it as my sworn duty to protect them. A dear friend of mine has a daughter, Lily, who is currently in school, and I know she already struggles due to the way some of her peers see and treat her. These bills would put her in a position to never be treated or seen as who she truly is, and I genuinely believe they would put her life, as well as those of many other children, in grave danger.

I implore you to oppose AB100 and 103. I am terrified of the slow slide we're seeing in the bills being passed and proposed in this country; I am a transplant to Wisconsin, and I am proud to call it home. I want to be able to stay here, and I want my other transgender kin and myself to be safe. Bills like this are a senseless attack on people like me and like Lily, who just want to live our lives in peace like anyone else. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Samantha van Loon

Sam van Loon — *she/her* (what's this?)
samcvanloon@gmail.com
(773) 791-0791
samvanloon.com

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

Please reject Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Transgender children and young adults are under attack at a time when what they really need is to be nurtured and supported. Our transgender kids need to grow up with healthy acceptance and celebration for the beautiful beings that they are. They need to express their authentic selves in school and in the community. Diversity is our strength and compassion is the way.

Sincerely,
Beth Wellinghoff
Shorewood, 53211

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Katie Gilbert, and I am a school psychologist residing in Fitchburg. In my work at school, one of my roles is to help students feel safe and welcomed in expressing themselves and their identities. The AB100 and AB 103 bills would affect that work detrimentally as I no longer would be able to ensure that students' are being honored in their identities and feel safe in spaces at school. I have firsthand witnessed the comfort and joy that students in the LGBTQ+ community have felt when their names and pronouns are used, as well as comfort in knowing that they can access all opportunities and safe spaces that other students can. These bills would most definitely have a negative impact on students' belonging, mental health, and safety and security in our schools.

Please consider my statement, as well as the many opposing testimonies, when considering the harm that passing these bills may do to our children and youth.

Sincerely,

Katie Gilbert

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

As not only a voter and born and raised Wisconsinite, and as an educator, I am strongly against the introduction of bills AB 100 and AB 103.

Targeting this vulnerable population of school children is completely inconsistent with the values of our state and a complete abdication of the responsibility you all have to be our ethical and moral leaders. This is a solution without a problem. Transgender children are not a threat to our society. This was a made up "problem" created for political gain. If you really cared about school children you would protect them from school shootings, not from pronouns.

I urge you to stay true to the good caring values of Wisconsin and not give in to fear mongering and hate.

Tyler Fassnacht

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 12 years, have served the community as a physician during my time and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination. As ultimately we should understand the mental health consequences of exclusion especially among marginalized populations.

Sincerely,
Andrew Spiel MD
Madison, WI 53705

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 7 years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, caring and non-judgemental education free from harassment and discrimination. As the mother of a child at Crestwood Elementary, I am teaching them to respect and support their classmates' choices of identity and self-expression, in addition to treating everyone with care and compassion for their individual differences and struggles.

We know several children whom this would directly affect in a negative and harmful way to their self-expression, confidence and safety, but it would affect all children as we teach them how to treat their fellow person through our example (and laws). Please do not pass these bills. We do not want this and we will continue to fight for the rights of all children.

Sincerely,
Katherine (Katie) Spencer
Madison, WI 53705

To the Committee on Education:

The scientific evidence has shown that, based on many chromosomal, hormonal and psychological factors, gender identification and sexual orientation occur across a spectrum. Furthermore, scientific research has shown that alignment with an individual's beliefs regarding their gender and sexual orientation will reduce the likelihood of victimization, anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.

I talk with people daily who are struggling to live productive lives due to the stigma and trauma they have experienced in our society related to their gender and sexual orientation. Our societal history of judgement and recrimination toward people who are different or do not fit in has caused the downward spiral of poverty, addiction, and deaths of despair we are seeing today.

Please start leading with compassion for ALL people!

Vote against Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

Kind regards,

Dr. Amy Schoenoff, DNP, PMHNP-BC, APNP
901 Broadway Street
Baraboo, WI 53913

To the members of the Assembly:

My name is Erica Krug and I live in Madison, Wis. My zip code is 53714.

I am writing in opposition to AB100 and AB103.

I have lived in Madison, Wisconsin my entire life and my professional career has been dedicated to public service and supporting youth through my roles as an educator in Madison Metropolitan School District, a member of Madison's service industry, and now as Farm to School Director for a local nonprofit organization. My husband is also an English teacher at a Madison high school and has a transgender sibling.

We need to stand up for our LGBTQ+ youth and do everything we can to protect their rights and make sure they feel safe in schools. Stop the attack of the most vulnerable, and start putting your energy on issues that actually matter and protect our children, like funding our public schools, supporting legislation for Healthy School Meals for All, and gun reform.

Thank you,

Erica Krug

Dear Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Alex Shah, and I live in Milwaukee, 53210. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my position on AB100 and AB103.

I encourage you to vote NO on AB100, the bill that would ban trans athletes from competing on sports teams that align with their gender identity. This bill affects such a small minority of people and does not protect anyone. No athlete is changing their gender identity to have a better chance at winning. These kids are already going through enough trying to survive in a society that disproportionately targets them for discrimination (like AB100), without having the option to play in a sport that would bring them joy stripped away from them. Also, how will this be enforced? Genital checks? Are you going to tell a biological female girl with masculine features that she can't play because she doesn't look enough like a girl? This is harmful to kids and does nothing but further disenfranchise an already persecuted minority who are just trying to live normal lives.

As for AB103, people should be called what they want to be called. They should be called by the pronouns they want to be called. It is insane that this is even being debated. I was born a man and identify as a man and go by he/him. It would be uncomfortable to be referred to as "she/her" on a regular basis because that's not who I am. Rejecting someone's preferred pronouns is profoundly disrespectful and doing it through legislation is truly despicable. This is a cruel bill that does not help any kids, it only harms kids who are already in the minority.

We are better than this in Wisconsin. Please vote no on both of these bills.

-Alex

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

Our community, who loves and cares for our queer and trans children through all ways they explore self expression and identity through learning and playing, vehemently reject the draconian and transphobic intent of AB 100 and AB 103.

My name is Autumn and I'm a long time resident of Madison. I'm a caring neighbor in the Bay Creek neighborhood, public library worker, UW-Madison alumni, and a part of the deeply rooted queer and trans community here.

Frankly, I'm fucking angry that our youth have to deal with this legislative violence. They should be able to play, learn, develop friendships, make art, try softball or soccer or swimming (to be a part of a team, fuck your late capitalistic competitive trip) explore their community, live--live without the constant fear of becoming scapegoats for your deranged version of freedom and safe communities. You don't care about their safety. Live to become teenagers, young adults, parents, elders. Instead, you're asking them to make a case for why they should exist. You're dragging them into these shameful legislative halls and sacrificing them. You don't deserve their trust or their faith. You're wasting their time and literally taking their lives.

I don't want to see another bill unless it's overwhelming in support of kids being able to freely express themselves and participate in their childhood without fear of erasure or violence from their peers. Actually, the parents of their peers. You're trying to own something that can't be bought: imagination. You're trying to control something that should be immovable and sacred: the dignity to be exactly who we are. God created us exactly as we are, trans and beautiful and complex and bold and brave and also with the right to just be.

I don't want to see another bill about children unless it's about increasing their access to nourishing food, supporting their literacy, creating more green spaces to play, ensuring their cultures are reflected in their education, encouraging their imaginations to flourish, ensuring they aren't gunned down in the classroom, they have a healthy climate to care for in the next generations. That's what we want to see. That's what matters.

All power to the people. God, Goddess, whatever you give your faith to--the people--bless all our kids in all their brilliances and expressions of who they are. Let them become.

Ever,

Autumn

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 40 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a dignity-affirming and inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Laws like these do not protect girls' and women's access to sport. Instead, they create greater inequality and fail to address actual barriers to access like a lack of resources, lack of training, and lack of investment in women coaches. Additionally, this creates an othering for transgender boys who also feel like they do not have a place.

And they are a 'solution' in search of a problem: 23 states had athletic inclusion policies that allow transgender youth athletes to play alongside their peers—providing for a level playing field and protecting transgender youth from discrimination. These policies made it possible to create pathways to participation for aspiring athletes. Furthermore, major athletic associations such as the NCAA, the International Olympic Committee, and USA Gymnastics had instituted policies that allow transgender athletes to participate professionally and were not able to be shown to cause irreversible harm such as the rhetoric and legislation like this does for the mental health of our students, families, and supporters.

Local schools across the nation had created policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they worked. Blanket bans on transgender student athletes undermine those local efforts.

We need our lawmakers to pay attention to issues that matter—not look for ways to make life harder for transgender and nonbinary youth. We welcome legislation and policy that would proactively work to improve the health, well-being, and safety of transgender and nonbinary youth and send a clear and unequivocal message that they are seen, loved, and welcomed in all aspects of their community.

Rachel Frieders
Madison, WI 53711

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
I oppose AB 100 and AB103 and strongly urge you to vote no on both bills.

The bills represent non-solutions to non-problems.

They target and scapegoat our transgender youth.

The bills are unacceptable and immoral.

Please take the time and make the effort to learn more about established science and medicine relevant to these critically important issues.

To paraphrase Federal Judge Herson, who noted recently regarding a lawsuit targeting young trans people, the evidence is “unfounded” and “lacks clinical experience or research qualifications” ... to support proposed policy changes.

“Transgender people and their supportive parents and families are good and decent people who deserve the freedom to be themselves and to thrive”, as PFLAG stated in a related comment.

Vote no on AB100 and AB103.

Thank you.

Jo Haberman
W4490 State Road 35
Maiden Rock, Wisconsin
54750

To the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 13 years. I've taught in our great state's public schools and currently work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, equal, and inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination. Trans rights are human rights and politicians that pass laws inhibiting human rights are always on the wrong side of history.

Sincerely,
Nathaniel Liedl
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Wisconsin Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, both of which seek to impose harmful restrictions on transgender and nonbinary students in our schools. These bills are not just unnecessary — they are dangerous.

AB100, which would force school sports teams to be designated solely based on biological sex, blatantly excludes transgender students from participating fully in school life. AB103, which would require schools to get parental permission before using a student's preferred name and pronouns, places vulnerable children at further risk, especially those who may not have supportive homes.

There is clear, established research showing that transgender and nonbinary youth face significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation than their cisgender peers. However, studies have also shown that simply respecting a trans student's preferred name and gender identity drastically reduces these risks. According to research published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, using a trans youth's chosen name reduces depression symptoms by 71% and suicidal thoughts by 34%. Denying that basic respect — especially in a place where students are supposed to feel safe, like school — only compounds the isolation, distress, and hopelessness that so many trans youth already face.

Schools should be a safe haven where all students are valued for who they are — not spaces where identity becomes a battleground for political agendas. These bills not only harm individual students, but they also send a cruel message to all LGBTQ+ youth in Wisconsin that their identities are invalid, unwelcome, and subject to government control.

I urge you to reject AB100 and AB103 and instead work toward policies that foster inclusivity, understanding, and compassion in our schools. All students — including transgender and nonbinary students — deserve to feel safe, respected, and supported.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Whitney

1825 Harrison St. Apt 10

Neenah, WI, 54956

Andrew.whitney990@gmail.com

(920)915-5113

Dear Representatives,

My name is Elly Hazard and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103.

These bills are trans athlete bans and restrict name and pronoun changes for trans youth. There has been a wave of anti-trans legislation sweeping our country and putting people in danger.

I implore you to vote against these bills. Trans people have every right to exist fully and peacefully as members of our society. We know that restricting trans' youth ability to access care and express themselves results in harm, and even suicide.

Please acknowledge your trans constituents and vote against these bills.

Thank you,
Elly

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

Please reject Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Transgender children and young adults are under attack at a time when what they really need is to be nurtured and supported. Our transgender kids need to grow up with healthy acceptance and celebration for the beautiful beings that they are. They need to express their authentic selves in school and in the community. Diversity is our strength and compassion is the way.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sontvedt
Milwaukee, 53212

To the members of the Assembly Committee

My name is Haley, I live in Madison, zip code 53703. I strongly oppose bills AB100 and AB103. Excluding trans students from participating in sports teams that align with their gender identity and requiring all Wisconsin school boards to adopt policies regarding a student's legal name and pronouns in official school records is discriminatory and pernicious to students' learning environments.

These bills violate students' privacy and create unsafe learning environments. Requiring written authorization from a student's parent/guardian to refer to a student by their preferred pronouns and requiring notice of a name or pronoun change request be provided to a student's parent/guardian violates trans students' privacy. No child should be required to answer invasive questions or undergo physical inspections of private parts by adult strangers.

I am not trans, but I have people in my life who are. They deserve to have childhoods just like any other. School should be a safe space for *ALL* students, including trans students. Trans children are not a threat and deserve to be protected and included as any other child. Trans people have always existed and always will. Being trans is not a choice or an ideology. Passing AB100 and AB103 is a blatant attempt to make trans youths' lives more difficult, to make them feel excluded and unsafe at school.

I ask that you please, do *NOT* support these bills.

Thank you

My name is Lauryn Branham, and I am a long time Wisconsin and Madison resident, who has been heavily involved in the support of our community and its education, especially for the children within it.

I am writing today in strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, which would impose harmful restrictions on transgender students in our schools. These bills do not protect children—they isolate and exclude them, sending a message that some students are less worthy of respect and participation than others. As someone who values fairness, dignity, and inclusion, I cannot stay silent while legislation is introduced that targets vulnerable children simply for being who they are.

While my wife and I do not yet have children, we plan to in the future, and we want them to grow up in a state that values inclusivity, fairness, and respect for all students. We also have close friends who are transgender, and I have seen firsthand the struggles they face simply trying to exist in a world that too often refuses to acknowledge their identities. During my time volunteering in after-school programs, I worked with young children from diverse backgrounds, each of them trying to figure out who they are and where they fit in. Schools should be places of growth, support, and affirmation, not places where students feel rejected or forced into rigid categories that do not reflect their true selves. These bills would tell transgender children that they do not belong, that their identities are not valid, and that they cannot participate fully in school life unless they conform to something they are not.

I am compelled to speak out because I cannot stand by while legislation is passed that actively harms children—children who already face higher rates of bullying, mental health struggles, and even self-harm. These bills would further isolate transgender students by excluding them from sports, restricting their ability to be called by their chosen names and pronouns, and reinforcing policies that allow others to dictate their identities. This is not about fairness in sports or administrative consistency; it is about control over marginalized students' lives. No child should have to prove their identity through bureaucratic hurdles, seek approval from school administrators, or be denied participation in activities that bring them joy and connection.

Instead of policies that alienate and exclude, we should be focusing on creating school environments where all students feel safe and accepted. I urge the committee to support initiatives that affirm and protect transgender students, including clear policies against discrimination, access to gender-inclusive sports teams, and processes that respect students' names and pronouns without placing unnecessary barriers in their way. Schools should be places of learning and community, not of exclusion and shame.

Thank you, members of the committee, for taking the time to consider my testimony. I urge you to reflect on the impact these bills will have on transgender youth and their families and to reject legislation that does nothing but make life harder for already vulnerable students. I appreciate your time and consideration and hope you will choose to stand on the side of inclusion, dignity, and respect for all Wisconsin students.

Dear the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Lori Messany and I live in Baraboo, WI 53913.

I am completing this written testimony to protest three anti-trans bills introduced by Republican state assembly representatives. AB 100 known as the Anti-Trans Sports bill (K-12), AB 102 known as the Anti-Trans Sports bill (College), and AB 103 known as Denying Preferred Names and Pronouns in School are all deeply rooted in transphobic inaccurate rhetoric that when set in motion will not only harm trans children, but cis children as well.

Speaking of AB 100, how will this law be enforced at school districts? How will schools know if certain children are trans? If trans children are no longer allowed to play sports, then certain districts will take it upon themselves to enforce this law in an inappropriate manner that will traumatize the very children they are "trying" to protect.

Children just want to have fun and enjoy life. Shouldn't they be allowed the same childhood as other kids? They should be able to play sports with their friends and they should be treated with respect if they feel their pronouns or name do not match who they really are. It really doesn't take a lot of effort to believe children and respect their wishes. The goal should be to protect this minority population of children, not drive them towards mental health crises.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lori Messany
Baraboo, WI 53913

To the committee,
My name is Ben Petershack and I am from Madison.

I write this in opposition to both bills, I find it highly offensive and dangerous that my tax dollars are being used to marginalize an already marginalized community.

School sports and basic courtesy are for everyone. Instead of bullying an already at risk community perhaps you could use your time to improve the material conditions of your constituents.

Sports provide a place of exercise and community building, neither of which is in any way diminished by allowing any child to participate.

If you cared in any way about these kids you would tear these bills up and work to enshrine protections for everyone.

Ben Petershack

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 10 years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,
Michael Pappas
Madison, WI 53705

March 5, 2025

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Aaron Zeleske. I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting this as written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans children, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the United States and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create climate of fear.

As one of your constituents, I implore you to vote against these proposed bills. I have trans family members and friends. They simply wish to be left to live their own lives. They are not a threat to anyone. Their existence as trans people does not harm anyone. They are **not** a political issue. They are people who just want to be. Please, just let them be. Let them be themselves.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As representatives of Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Aaron Zeleske
941 N 29th St
Milwaukee, WI. 53208

To the members of the Assembly or Senate Committee:

I am extremely concerned about bills AB100 and AB103 targeting the hateful bias towards transgender athletes and students. These bills are harmful and completely unnecessary. More people need to educate themselves to learn transgender children are like any other children and need to free to live without discrimination.

Jeanne Williams

McFarland, WI

My name is Chris Havey. I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Pewaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting of March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids – and allied – and create a climate of fear rather than community.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people, and anyone supporting basic human rights to be true to themselves. As representative of Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the people you represent – straight, gay and trans – and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

-Chris

Chris Havey

N17W27450 Lakefield Dr

Pewaukee, WI 53072

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.
I'm writing as a private citizen who is a born and raised Wisconsinite, a resident for my 50 years of life.

I completely oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an education free from harassment and discrimination.
I believe the cruel performance in rolling out these bills and similar already speaks volumes but you still have time to determine the content of the message our kids hear from you. You can do the right thing. These are ongoing anti-intellectual and cultural attacks meant to distract people and scapegoat my fellow Wisconsinites and their families and loved ones. Homophobic and transphobic community looters and their supporters are openly using each and every person who checks empathy and reason at the door.

This is not the way you or WE want to be remembered. We are all better. Please represent that. No matter what you've said or done in the past, now is the time to represent that we all can be better and that this cruelty against your fellow residents and their families and loved ones should never stand. This is anti-human, anti-American rhetoric and such legislation must be bravely opposed. Please do the right thing.

Human beings deserve health, safety, dignity, growth and you can truly represent those rights. These bills destroy those rights and harm people. Anti-trans and homophobic legislation harms actual people you actually love,

Sincerely,
Megan Rothstein
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562

Dear Representatives,

My name is Tara Tschillard, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Madison. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronounce changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate and harm transgender kids, and all children, and create a climate of fear rather than understanding, safety, and cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. I was born and raised in Madison, went through the Madison public schools and participated in sports. Schools and sports can be some of the safest and most encouraging places for kids to learn and grow and become who they are. These bills hinder a child's ability to feel safe exploring who they are- something all kids should be encouraged to do and adults should support. This is nothing but the same fear mongering and moral panic drummed up against Queer people throughout history, it is unfounded and created only to harm the most vulnerable populations. You can choose not to discriminate and instead allow vulnerable communities to thrive.

Trans people exist, have always existed, and will continue to exist at every age regardless of these bills. But to enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people, and further harm all children- because yes even non-trans kids are harmed by these bills, but even if they weren't- harming trans kids is wrong! As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Tara Tschillard
Madison, WI 53713

Dear Assembly Committee of Education Members,

My name is Andrea Lindberg, I live in Madison, my zip code is 53711.

I am writing to express my opposition to assembly bill 100 and 103.

As a former teacher I have a deep understanding of how vital it is that a child's personal identity be honored. Schools must protect and support children. Trans youth are not a threat. They deserve to feel safe, respected and cared for at school. It is well documented that not providing an environment that nurtures trans youth, like all youth, can lead to mental health issues which can affect a person's whole life.

I ask you to vote to protect trans youth and be an example of compassion to all youth.
Thank you.

To the members of the committee on education,

Please vote against bills AB100 and AB103. It is important to me that trans youth in our state can fully participate in civic life and can be safe at school. Taking away their ability to participate in athletics will hurt these children and will not improve outcomes for anyone else. Making it harder for children to be known by their chosen name and pronouns will hurt children. Please protect all of our Wisconsin children. We want them to be safe and thrive.

Thank you,
Luc Maker, Shorewood

Testimony on AB103 and AB100 Hannah Sedlacek

Hello, my name is Hannah Sedlacek, and I am a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community living in Dane County for the past 2 years. As someone who works closely with LGBTQ+ teens, I am deeply troubled by AB103 and AB100. These bills do not exist to protect children—they exist to erase trans kids, perpetuate stigma, and force them into environments where they are unsafe, unwelcome, and unseen.

We know the harm that policies like these cause. Research has consistently shown that **increased stigma, forced silence, and an unsupportive atmosphere lead to poor mental health outcomes and increased risk of suicide**. According to The Trevor Project, LGBTQ+ youth who live in affirming communities attempt suicide at **less than half the rate** of those in unaccepting environments. These bills send a clear message to trans kids: *You don't belong. You aren't wanted. You aren't valid.* And for many, that message can be deadly.

Forcing trans students to be misgendered by teachers, to use facilities that do not align with their gender, and to be excluded from sports is not about fairness—it is about control. It is about **punishing** trans kids for existing and forcing them into spaces that actively endanger them.

So I ask you: **Are you willing to abandon these kids for the comfort of a few?**

Silence is not a shield. The cost of inaction is too great. We have a responsibility to protect all children in our communities—including trans children. **We do not get to pick and choose which kids deserve safety, dignity, and belonging.**

Let's choose **courage** over fear.

Let's choose **integrity** over silence.

And most importantly, let's choose **them**.

I am writing today in opposition to bills AB 100 and AB 103. I am a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in Milwaukee and mother of two small children. While Republicans declare themselves to be for small government and personal liberty, they have taken aim at trans people's rights to normally engage in day to day life and define themselves in their day to day interactions. As a mental health provider, I'm concerned about the effect of anti-trans legislation, as a 2024 article in the journal Nature Human Behavior (State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA, by Lee, Hobbs, et al) has found that the introduction of state-level anti-trans legislation increases the risk of suicide attempts in transgender youth. At a time when youth suicide rates are already higher than the historical average, we must take every possible step to avoid the irreparable harm of bills such as AB 100 and AB 103.

Regarding AB 100 - it is an example of governmental overreach, with no public benefit. Rep Dittich stated that approximately "a half dozen" transgender youth are involved in school sports in Wisconsin. Creating legislation that is targeted at less than 10 youth in the entire state is inappropriate and harmful. This also violates the privacy of youth athletes, by aggressively questioning what their presenting gender.

Regarding AB 103 - youth should have the freedom to define themselves and how they wish to be addressed. Parents do not own their children and school districts should honor their right to choose how they are acknowledged and addressed in the school room. Schools should work to make sure all youth are accepted by their school communities, not create barriers against self expression. There is no one harmed by a student being able to make choices regarding how they prefer to be addressed.

Thank you for your time,
Annie Carrell, APNP
Milwaukee, WI 53212

To the Assembly Committee on Education:

I am a parent, grandparent, and retired teacher formerly at one of Wisconsin's top high schools (consistently ranked top 20 - if not top 10 - in all rankings, polls, and publications).

I *vehemently* oppose Assembly Bills 100 and 103. I strongly support all youth, including trans youth, and I abhor the intent of these bills to discriminate against them.

It has been my privilege to serve the State of Wisconsin and the students and parents of my former school district. Do not advance this horrid, disgusting legislation. Be on the side of justice and compassion for our children ... for ALL of our children.

Oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Christiansen
Residence:
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

Retired Teacher
Greendale, WI 53129

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

As a voter and resident of Wisconsin, I am vehemently against the introduction of bills AB 100 and AB 103.

Targeting this vulnerable population of school children is completely inconsistent with the values of our state and a complete abdication of your responsibility to be our ethical and moral leaders. This is a solution without a problem. Transgender children are not a threat to our society. This was a made up "problem" created for political gain. If you really cared about school children you would protect them from school shootings, not from pronouns.

I urge you to stay true to the good caring values of Wisconsin and not give in to fear mongering and hate.

Julia Fradkin

To the Assembly Committee on Education:

I oppose bills AB100 and AB103 which target transgender students and families. I know transgender youth and parents of transgender youth. Do you? Do you value their perspectives and the perspectives of mental health professionals and physicians who are helping this population? I suspect the conservative "think tank" that has been promoting these bills around the country don't either. Families with transgender members are just trying to live their lives. You will only harm this group with this legislation

I wish the GOP would back off from targeting transgender kids and their families. The transgender community only represents 1-2% of the population but they have been receiving way too much negative attention from the extreme right wing. Why? These bills are based on ideology and not science. Leave these families alone -- please! You wouldn't dare invade the lives of home-schooling families or families whose youth use guns like you are with these bills. Freedom also must be accorded transgender youth and their parents. And I say this as an evidenced-based conservative who cares enough about the lives of transgender citizens in Wisconsin and the country to make it a key factor in how I vote.

Roger Miller
2517 Orion Trail
Bellevue, WI 54311
iluv4ensics@yahoo.com

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 11 years, have my master's degree from UW-Madison, worked for Edgewood College, and have 3 children who attend Madison public schools, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive and inclusive education, free from harassment and discrimination.

I have first hand seen the importance of school sports in building up a child's confidence, creating a supportive social network, and reinforcing a child's connection to their school and community. By banning transgender girls from sports, you will take away all of those positive aspects of engaging in school sports.

I have also seen the intense distress that it causes transgender individuals when others refuse to use their chosen name and pronouns. The feeling of disrespect, being seen as less than cisgender people, not who they actually are, is devastating for transgender people. I am a cisgender woman, with a name that is frequently seen as masculine or male, and have been misgendered over mail, email, and on the phone for decades. I feel frustration when people make assumptions about my gender just based on my name, but I can easily correct people when they get it wrong, so that I can feel affirmed in my gender. I want the same for transgender people, who just want others to see them how they see themselves.

Sincerely,
Drew Silver
Madison, WI 53714

My name is Dr Samantha Everhart and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Wauwatosa, WI. I am writing today to share my strong opposition to Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103 being proposed in the meeting on March 6.

As a resident of Wisconsin, community member, licensed psychologist, and constituent, I am urging you to vote against these proposed bills. All community members, including children, deserve to be treated with love, support, inclusion, and respect. These bills are in direct opposition to the research we have on what builds resilient, strong, and healthy children by restricting their access to team- and skill-building sports, and allowing them to be treated with respect and dignity in choosing how they are addressed. These restrictions are violent and discriminatory and will harm Wisconsinites and put our children behind. We know from the research that policies that infringe on trans rights or vilify them result in worsened mental health for these kids. Suicide risk increases.

I hope you will vote for the trans constituents you represent and in support of values of dignity, respect, and community for ALL of Wisconsin's residents and VOTE NO.

Sam Everhart

She/her/hers

To the members of Assembly Committee on Education,

I am a pediatrician in Wisconsin, dedicated to caring for children of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status. Through my work, I have witnessed the profound impact that affirmation—or the lack thereof—can have on a child's mental health. When parents, schools, and peers fail to use a child's preferred pronouns, the consequences can be devastating.

Recently, I cared for a transgender patient who was hospitalized for malnutrition due to an eating disorder. While their parents were supportive in addressing the eating disorder, they refused to acknowledge their child's chosen name and pronouns. This lack of recognition only deepened their struggle, exacerbating the very condition they were trying to overcome.

I **OPPOSE** the proposed bill(s) (AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and/or AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns).

Erin K. MD, MS,
Madison, 53713

Dear Representatives,

My name is Matthew Havey, I am a Wisconsin resident of Pewaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

Assembly Bill 100 and 103 are clearly drafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the United States and do nothing but further alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. Transgender kids have every right to engage in sports, just as anyone else can. They also have every right to identify however they wish. As someone with a transgender family member, I've seen how harmful anti-trans ideology and legislation can be.

Trans people exist and will continue to do so at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence and hate upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people that you represent, and in good conscience vote against Assembly Bill 100 and 103

Sincerely,
Matthew Havey

I oppose AB 100 and 103.

I am a retired nurse of over 30 years. The bills to ban trans participation in sports and to deny preferred pronouns appears based on a new political reality, rather than on the facts of science and medicine. It demonstrates a cruel and discriminatory attitude toward a few students based on lack of understanding rather than facts.

Sincerely,
Jackie Tomberlin
107 Sutherland Ct. #303
Madison, WI. 53704

Dear Representatives,

My name is Robin Schueler, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of the City of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. I am fearful of a future where trans kids will continue to be made invisible. It is difficult enough to exist as a trans person, feeling both out of your own body while simultaneously being made small or not being seen by the people around you. These kids deserve community, care, to know they aren't alone and they are on a journey many of us adults face as well. As a trans woman nearing my 30s, I want to see a future where no trans person must experience fear of acceptance at any age. These bills would strip these kids of agency and autonomy they already struggle having, agency many of us adults struggle with even today. Trans people already experience high rates of suicide and depression. Taking our rights away will only exacerbate this, and there will be blood on the hands of those who make those decisions. We are people and deserve to be treated no less. We will live and keep living, so don't try to take the life away from those who have so much time left.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Robin Schueler (she/they)

To the members of the Assembly,

I am writing today to strongly oppose bills AB100 and AB103. My name is Eleri Extence, and I'm a college student from the city of West Bend, in the zip code 53095. I am a cisgender woman who is frankly disgusted by these bills' disrespect for my transgender sisters. I have known many wonderful trans people throughout my time in highschool and middle school, and known them well enough to know that these bills will destroy lives for many transgender students.

I have seen close trans friends hospitalized on suicide risk because they could not handle the alienation they faced in their daily lives. These friends received treatment because they had parents who were empathetic to them and loved them and accepted them for who they are; if their parents had been less accepting, these friends would likely be dead.

I have known people who would be disowned and kicked out of house if their parents had discovered that they were transgender. What Bill AB103 is proposing is a serious violation of a child's privacy that would lead to more homeless youth. Transgender people are already at the highest risk of being murdered in this country. We need more bills to protect them, not put them in even more danger. Please oppose Bills AB100 and AB103.

Sincerely,
Eleri Extence

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 9 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,
Joseph Marusz
Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the whole Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing this email to oppose both AB 100 and AB 103. Not only are these bills unnecessary, but they aim to take rights from our most vulnerable population. The number of trans youth playing high school sports is extremely small. If you care about protecting youth, you should be focusing on protecting our vulnerable youth population - not further ostracizing them.

As for needing written documentation from a parent before a school can use pronouns other than their biological gender -- again, this is absolutely unnecessary. Using a different pronoun or a chosen name is not a burden to anyone. However, using the preferred pronouns for trans youth is very important to their mental health.

A study done by the Trevor Project of over 61,000 children aged 13-17 in 19 states, showed that suicide attempts increased by 72% when those states passed anti-transgender laws. NPR article

I have a teenage cousin that is transgender and transitioning to a female. Erica (formerly Eric) was suicidal and in a very dark place until, through therapy, she started to understand she is transgender, and that she had the option to live her life as a different gender. Erica is now a well-adjusted teenager, enjoying time with friends rock climbing and participating in gymnastics.

As a school board member at the Deerfield Community School District (I am speaking on my own behalf, not on the behalf of the board), I care deeply about making school a safe place for all students. Please reconsider these bills. As a school board member, I do not want to be forced to participate in increasing the risk of youth suicide attempts for this unnecessary legislation.

Sarah Hart
Deerfield, WI 53531

Scott Hershberger
Regarding AB100 and AB103
March 5, 2025

My name is Scott Hershberger, and I am a Madison resident. I am testifying that two bills currently before the Assembly, AB100 and AB103, would have a negative impact on our students and should not become law. I am a straight, cisgender man, but I have many transgender friends who would have been harmed by this legislation if they were still in school.

I had several transgender friends in high school. My college roommate (still a dear friend years later) is a trans man. Many people in my current friend group are trans women. All these friends have shared with me painful stories of discrimination that they faced after coming out—individual acts of dehumanization as well as policies that created huge bureaucratic hurdles and decreased their quality of life.

When people call them by a name or pronoun that they do not identify with, this creates deep emotional wounds. If this has never happened to you, take a moment and imagine someone intentionally doing it to you. Maybe there was a bully when you were in school who always called you a name you hated. It doesn't feel good. Now imagine your teachers calling you that name, over and over. That's dehumanizing, and that would have long-lasting mental health impacts. That's what AB103 would do to trans kids.

Now, imagine that you went through this trauma because you wanted to get a competitive edge in sports. Would that be worth it? No, it wouldn't. Trans kids who are athletes just want to be kids playing sports as their authentic selves. One of my friends who is a trans man played soccer growing up, both before and after he transitioned. He had a much more positive experience after the transition, once he was playing with other boys. And his teammates were happy to have him. AB100 would prevent kids from enjoying sports the way every kid should be able to. Again, this would cause long-lasting harm to their mental health.

It's easy to think that these policies would only hurt trans kids. But that's wrong. These policies would hurt all kids by teaching them to discriminate, teaching them to ignore others' wishes, teaching them to disrespect their peers.

Instead of institutionalizing discrimination, we need to institutionalize empathy and understanding. We need to educate our kids with the tools to value everyone's perspectives so that they can interact respectfully regardless of gender identity.

I urge you to reject AB100 and AB103. Thank you for reading my testimony and considering my input.

Best wishes,
Scott Hershberger

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 19 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an education free from harassment and discrimination.

We've seen these kind of bills before. They have been brought before this committee year after year in an attempt to terrorize our trans youth, their parents, and decent folks all around the state who understand these bills are no more than hatred and grandstanding.

This is a grotesque public spectacle where homophobic and transphobic legislators make us come back year after year and beg for some shred of decency. For some shred of humanity, some empathy, some understanding.

I'm not submitting this to beg you to not be cruel. I'm submitting this to tell you that the people of Wisconsin are—on the whole—better than this.

All Wisconsinites—yes, even the children—deserve the right to dignity, the support to grow and thrive to their greatest potential. These bills are directly in opposition to those rights.

I hope that you learn. I hope you fix your hearts.

Regardless, I and so many others will continue standing up for decency, for kindness, for justice, and for all LGBTQIA+ kids in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Rosen Heinz
Verona, WI 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to strongly oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 36 years, serve our community as a social worker in the mental health field, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a safe and inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

I have worked with trans youth for years as both a school social worker as well as in the mental health field. Those who were able to have their names and pronouns affirmed on a consistent basis by their community were able to engage more fully in their education and felt safer in the school environment. Those who engaged in group activities such as sports or clubs were the most resilient and able to overcome their mental health challenges. I firmly believe that all humans deserve and require a place of belonging in life, and to take that away from trans youth via these bills is truly unacceptable.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Hardin
Madison, WI 53714

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Cari (I prefer this name to my full name, Carilyn) Jacobs. Now I'm wondering how many of you use a different name than your birth certificate states? But, I digress...
I live in Milwaukee, 53210.

I am writing to let you know I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

I have been fortunate enough to meet six trans individuals throughout my life. Five are adults and are highly intelligent, talented individuals who are not only valued for who they are as people, but also for their contributions to their communities and workspaces. Not one of them has used their trans identity as an attempt to try to get ahead in sports (or anything else on life) or to gain access to a different a bathroom. I mean really; why would anyone choose to identify as trans in today's dangerously unsupportive society? They have all gone through (and many continue to go through) substantial pain and heartbreak just to be recognized as their true selves.

One of the six individuals is a trans youth who is a remarkably strong, caring, and intelligent person. I can only imagine what this person is going through at this time. Not only is being a teenager hard enough, but when some family members aren't understanding and now society at large is trying to erase your very identity, I can only imagine how lonely, frightening and isolating it must feel. In the United States, many youth already feel unsupported and ostracized enough; that much is evident in the obscene amount of suicides and school shootings that take place. Trans youth have an additional level of social navigating to deal with and again, no one would choose to be trans for any reason other than to be true to who they actually are.

I'll close by saying that a good friend once told me that every single person is their own kaleidoscope image. Every single person is an array of colors and angles and patterns and, if you've ever clicked through a kaleidoscope, you'll know just how beautiful each and every array is AND that the variety and differences in each also bolster the others.

We are better together and stronger together. Don't pass these bills that are attempting to break the kaleidoscope. See the beauty in everyone instead.

Thank you,
Cari Jacobs
Milwaukee
53210

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 15 years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive and inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,

Emily Witte
Madison, WI 53719

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Lucy Kenyon, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Madison. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. I am writing today for my trans friends who are scared living in a country that vilifies them at any chance it gets. Being a growing, loving, and welcoming state means welcoming all. It means uplifting the trans community. I implore you all to trust trans kids and those who love them to know who they are.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Lucy Kenyon

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Testimony for AB100/AB103:

To the members of the assembly:

My name is Amanda Kramp. I live in Oshkosh. I'm married and have two kids, I volunteer with my church, I'm in the PTO, and I recently met with members of the Joint Finance Committee to speak about reproductive rights.

Trans kids belong where kids belong. Trans kids belong in sports, schools, faith communities, scouting programs, and other places where kids gather to learn and play.

They also deserve to be called what they want to be called. My name is Amanda. My pronouns are she/her. If someone decided my name was Mandy and that my pronouns were he/him, they would be incorrect and it would be disrespectful. Why can't we extend that respect to trans kids? Being called the correct pronouns is one small way that trans people can feel included in the world. Being called the correct name, the name that someone tells you to call them, is basic courtesy.

And have you ever been in a school locker room? I have. I played field hockey in high school. Not once did we all stand around totally naked and stare at each other. I don't know what locker rooms the Republicans remember or are entering, but most people mind their business when they're changing. Most people who were raised right know how to act in these situations. Mind your business. Put on the uniform and get on the field.

These kids love their sports. They are passionate about playing, because they wouldn't fight so hard to play if it was just a thing they liked to do on the weekends. No teenager wants their entire life paraded around and mocked by grown adults who are supposed to be in charge. I admire their bravery and they shouldn't have to be brave.

These bills are transphobic and harmful. Vote no.

Thank you.

Amanda Kramp

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

I am writing to urge the Wisconsin state assembly to vote against bills AB 100 and AB 103. These bills harm Wisconsin children and deny them equal opportunities.

Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as cisgender kids. Trans kids belong in school sports if they choose to participate. All school children deserve the opportunity to join a school team of their choice and explore their own athletic abilities. To bar any kids from school sports is truly unjust and unkind.

This bill would directly harm trans kids and does not make cis kids safer. It's a wholly unnecessary legislative attack on a small number of children, which is sickening to me.

Transgender kids and cisgender kids alike deserve to be addressed with the name and pronouns they use at home or with friends, while they are in school. The first day of school, most teachers will run down the class list and ask kids what name they use. The teacher asks each student this question because it shows respect for the student's autonomy. Kids (both trans and cis) deserve the right to change their names and pronouns whenever they want to, just as adults do. This should be a matter between a student and their teachers, and should not require parent notification.

Name and pronoun changes can represent safety, autonomy, and authenticity for students. This bill is similarly unnecessary, and harmful to children who are exploring or embracing their identity.

I've lived in Wisconsin for 19 years, and I'm a parent who has raised 2 kids in the public schools here. I value the public school system and education for all children. All Wisconsin children deserve equal treatment in their schools.

Sincerely,
Laura Wendt
Madison, WI 53713

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Taylor Witthuhn, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 29 years of my life, and not only a member of the LGBT community but have many friends and family members in the trans community.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB100 and AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it's a blatant violation of human rights, it is un-American. My trans family does not deserve to be dehumanized and erased by people with an agenda to promote cruelty, and a desire to other their fellow citizens to appease some self-centered goal.

These bills take the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead give it to another just because they are in a position of power, who do not have the best interest of the community in mind. Myself, and fellow residents who have submitted a testimony or have shown up to this hearing will not stand for this hatred towards our fellow community members.

Sincerely,

Taylor W

Madison

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 18 years, serve our community as Executive Director of Chrysalis, and speak on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,
Dani Rischall
Madison, WI
53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I write in opposition to: AB 100 and AB 103. As a lifelong Wisconsinite, I want our state to be fair and equal for all citizens. The proposed bills are undemocratic, unfair, and are truly cruel uses of our legislature. When you should be helping the community, you instead spend your time attacking vulnerable youth. Shame on you. Wisconsin children deserve better than this. They deserve to live their lives as their authentic selves, be accepted, loved and to feel safe in their schools and communities. Furthermore, these bills are based totally on fiction and go against all scientific consensus on the matter. Wisconsinites do not want to be governed by lies and misinformation. Wisconsin's state motto is Forward but this legislation would lead us backward. I urge you to oppose both of these bills.

Kristin Vornholt
Evansville, 53536

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

I am writing about AB100 and AB103. I live in Wisconsin and have for most of my life.

I am a trans adult and the past 6 weeks have been incredibly hard on my mental health, I can't imagine how trans youth are feeling. I have had extreme anxiety and depression which is directly rooted in the Trump administration and other transphobic Republicans. I've been in (fight or) flight mode for weeks, and have looked into moving to Minnesota or Canada for my safety. I have been unable to focus on my career or personal life, because I am worried about my future in America. The prejudice coming from the GOP is absurd and dangerous. Trans people make up less than 1 percent of the American population, and we are only trying to live our lives. Yet, we are constantly scapegoated by the GOP, including the president.

AB103 has no basis and is purely discrimination. It is incredibly important to one's mental health to be addressed by the correct name and pronouns. I do not understand how this affects anyone else in a meaningful way--it is truly a non-issue to address someone the way they prefer. If we can call James Vance "JD," Addison McConnell "Mitch," and the Gulf of Mexico "the Gulf of America," then we can call people by their chosen names.

AB100 is another example of the GOP choosing to bully children over doing things to actually help their constituents. Trans girls playing sports is basically a non-issue.

Republicans also love to talk about small government, but they also love to tell school districts what they're allowed to do, and individuals what they're allowed to do.

Aimee Morrison

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Fair Wisconsin & Committee Members,

I would like to register my vehement opposition to both bill AB100 and bill AB103.

With regard to AB100:

I grew up playing sports in Wisconsin my whole life from elementary school through high school and even when I went away to college. I was not concerned with whether my teammates looked feminine or masculine. It was high school. We were all goofy and figuring life out. What we needed most at that time were teammates and friendship, not someone questioning whether we belonged. I would have proudly stood next to and played with or against any trans athlete. And I stand by that statement today.

With regard to AB103:

As a former teacher, I find that one of the most important things we can do for kids is trust them. They take on tough materials and complicated topics better than they ever get credit for. And it is that trust that allows them to learn well, to be themselves, to build strong relationships with parents and teachers. Punitively threatening to control or undermine things that they already know about themselves only creates distrust. It is dangerous to mental health, and legislating this kind of deeply personal and particular matter is a level of governmental overreach that is unprecedented.

As a Wisconsin constituent, I urge the committee to vote no on both bills. You are welcome to reach back out to me at this email address with any follow-ups or questions.

Thank you for reading,

Christine Stocke

Former Teacher, Mom of two kiddos, Proud Wisconsinite

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Statement of Opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103:

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I strongly oppose Assembly Bill 100, the proposed transgender athlete ban, and Assembly Bill 103, which would restrict the rights of transgender students to use their correct names and pronouns. These bills are not only unnecessary but potentially devastating to an already vulnerable population.

Impact on Mental Health and Suicide Risk:

We cannot ignore the severe mental health implications of such discriminatory legislation. According to data from the Trevor Project, 85% of transgender and nonbinary youth report that political attacks on their identity have negatively impacted their mental health. More alarmingly, studies consistently show that transgender youth experience disproportionately high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation compared to their cisgender peers. When we exclude young people from activities fundamental to social development and well-being, and deny them the basic dignity of being addressed by their correct names and pronouns, we compound these risks. Transgender youth who feel supported in their identity and included in school activities show significantly better mental health outcomes. By contrast, exclusionary policies increase feelings of isolation and rejection - precisely the factors that contribute to the heartbreakingly high suicide attempt rates among transgender youth.

The Reality of Transgender Participation in Sports:

AB100 purports to solve a problem that simply doesn't exist at scale. Transgender youth represent approximately 1.4% of the youth population, and only a fraction of these young people participate in competitive sports. In states that have already implemented inclusive policies for years, there has been no evidence of widespread competitive advantage or disruption. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association already has thoughtful policies in place to ensure fair competition while being inclusive of transgender athletes. This bill represents unnecessary government overreach into decisions best left to athletic associations, schools, medical professionals, and families.

Benefits of Inclusion vs. Costs of Exclusion:

Sports participation provides all youth with critical opportunities for physical health, teamwork, leadership development, and social connection. For transgender youth specifically, inclusion in sports can be life-affirming, offering a place of belonging during a challenging developmental period. The supposed "costs" of inclusion have been greatly exaggerated. When implemented with appropriate guidelines, transgender inclusion in sports preserves both competitive fairness and the dignity of all athletes. By contrast, the costs of exclusion are concrete and severe: increased mental health risks, decreased physical activity, lost educational opportunities, and the message to transgender youth that they don't belong in our communities. Similarly, AB103's restrictions on name and pronoun use would create hostile learning environments where transgender students are constantly misgendered, undermining their sense of safety and belonging in educational settings that should be supportive for all students. I urge this committee to reject both of these harmful bills and instead focus on policies

that support the well-being of all Wisconsin youth. Every child deserves to participate fully in school life, including sports, and to be recognized for who they truly are, regardless of gender identity. Our transgender youth are watching to see if you will stand up for their rights to simply be kids - playing the sports they love and being addressed with the basic respect all students deserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Scherkenbach
Milwaukee, WI 53207
Formerly of Eau Claire, WI 54701



March 5th, 2025

Barb Farrar (she/her)
2029 Kearney Ave, Racine WI 53403

On behalf of the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, we oppose the passing of AB 100/103, which prohibits trans athletes in Wisconsin from participating in college and K-12 sports that align with their gender identity.

It is discriminatory to prevent trans athletes from competing on the teams and in the individual events that align with their gender identity. Discrimination has no place in athletics. Period.

Athletics is about inclusivity, setting individual goals, working as a team, and creating confidence and a sense of well-being. If we think that winning is the only goal of college athletics, we have lost the purpose of 18-21-year-olds competing in sports.

The real losers of this bill will be all female athletes, especially those who don't conform to gender norms regardless of whether they are cisgender, transgender, or gender non-conforming. Preventing trans athletes from competing will mean you have to test. That would be an invasive procedure to determine genitalia, chromosomes, and other features that an athletic director would use against anyone they chose. That is disgusting and violates human rights.

There is also a perception that trans women athletes will always have a more competitive advantage than cisgender women. This is not true. It is a sexist statement that doesn't acknowledge the strength, agility, and determination that most cisgender female collegiate athletes have. Look at the WNBA, professional softball teams, the Olympics, and other elite athletes. Don't use this as a way to discriminate against trans athletes.

Trans athletes deserve the same access to competition, to the joys of being involved with a team, and to growing in their confidence and physical and emotional health. There is no better correlation between the intent of athletics and acceptance.

To deny the rights of college athletes the right to participate is not right.

Barb Farrar

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee of Education,

My name is Thomas Twiton, a resident of Madison, ZIP 53719. I am writing to testify my opposition to the Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

I have lived in Wisconsin since my family moved here in 2007 when I was in the fourth grade, and attended school through high school in Wisconsin and returned to Madison for my career. School is such an important time of development, and kids and young adults need to be uplifted, protected, and given every opportunity to grow and succeed, not discriminated against and denied the space to be who they are. Transgender and non-binary youth need our support in being fully who they are.

I have a niece and nephew who will be in the Wisconsin school system. It is so important to me that that school system cherishes and uplifts all its students, rather than hating and suppressing some of them. I have friends and loved ones who are transgender or non-binary, and these discriminatory bills make them feel unwelcome in our state. Please do not push forth this agenda of hate on our children, and instead let them know that all children are loved and valued and given opportunity to be their authentic selves in our state.

Thank you,
Thomas Twiton

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To of the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jennifer Streit from Madison – 53717. I am a public school teacher and a parent of two daughters enrolled in public school writing in opposition of AB100 and AB103. I also identify as cisgender, straight, and Christian.

I believe trans athletes should be allowed to play on the sport teams and use locker rooms that align with their gender identity. I have no problem with my daughters sharing a locker room and being on the field with trans athletes. Trans athletes need to be accepted for who they are - real, good humans - just like anll other people.

Trans students deserve the right to use the name and pronouns that they identify with in our schools. As a teacher, I have seen the significant impact on using the preferred names and pronouns of my students. Students feel safe, seen, valued, and respected when we address them in the way they want to be addressed. I see students' confidence grow when they are allowed that autonomy, and I believe lives have been saved as a result of this policy.

My goddaughter is a trans girl who loves soccer. When I watch her play, she is peaceful, happy and free on the field with her girl teammates. She's accepted for who she is - I honestly don't know if her teammates know she is trans. If she were to have to start playing with a boys team, she would be outed and most certainly treated differently. Or maybe she will make the difficult choice to discontinue playing and a part of her soul will die. I fear that her life, and the lives of other trans athletes, would be at stake -emotionally, and physically.

Keep all kids safe. Do not pass AB100 and AB103.

Jennifer Streit
10 Rye Circle
Madison 53717

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Julie Guckenberg. I live in Wauwatosa, in the 53213 zip code, in Wisconsin Assembly District 13 and Senate District 5. I have lived in Wisconsin for over 14 years. I have 2 kids who attend public schools in Wauwatosa, and I am deeply concerned with the proposed AB103 and AB100.

I am writing to urge you to vote against these bills, AB100 and AB103. These bills harm children and deny them equal opportunity. Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as cisgender kids. Trying to legislate the experiences of children in our schools will serve only to belittle them. For the same reasons that a child may prefer to be called "Peggy" rather than a given or legal name of Margaret, a transgender child may be comfortable being addressed by a name other than their legally given name.

Transgender kids deserve to be addressed in school by the name and pronouns they use at home and with their friends. By denying their educators the right and ability to address them in this way, you are denying these kids their autonomy and basic respect. You are denying them the right to be addressed in a manner that makes them feel seen, heard, and valued.

The second bill would deny children the right to participate in sports. Every child, whether cisgender or transgender, should have the opportunity to participate in sports if they so choose. This opportunity should not require them to deny who they are, nor should it subject them to discrimination and ridicule by having to identify as trans. This proposed bill would actively harm trans kids, and make all kids less safe. It is a wholly unnecessary legislative attack on *children*. The fact that a group of adults would seek to attack a small group of children is sickening. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Trans kids are not trying to make a statement by requesting that their teachers respect them enough to use their pronouns and their preferred name in class. They are simply seeking the same respect afforded to their cisgender classmates.

In the same way, trans kids seeking to play sports are not trying to make a statement. They simply want to be afforded the same rights and respect as their cisgender classmates or teammates, in allowing them an opportunity to play the sport and pursue their own athletic talents.

I urge you to side with human decency and vote against both of these bills.

Sincerely,
Julie Guckenberg

Dear Assembly Committee on Education Members,

As a proud lifelong Wisconsinite and former public school educator, I vehemently oppose Assembly Bills 100 and 103. These bills stand contrary to the Wisconsin motto of "Forward" and our strong progressive history, and will only harm the young people of our great state.

During my tenure as a Wisconsin public educator and now as an arts educator for Wisconsin non-profits, I see every day the positive impact respecting children for who they are and valuing each unique child can have on young lives. I have worked with many children who use names and pronouns that are different from those assigned to them at birth. Calling them by their names and by correct pronouns is the most basic of ways that I show respect as an adult in their lives. It is that simple: I respect them and value them, and I want them to know it.

To force educators to use names and pronouns that do not match a child's identity is denying them the basic respect all humans deserve and shows them that school is not a safe place for them. With school shootings and lockdown drills making our children afraid for their lives, shouldn't they at least be able to feel that school is a safe place just to be who they are? It may seem like a small thing, but to that young person, it can be everything.

Also, in all my years as an educator, I have seen how much participation in extracurriculars can be a worthwhile and powerful experience for students. Students who are in a sport, or a play, or clubs, or any other activity are more invested in the school experience. They find community, they learn new skills, they expand their circle of trusted adults, they are more invested in academics, and they discover more about who they are. Denying this opportunity to students because of their gender identity is just wrong. Why should only cisgender young people have the experience of being on a team?

I remember several years ago, working as part of the production team at a local high school. We had several students who were gender non-conforming. The students used the dressing rooms that worked for them. Their peers had no ill-will, no fear, no anger about sharing their dressing rooms. Those few students who were given the opportunity to be in spaces that felt right to them appreciated it so much; they felt seen. Don't we all just want to be seen for who we are? Why should only those of us who just happen to identify with the gender we were assigned at birth be the only ones who get to feel that way?

According to a study published in fall of 2024 in the journal *Nature Human Behavior*, the rates of suicide attempts among trans and gender nonconforming youth who live in states that passed laws aimed at these minors saw a marked increase up to 72%. Do you want the blood of Wisconsin children on your hands? Because young people will lose hope in the face of their government telling them they should not exist. And some of them will choose to no longer.

Passing these bills would risk the lives of children and teens in our state. All children deserve to live, to be educated in a place that values who they are, and to thrive. These bills will make that impossible for some of the most brave, beautiful, and vulnerable young people in Wisconsin.

Please reconsider these harmful pieces of legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Hoel-Neds
Deerfield, WI 53531

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the assembly,

My name is Krista Eastman. I'm a lifelong Wisconsinite living in Madison (53715), and I strongly oppose AB 100 and AB 103.

Trans kids have the right to live, play, and exist as their authentic selves everywhere, including in schools. As a parent, I strongly object to these bills. Every day I strive to teach my kid about the dignity and worth of all human beings and about the role we all must play in creating communities that do not discriminate. These bills fly in the face of those values - they are ugly, hateful, and small - and they choose fear mongering over real information.

Our schools should be protecting kids from hate and discrimination, not carrying out discriminatory practices dictated to them by lawmakers with canned political agendas and little to no experience of trans people or trans issues.

The people of Wisconsin recognize that trans kids have rights. We understand that trans kids are not a threat and we see trans kids for the gift that they are.

Thank you,

Krista Eastman

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Re: Assembly bill 100 and 103,
And my opposition to both

I have 14 year-old grandchild.

For the past year, they have requested family and friends use they/ them, when referring to that grandchild. They have also adopted a gender-neutral Nick-name which I use, at their request.

I love this grandchild to the moon.

I am 76 years old. I cannot say I understand their request.- but u honor it, because they are family and I love them.

I am a practicing Roman Catholic, but am schooled enough to know that it is a fact (a FACT) that not all people have chromosomes which are "only" XX or XY.

It is amazing what variety actually exists.

We are who we are.

I am Who I am.

My grandchild (an honor student, musician and all around good person) is who they are.

Being a teen is hard enough in 2025- as witnessed by mental health statistics for this age group.

Passage of these discriminatory bills would only make it worse.

Marjorie Aiello

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a parent, ally, and teacher, I vehemently oppose any bill that removes gender affirming recognition. These bills are mean and homophobic. It harms absolutely no one for a child to use a preferred pronoun. And there have always been transgender athletes in sports, they just weren't able to live their lives as their authentic selves. You are targeting children from simply living their lives, full stop.

I encourage you to vote against AB 100 & AB 103.

Kristen Keyser

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello. My name is Meghan Van Gruensven and I'm from Kimberly Wisconsin, zip code 54136. I'm addressing this email to The Assembly Committee on Education in response to Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

Trans people are just the same as all the rest of us and deserve to be treated with respect and kindness. Allowing the government to control what they can and can't do should not be allowed. It should be the trans person themselves who decides what pronouns they want to use and what name they want to be called by. Trans people should also be allowed to participate in activities that align with their gender identity. Being basically forced to do activities that don't align with the trans person's gender identity is just cruel. I hope you consider to not sign these bills into law and please treat transgender people with all the respect they deserve.

Sincerely, Meghan Van Gruensven

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived in Wisconsin for 44 years, serve our community as a psychologist, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen. I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, dignified, caring and education free from harassment and discrimination.

These bills wrongly alienate children and young people and put trans youth at more risk for harassment and discrimination. As a parent I am NOT at all concerned with trans kids being in sports that are congruent with their gender identity and using bathrooms that they feel safe in. Trans kids like my kids deserve to feel safe and protected by our government. These bills target a small percentage of the population in such a way that is demoralizing and denigrating. I would never want my own children to be treated this way. I also know from a psychological perspective and research supports that protecting rights of trans individuals supports mental health and lessens risks for other problems later in life. I oppose these bills for the harm they can cause and as a parent who knows trans kids and whose job it is to protect kids.

Sincerely,
Tegan Corrigan
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 7 years, serve our community as a small business owner, mental health therapist, and School Based Health Center Coordinator with MMSD, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans and gender expansive children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,
Emily Priestaf, LPC, MT-BC
Deforest, WI 53532

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

Regarding Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103, it is so important for children to be allowed to be themselves and not have their identities taken away or quashed. The more someone is allowed to be themselves in ways that don't hurt others (and using your own pronouns and playing sports never hurts others) the more that person will be able to feel comfortable in the world and be less likely to suffer from depression and suicidal ideation. Please do not allow these bills to pass. Thank you for protecting all students rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Jody Bearman

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jen Schanen-Materi, and I am a social worker, and someone who deeply cares for and supports my loved ones who are transgender. I am writing to strongly oppose AB100 and AB103, bills that would restrict the rights of transgender athletes and students.

As a social worker, I have seen firsthand the profoundly positive impact that inclusive policies have on the mental and emotional well-being of youth. Conversely, these bills would harm our young community members by denying them the right to participate in sports and access facilities that align with their gender identity. They would also strip away their ability to be recognized by their name and pronouns in schools, an essential aspect of affirming their identity and fostering a safe and supportive environment.

These bills would create an environment of hostility and fear for transgender individuals, denying them the right to exist authentically and feel valued for who they are. Further, it has been shown that even when such bills fail, simply having these political debates has a negative effect on LGBTQ+ youth mental health.

My goal as a mother and social worker is thus: to help people feel like themselves. Likewise, transgender youth deserve to grow up in a world where they can be who they are without fear of being rejected or marginalized by the very institutions that should be supporting them.

As a bisexual person and social worker, I believe in the importance of standing up for equality, justice, and the dignity of all people. I oppose these bills because they go against these values. We cannot allow anti-LGBTQ+ legislation to make life harder for trans youth, athletes, and students—people who deserve to live freely, to play, and to be seen for who they truly are.

Please do not pass these harmful bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jen Schanen-Materi, MSW, APSW

Green Bay WI 54301

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 10 years, have served our community as a mental health care provider for 8 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an inclusive and affirming education free from harassment and discrimination.

I have worked with numerous trans clients whose mental health has been greatly improved by being able to participate in sports- please protect their right to this life-affirming experience.

Sincerely,
Katherine Lauth
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly,

I am writing with deep concern regarding AB100 and AB103, and I urge you not to pass either bill. Transgender students deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and allowed to participate in sports and be addressed using the pronouns and names they prefer. As a teacher in Milwaukee for nearly ten years, I have never witnessed a single instance in which refusing to use a student's preferred pronouns and name has improved the learning environment either for the student or their peers; on the contrary, refusing to address students as they wish erodes relationships and creates a hostile environment in which the student is unable to achieve their greatest potential. If these laws pass, they will directly injure my students and prevent me from treating my students with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Once again, I urge you: please do not pass these bills.

There is no room for hatred and ignorance in schools or the law.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Lipman
Milwaukee, 53204

Kattarina Kaybee
Regarding the Assembly Committee on Education
March 4th, 2025

My name is Kat Kaybee and I am a resident of Milwaukee, WI. I am testifying against Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. I was an elementary teaching assistant at a character-education-based charter school for four years, and I'm a trans/non-binary adult who was out to my school community - teachers, students, and parents alike. I am sickened by the lack of compassion and understanding being shown in these bills, and the insertion of the government in the private business of individuals.

During my time in the classroom, I interacted with hundreds of different students. A handful of these children were trans/non-binary, but for most students, I was the first out trans person that they met. Let's talk about me as a trans adult in that space. Do you want to know what impact my transness had on them? For cis students, it made them aware of another type of person they can encounter in the world. It confused them sometimes, just like any new piece of information might confuse someone as they add that information to what they already know, but that's to be expected as kids learn about new things in the world. But for trans students, my transness gave them an adult they could trust and be honest with about their inner feelings of self - someone who actually understood what they were going through.

Transness is being talked about as this big, scary, deviant "other" when it's just another way of being. The trans/non-binary children who passed through my classroom were just like any other kid. They had homework to worry about, soccer tryouts to practice for, piano lessons they were dreading, friends who ate lunch with them every day... And teachers who loved them and wanted to provide a caring, nurturing environment for them to grow to be their best selves. For some kids, that's going to mean social transitioning, a.k.a. going by a different name and different pronouns. And some kids who want to start that social transition don't have adults at home who would respond with care and nurturing like their teacher would. This is what adults who are afraid of children transitioning are missing.

There are countless situations where the only adult a child trusts is at school, for whatever the reason may be. Likewise, there are important, overlooked reasons that some children are asking *teachers* to call them a new name/new pronouns *without* asking their parents the same thing. These kids are having to do the hardest and saddest thing a kid could ever have to do - weigh whether or not their adult at home is a safe adult or not. I know that sounds harsh against those parents - I know that those parents are worrying about what is best for their child. They fear permanent change that'll be regretted, or they fear damnation, or they simply fear something they're unfamiliar with. But outing a kid to parents who would keep their kid from transitioning doesn't make the feelings of transness go away - it puts them in danger, and pushes them away further, showing them exactly who they can and can't trust with their truest self. If a kid doesn't want their parents to know they are trans, the issue isn't the teachers at school "hiding" this information. The issue is parents who let fear overcome their responsibility to love UNCONDITIONALLY. *Why* does that kid not want their parents to know? What resources

can we provide to support children who don't feel safe to be themselves at home and who don't feel that trust with their guardian? What resources can we provide their guardians? Why do we think banning the change of names and pronouns in schools will make children "safer" when it'll just cut us off from them even further, and leave them vulnerable, hurting, and lost, stuck in a space where they have to worry about personal safety and their rights as an individual, instead of homework and piano lessons? Why are we continuing to believe false claims that trans athletes are taking over sports and introducing bills that will alienate, harm, and dehumanize ALL children - not just trans ones - who just want to play sports and have fun? What actual concrete evidence shows these bills are necessary and not just a Republican attempt to control, belittle, and eliminate a group of people that they have such a baffling hate for?

Children's lives will be put into jeopardy if we rip away these rights to individual privacy and individual determination. Government doesn't get a say in this. Government doesn't NEED a say in this. Fight against Assembly Bills 100 and 103 and stop the misunderstanding and unjustified fear-mongering.

I appreciate your consideration of this testimony in these matters.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Justin Marquez, and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Madison. I am submitting this written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. I do not want any child to feel unsafe and unwanted simply because of who they are or how they see themselves. In school, I had a couple friends who identified as transgender and it was hard to watch others disregard their identity, whether intentionally or not. Living each day having to face ignorance or malice must be incredibly tiring and sad, and I do not want kids today to have to experience what they did. I now identify as transgender as well, and I am fortunate to be a part of a loving and accepting community. All I want is for trans kids to find their own community, and to not be alienated due to legislation.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. Enacting these bills will enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB100 and 103.

Thank you,
Justin Marquez

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Rev. Rachel Young Binter and I am a resident of Milwaukee, residing at 1830 N 51st Street, 53208. I am also the mother of a trans daughter and served as a pastor to many trans and non-binary youth in my former call as a Lutheran campus pastor at UW-Milwaukee.

I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103, which would strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools.

These bills actively discriminate against and harm children born with a whole body that does not conform to the gender assigned to them at their birth based on a part of their body. These bills also actively dismiss the science that documents that there is and always has been gender diversity within the chromosomes, hormones, brains, and organs of human beings and that this means intersex, non-binary, and transgender people have always existed within the human population.

Children within these minority populations already face tremendous obstacles in navigating the world and society, with 82% of all transgender individuals having considered suicide and a full 40% attempting. A recent peer reviewed study by the Trevor Project found that suicide attempts increase as much as an additional 72% for transgender and gender nonconforming teenagers in states that pass anti-transgender laws aimed at minors.

As a mother and pastor to trans people, these numbers are not abstract to me. They represent gifted, beautiful young people that I know and love - many of whom almost did not make it as they fought to find their way in a world that is fearful and turned against them. They include my own most precious child, who I carried into existence through my own body, held at my chest as my first born, and have loved since her first breath. My daughter is funny and smart and adored by her family and friends. She gives back to our community daily in the challenging work she does compassionately caring for vulnerable populations of people in the emergency room of a local hospital. She is an advocate for the least among us, as taught to her by her pastor mother, the congregations in which she grew up, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. She grounds my life with her wisdom and makes me a better Christian every day through the witness of her own courage.

Like so many parents of trans children, however, I almost lost her as she faced the struggle of coming out. She knew I would advocate for her life, but she knew the rest of the world would not, and it was the hardest thing she has ever done, but she knows if she hadn't done it, she wouldn't be alive. She is here and contributing to the world with power and grace because she has chosen to stop fighting who God created her to be and has finally allowed others to see her as I trust God has always seen her. Yet I constantly live with the fear that someone will beat her or take her life because we live in a society that is demonizing her very existence. There is nothing holy about denying people the right to exist as God created them to be. Jesus, in the Gospel of Matthew, says of the gender nonconforming people of his time, the eunuchs, "For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

I don't know why government officials feel they can legislate against people Jesus himself accepted and against a biblical witness that uplifts again and again our need to love and care for those who are vulnerable in our society. I don't know why the life of my daughter and other children, who it is proven will gain strength to live by being able to play sports with friends and be called by the names and pronouns that affirm their innermost being, are being actively targeted by laws that will take their lives away from them. I don't know why sports are considered more holy than the life of a human being, especially when people of all genders have widely different levels of strength, agility, and capacity. (I can assure you, my daughter would be no threat on any sports team, even before estrogen decreased her strength and muscle mass). I don't know why scientific knowledge of the diversity of humankind is being ignored in order to punish innocent children who want to thrive in the bodies given to them.

This legislation is cruel and defies what has proven to be true, which is that the lives of gender nonconforming children are stabilized by even one caring adult or institution. As a mother who lives every day swallowing down the fear that her child will come to harm in a world mounting against her and that I will face the greatest fear of her life being taken away from me, I beg you to oppose this legislation. I beg you on behalf of myself, I beg you on behalf of the two other women I work with with trans children and every parent of a trans child, and I beg you on behalf of our society that needs the gifts our children bring to the world. In my many years of campus ministry, it was so often my trans and nonbinary students who brought the biggest and most caring hearts into the room, because they knew how life saving it was to have someone care for them and this is true of my child as well. I believe this is why Jesus tells us that salvation will come from the least among us. May we listen to him and protect those who carry in their very holy, God-created bodies our own path into the kingdom of heaven.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rachel Young Binter

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Subject: Opposition to AB100 and AB103 – Protecting the Rights and Dignity of Transgender Students

Dear Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB100 and AB103, two bills that would harm transgender students in Wisconsin by restricting their participation in sports and limiting their ability to be recognized by their chosen names and pronouns in schools. These measures not only violate fundamental principles of equality and dignity but also place undue government interference in deeply personal matters that should be handled with compassion, not legislation.

Every child deserves to be treated with respect and fairness, and these bills send a dangerous message that transgender youth are unwelcome or unworthy of the same rights as their peers. Studies have shown that affirming a child's gender identity reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide. By enacting policies that single out and discriminate against trans students, Wisconsin would be ignoring the overwhelming evidence that acceptance and inclusion create safer, healthier communities. Additionally, these bills undermine the autonomy of local school districts, teachers, and parents, inserting state lawmakers into private decisions that should be made by those who best understand and care for each individual student. Restricting the use of correct names and pronouns not only disrespects transgender students but also sets a dangerous precedent of government overreach into educational spaces.

I urge you to reject AB100 and AB103 and instead focus on policies that support all Wisconsin students. Our state should be a place where every child—regardless of gender identity—feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive. Please stand on the right side of history and protect the dignity and rights of transgender youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will choose to affirm Wisconsin's commitment to equality and fairness.

Sincerely,

Ryan Reilly
Cedarburg, WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Drew Kohrs and I live in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. I oppose both AB 100 and AB 103 bills. Transgender and gender non-conforming students deserve an opportunity to play amateur sports. These bills are a cruel attempt to further isolate kids who already feel different.

In research published by Kaiser Permanente, transgender youth are more likely to be diagnosed with mental health conditions than young people who identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. A team sport could be the support one kid needs to feel included!

Getting the opportunity to play, and to compete, and to grow as a person? Everyone should have access to that.

Thank you,

Drew Kohrs
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Source: <https://www.kp-scalresearch.org/transgender-youth-more-often-diagnosed-with-mental-health-conditions>

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Legislator,

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I'm again demanding that you respect our youth as each human has the right to be cared for and nurtured.

RE AB 100: Denying young people their right to play on sports teams is preposterous. There are so many better things to legislate, for example, keeping guns out of the hands of people who would use them to hurt others in Wisconsin. AB100 prevents children from developing their social and physical skills. They need those skills to thrive as citizens, consumers and taxpayers. All young people deserve to play sports. Let's be adults about this and stop trying to control people. It's ridiculous.

RE AB103: Every person has the right to be addressed in a respectful manner. This starts in childhood, when young people begin to develop autonomy. In our FORWARD-thinking neighbor to the south, Chicago, students are addressed with the names and pronouns they prefer. This allows them to concentrate on their school work, get better grades and grow up to be citizens and consumers that contribute to society.

Giving the children the rights they are owed will happen. Younger generations don't trifle with such nonsense and soon they'll be in your position.

Regards,
Holly Marley-Henschen
they, them, theirs

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Good morning,

As a resident of Thiensville WI, a practicing healthcare professional, and a concerned parent, I am writing to declare my opposition to AB 100 and AB 103. These proposals represent the willful ignorance and abject hatred of bigots seeking to alienate and intimidate marginalized children. Such heavy-handed measures will do little but create fear, perpetuate discrimination, and legitimize violence. This is unacceptable.

I ask you as an active voting constituent, to please reject AB 100 and AB 103.

Thomas Ramlow, RN

Amie Hoag
Regarding AB100 and AB103
6 March 2025

Hello, I'm Amie Hoag, and I've lived in Wisconsin most of my life. I've chosen to raise my daughter here because I know the people of Wisconsin are some of the most genuinely kind people on the planet. What is represented in AB100 and AB103 does not represent Wisconsin.

I'm reading a book called *An Immense World* by Ed Yong. This book explores the senses of the animal kingdom, laying out the way mammals, birds, insects, fish, and reptiles experience the world around them, and how different it is from the way humans experience that same world. It even goes so far to explore how human beings experience some senses, like the sense of smell, in wholly unique ways. For some people, for example, sweaty gym socks smell like vanilla. Imagine that. Doesn't smell like vanilla to me.

Why am I talking about sweaty gym socks when we're talking about transgender kids in Wisconsin? Because this is just one illustration of how each one of us experiences this vast and mysterious world in our own unique way, and it's harmful to assume that the way I experience the world is the *only* way to experience the world — or the *right* way to experience the world.

This legislation, AB100 and AB103, take aim at a remarkably vulnerable part of our population. Children are already naturally vulnerable, and children who are being told they can't be who they know at their core they are? Well, they are the ones we need to protect the most.

These pieces of legislation amount bullying for that vulnerable population and fear-mongering for the broader population. I took a look at the numbers.

- * According to the Williams Institute at UCLA, **0.6% of the US population** age 13 and older identifies as transgender.
- * In Wisconsin, there are a little more than **412,000 middle and high school students**, about 7% of our state's total population of 5.961 million.
- * If you apply that nation-wide percentage to the middle and high school populations in Wisconsin, that means **we have about 2,472 transgender students** in the state of Wisconsin, which amounts to about **0.04% of our state's total population**.
- * Let's go a little further. Wisconsin has 359 middle schools and 514 high schools, for a total of 873. That means there is **an average of fewer than 3 transgender students at each school**. Hardly enough to make a sports team out of, and certainly not a burden to learn the preferred names of.

Now, I know that transgender numbers are certainly underreported — and who could blame a kid for hesitating to share who they really are in an environment like this? But if you take those numbers at face value, that means this body is targeting 0.04% of our state's population, an average of less than 3 kids per school. **If that isn't bullying, what is?**

Laws like these not only make our state less safe for this small population of vulnerable kids, they make it less safe for every single person. Because where will you draw the line? How about you draw it right here and vote no on this discriminatory and bigoted legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amie Hoag
5790 Oak Savannah Ct., Marshall, WI 53559

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Committee on Education,

As a cisgender female, I do not fear my transgender siblings nor competing with them. Furthermore, I am fully capable of taking care of myself in all situations and do not need your so-called "protection" of me.

AB100 would prohibit those assigned as males on their birth certificates from participating in sports usually ascribed to females. AB100 would also prohibit males from access to locker rooms assigned to females.^{88 I I⁹⁹}

While on its face these may seem reasonable, the reality is quite different. Further consideration of both bills indicates a troubling, and unnecessary, point-of-view that females are in need of protection from males. If this is not the case, why did you not propose a similar bill prohibiting those assigned as females from participating in sports usually ascribed to males? Let me be very clear that I would oppose such a bill as a violation of Title IX and the Senate rejection of a bill excluding transgender students from school sports (<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/senate-rejects-bill-excluding-transgender-students-from-school-sports>.)

AB103 would require schools and their staffs to address students solely by their legal name as stated on their birth certificate and refer to students using solely pronouns that are consistent with the gender ascribed to them on their birth certificate. This would shut down students' process of inquiry into who they are and who they want to be and isn't restricted to names and pronouns but also education and career paths. AB103, which would restrict the speech of students, their families, teachers, and other school staff, based solely on content of such speech, is also likely a violation of the First Amendment.

For all of the reasons stated above, please do NOT go forward with AB100 and AB103.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Downs
Madison, WI 53715-1486
Assembly District 78

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB103 and AB100, both of which unfairly target transgender and gender non-conforming youth in Wisconsin. These bills create harmful barriers for students by restricting the use of preferred names and pronouns (AB103) and by prohibiting trans youth from participating in school sports consistent with their gender identity (AB100).

As a community member and advocate for youth well-being, I have multiple friends with transgender children, and I fear for their mental health and overall well-being if they are denied the right to be seen, respected, and included. Schools should be safe spaces where all students feel supported and valued, not places where their identities are erased or restricted. Denying students the ability to use their chosen names and pronouns isolates them, increases their risk of anxiety and depression, and sends a harmful message that they do not belong.

Furthermore, barring transgender youth from participating in school sports strips them of essential experiences—teamwork, confidence, and a sense of belonging—that should be available to all students. Research consistently shows that when trans youth are affirmed in their identities, their mental health outcomes improve significantly, while exclusionary policies cause lasting harm.

I urge you to oppose AB103 and AB100 and instead focus on policies that support the well-being of all Wisconsin students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Charmaine Swan
Washburn, WI 54891

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello to the Assembly Committee of Education,

Thank you for your time today. My name is Emma Cholip and I'm a resident in Madison, Wisconsin. I'm writing this testimony to ensure the protection and inclusivity of trans youth. Particularly, this is in regards to their right to be in athletics and unfair legislation aggressively singling out this small portion of students because of their gender.

I am not a student athlete anymore, but the team spirit and inherent community that comes with being a part of a sports team, especially during formative years is immensely important for forming relationships and sportsmanlike conduct. Being a part of a team is a special experience that no one should be excluded from, especially not for their gender or transness. It helped shape me, a nonbinary person, into a more empathetic, well rounded person when I was with people who shared the same passion as me, and actively wanted me to be there.

Encouraging the exclusion of students who already feel alienated from the growing anti-trans climate in the United States is detrimental not only to the trans students, but to everyone alongside them as well. Our communities are only as strong as our weakest members; those who are most likely to experience violence, incarceration, and in the worst cases, suicide and homicide. The more we push trans youth to the side and allow them to suffer under the violent rhetoric that exists in these anti-trans bills being put forth, the more we're condemning ourselves to further division.

This testimony is for everyone who is no longer here to speak on it. To those who have been killed, merely for their existence. To those who ended their own life in fear of never being able to live as their authentic self. To those who are living on the streets, or homeless shelters, scorned by their families who failed to keep their promise of unconditional love. I am speaking for them, because I am able to, and they are not.

Do not let these anti-trans bills pass, do not give up on these children who are in the greatest need of support. They deserve to be protected. They deserve to be loved. They deserve to be included as they are, not who everyone wants them to be.

I deeply oppose bills AB100 and AB103, and can only stress that it will cause more pain. Do not let them continue on.

Thank you for your time.

Emma Cholip

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee on Education,

As a trans/nonbinary Wisconsinite, I strongly oppose the proposed bills AB100 and AB103. The moral panic around trans kids is appalling and reactionary, and those who will be impacted by this bill are deeply vulnerable youth who will be made to feel even more ashamed of their existence than they already do. I suffered due to a lack of inclusivity in school and am saddened to see those in power fighting to intensify the oppressiveness of the environment. If you claim to support our state's youth, understand that these bills will cosign hatred and violence against those perceived as 'other' and the suicide rate among LGBT people will raise from its already horrifying level. Our lives are in your hands; please make the right choice.

Abigail Sharp
Madison WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB 100 and AB 103. I have lived in Wisconsin for 13 years and speak on my own behalf as a private citizen and former classroom teacher.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive education: free to be themselves, learn, play sports, and grow, safe from discriminatory harassment.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Kirchgasser
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Jade Potter, of Madison, WI 53704, and I oppose both bills AB100 and AB103. Wisconsin students all deserve to participate, and are all deserving of respect of their personhood. I am grateful that the community I have lived in for 20 years (some of those years as a student) has respected mine as a trans person.

Thank you.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee on Education, my name is Susan Zimbric and I live in the Village of Rib Mountain. I am writing to express my opposition to AB 100 and AB 103. As a mother of 2 daughters, a xc skier and fan of soccer and family physician, I am well aware of the myriad benefits available to participants in organized youth sports. If these bills were to pass there is a high likelihood that girls would most often be the ones that would lose the opportunity to play.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

I am writing in opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103. I am a nurse practitioner and certified nurse-midwife and have worked with many transgender patients and provided education and training to staff on transgender healthcare throughout my career. Additionally, I count a number of transgender individuals as dear friends.

It is well established among major medical organizations that gender affirming care is life saving care. Often one of the first steps a transgender individual takes towards gender affirmation is using pronouns and/or a name that aligns with their gender. Perhaps you have never known a transgender individual, perhaps you have never seen the joy and relief when their most basic request about their bodily autonomy is respected and honored. Perhaps also, you have never seen the harm it can do to be denied this respect. I ask you to consider how it would feel for you to be called by a name or pronoun that does not align with your personal sense of who you are - it is no different for transgender folks.

In a perfect world all transgender youth would find love and support from their parents, sadly this is not the world we live in and by requiring educators to deny the identity of their students without explicit parental consent, this bill creates an unnecessary barrier to teacher student trust, student learning and has the potential to cause even greater harm. School may be the only safe place for a student to be out as transgender. Are you aware that transgender youth have higher rates of suicidality than their cisgender peers? Are you also aware that this difference in rates drops dramatically when they are able to live in alignment with their gender?

For all of the reasons listed above I also oppose the restriction of transgender youth from participating in sports that align with their gender. Passing a bill to ban a very small percentage of students from enjoying the experience and opportunities that school sports provide seems unnecessarily cruel. Furthermore, determining the students eligibility for sports based upon "biological sex" bases the law on the false premise that biological sex is easily defined and falls into a binary.

It is my contention that our state legislature could be spending their valuable time and energy addressing issues that support and strengthen the youth of Wisconsin, rather than singling out and stigmatizing a small, already marginalized subset with these bills.

I urge you to side with respect, with bodily autonomy, with safety, and with joy by opposing the passage of Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

Thank You,
Cate Guggino
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 44 years, am a healthcare software tester and vice president of my child's school's Parent Teacher Organization, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Many trans and gender fluid adults I've known have spoken to me about how important sports were for them as children. I also know now a little trans girl who has clearly been a girl since she was 4 years old or earlier. She has always been a girl at school, in Girl Scouts, in the community. Think of a little girl in your life. Now think about telling her that because of the way she was born, she can't play on the team with all her friends. She has to go be the only girl to play on the boys team, and probably face a lot of harassment, if she wants to play sports. If you actually know any trans children, it's very easy to understand the cruelty of a bill like this. As for using the correct name and pronouns for children- it's hard for me to believe this is even a discussion. Of course children should be called by the name and pronouns that identify them.

Sincerely,
Anya Lienau
Madison, WI 53719

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To whom it may concern,

I am a physician and a scientist. I spent 4 years in medical school, 6 years completing my Master's and Ph.D., and 3 years in residency to train for my work as a primary care provider and educator. I use the strongest evidence and guidelines-based care to help me support my patients' health goals. It is distressing to see proposed laws and policies go against biological facts, scientific evidence, and medical guidelines. I urge you to reject these anti-science, anti-medical, and ultimately anti-child bills, which will put transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming children at risk. Schools and sports are supposed to be safe spaces for children, and these bills would make them less safe.

Re: AB100: this bill goes against gender affirming actions for gender diverse children as affirmed and recommended by The American Academy of Pediatrics(1), American Psychiatric Association (2), and American Psychological Association (3).

Re: AB103: this bill is not rational in terms of how gender identity vs sex assigned at birth affects athletic performance. It ostracizes a group of students without bringing benefit to others. See below for a recent and thorough reference analyzing current data on sex assigned at birth vs. athletic performance by Dr. DJ Oberlin of Lehmann College. His conclusion: "...an individual's sex does not determine their success or failure at any athletic event despite the high level of competition."

I hope you will make the right decision to reject these bills and keep some of our most vulnerable children safe from discrimination and isolation from their peers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Siobhan Wilson, MD, PhD

1. American Academy of Pediatrics (2018; reaffirmed 2023). Rafferty J; COMMITTEE ON PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH; COMMITTEE ON ADOLESCENCE; SECTION ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER HEALTH AND WELLNESS. Ensuring Comprehensive Care and Support for Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children and Adolescents. *Pediatrics*. 2018 Oct;142(4):e20182162. doi: 10.1542/peds.2018-2162. Epub 2018 Sep 17. Erratum in: *Pediatrics*. 2023 Oct 1;152(4):e2023063756.

2. American Psychiatric Association Position Statement (2020): <https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/8665a2f2-0b73-4477-8f60-79015ba9f815/Position-Treatment-of-Transgender-Gender-Diverse-Youth.pdf>

3. American Psychological Association Position Statement (Feb 2024): <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/transgender-nonbinary-inclusive-care.pdf>

4. Oberlin DJ. Sex differences and athletic performance. Where do trans individuals fit into sports and athletics based on current research? *Front Sports Act Living*. 2023 Oct 27;5:1224476. doi: 10.3389/fspor.2023.1224476. PMID: 37964771; PMCID: PMC10641525

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

As a citizen of Wisconsin, a woman, and a mother, I oppose Assembly Bill 100 (K-12 trans athlete ban) and Assembly Bill 103 (denying preferred names & pronouns). Transgender youth deserve the same privacy and rights as cisgender youth. There are no grounds for claiming the trans community is a threat from which society needs protection. Bills restricting their activities and denying the use of their chosen names/pronouns are unwarranted, cruel, and unjust. They only cause harm. Do not pass these bills. Stop these attacks on the trans community. Let them live with the dignity and freedom every person deserves.

Lynn Matzke
Cudahy, WI 53110

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hi,

I am a Wisconsin parent of two boys. When I was a kid, I tried desperately to fit in. Sometimes I wanted to be cool, sometimes I just didn't want to get made fun of, and sometimes I just wanted to blend in. I was like a lot of kids.

My parents loved me. They supported me and gave me lots of opportunities. Even with that love, I didn't always feel comfortable telling them everything, at least not at first (like when I knew I was doing poorly in a class at school, when I crashed my car, when I started dating someone new, etc). But, eventually I would share most of these things with them, because I knew they loved me. I just needed time to figure out how I was feeling about it first and how I wanted to bring it up. I think lots of kids go through this.

If we want kids to be open with parents and heed our advice, we can't legislate the procedures by which these uncomfortable topics must be shared. As a parent, being patient often allows me to hear the most honest story from my own kids and creates a space where they are most open to my opinions.

I think AB100 and AB103 will ultimately make these difficult situations harder for parents to navigate. Kids will be less likely to share how they are feeling with their parents and will be less likely to hear and follow their parents' wisdom.

Please support Wisconsin families and Wisconsin parents and Vote NO.

Em Stocke

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

As a Wisconsin resident and mother of two, I am strongly opposed to AB 100 and AB 103. These bills are not about fairness or good governance—they are political attempts to control and shame children.

AB 100 targets transgender youth by banning them from participating in school sports in a way that aligns with their identity. It isolates kids, strips them of opportunities for belonging, and increases the risk of mental health struggles. No child should be told they don't belong simply because of who they are.

AB 103 puts students at risk by forcing schools to disclose personal information about a child's gender identity—regardless of whether it places them in danger at home. This kind of forced outing has real-world consequences, potentially pushing children into unsafe environments and cutting them off from support systems they trust.

Putting aside the ethical implications, Wisconsin legislators should be focused on ensuring that all children feel safe, supported, and able to thrive in school—rather than imposing uniform policies that undermine local educators and administrators, who are best equipped to address the unique needs of their students and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Grace Bernier
9616 W Montana Ave.
West Allis, WI 53227

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed anti-transgender legislation AB100/AB103 currently under consideration in Wisconsin. As a former school social worker who served our youth, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges and struggles that transgender and non-binary students face in our schools and communities.

The impact of this legislation on the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in Wisconsin cannot be overstated. In my role, I have seen how critical it is for students to feel accepted and supported in their identities. Anti-trans legislation sends a damaging message that these students are not valued and that their experiences are invalid. This can lead to increased feelings of isolation, anxiety, and depression among young people who are already vulnerable and disproportionately affected by mental health issues.

Moreover, restricting access to necessary supports, such as gender-affirming healthcare and inclusive educational environments, threatens not only the well-being of transgender youth but also their academic success. When students do not feel safe or accepted at school, their ability to learn and thrive is significantly compromised. It has been well-documented that supportive environments lead to better mental health outcomes, higher academic achievement, and overall improved quality of life for LGBTQ+ youth.

Legislation that seeks to undermine the rights of transgender individuals does not reflect the values of inclusivity and respect that we should uphold as a society. Instead of further marginalizing these young people, I urge you to consider policies that promote understanding, acceptance, and equality.

As a committed advocate for the well-being of all students, I implore you to reject any anti-trans legislation and to support measures that foster a safe and supportive environment for every child in Wisconsin, regardless of their gender identity.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I hope you will stand with the youth of our state and support their right to exist authentically and with dignity.

Sincerely,

Margaret Danielson
Wausau, WI 54403

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Senate Committee on March 6th 10am,

I implore you to not pass bills AB100 and AB103. I oppose both of these bills as this will impact students and their sense of self.

Regarding bill AB103, Students allowing to choose their pronouns and preferred name is no different than allowing students with formal names going by a nickname. A chosen name and/or pronouns allows students to have a better sense of self and identity in the classroom. This should not be prohibitive to what the parents allow. Parents may provide a given name, a birth name, but nicknames and other names come organically. School is hard enough as it is, why would you make a child go by their birth name if they don't want to?

Regarding bill AB100, let the students play! Trans women and girls hinder no other cis women and girls from playing a sport. When I went to Oak Creek High School, I played tennis. The only thing I cared about at that time was enjoying playing the game and was competitive about it. I would have played with anyone who would have played with me. Many school sports are team sports. Let's foster community and let trans women and girls play sports if they do choose. Let's let students play for the love of the game.

Cayla Dobbertin
Greenfield, WI 53221

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Greetings,

I would like to voice my opposition to two anti-trans bills here in Wisconsin. The bills are AB100 and AB103.

Several years ago, I started to notice that people were using their preferred pronouns. As someone born female who presents as a stereotypical female, I did not understand it. I thought it was obvious that I would be a she or a her. But then I educated myself. I started to understand that gender wasn't always about how you look on the outside, but how you feel about yourself on the inside.

I also educated myself on why I should share my preferred pronouns with others. It means that I'm a safe person who respects others. It says to someone, "I support who you are and you matter as a human being." by sharing that I prefer she/her as my pronouns.

Research shows that LGBTQ+ youth are at much higher risk of suicide and self-harm than heterosexual youth, and that is particularly true for trans kids. We should be doing all that we can to make them feel loved and safe. Kids just want to be accepted by those around them — this includes trans kids.

Any bill designed to single them out creates more harm for these kids and puts them in danger. Why are we creating bills that only serve to harm vulnerable people when we could be using that energy to create something that helps others?

Please register my opposition to these anti-trans bills.

Stephanie Beirne
Verona, WI 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am a retired teacher, commenting on Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. It is a basic human right to be able to participate in sports, and it is a basic human courtesy to call people by the name they choose to be called. I find it shameful that adults would pass bills to deny these rights and courtesies to trans youth for their own political gain. Please don't do that!

--

Donna Rosinski
Fitchburg, 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the assembly,

I urge you to oppose bill AB100/ AB103. By restricting trans youth from participating in sports and using chosen pronouns in schools you are only helping further discrimination against trans people. This bill is harmful, degrading, and unethical. As a trans wisconsinite myself, I need you to understand that if this bill passes we come that much closer to fascism, genocide, and suffering on a global scale. These are children. They deserve to have a safe place to grow and be themselves. They deserve to play sports with their friends. Trans kids deserve to become trans adults. I have been a resident of Wisconsin for 10 years now and I love this state. I love our Midwestern hospitality and friendly natures. I want this state to stay vibrant, safe, and welcoming for everyone. Trans people most of all. Leave the kids alone. Do not comply in advance to the horrid decrees Trump is trying to force. Protect the people that live here - all of us. You have the choice of being on the right side of history. Protect trans kids. Protect trans adults. We deserve so much better.

Best,

Ori O'Malley

Milwaukee

53202

(They/ Them/ Theirs)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 42 years, have served our community as a social worker and mental health therapist for disabled citizens, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, dignity-affirming, equal, inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

I care so much about children feeling safe to be themselves in our communities. Please help children to feel welcome and understood and affirmed whatever their gender identity.

Thank you so kindly.

Warmly,
Cedarose Keeley
Madison, WI 53713

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Harper DePagter and I am from Brown Deer, WI 53223. I am writing to express my opposition to AB 100 and AB 100. I am a transgender woman educator who taught social studies and science to 5-12th graders. Two weeks ago I lost my teaching position in part of the attack on DEI and transgender individuals. Wisconsin already has a teacher shortage so why are we trying to make it worse? Instead of focusing on improving our education in our schools like our reading and math scores, the elected officials of the Assembly and Senate take it upon themselves to target an extremely small minority group of people and make their lives more difficult.

Lessons can be learned from social studies teachers and the attacks on minority groups in American history. An example is the Declaration of Independence when women, freed blacks, and Native Indigenous people were left out of the identifying as "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Then when the Constitution was written once again women, freed blacks and Indigenous people were left out of the Constitution to have any rights. It has taken several movements and Constitutional Amendments to start to establish Constitutional rights for minority groups. Each time in American history when a minority group of people is "noticed" by the majority, the majority has the power to create laws to restrict and make the minority group of people's lives more difficult. How is it that we still have not learned from our past and continue to make the same mistakes over and over again? We are ALL human beings. The Constitution says "We the people," transgender men and women are people, or like I say to all my students we are ALL humans.

Transgender humans want to be like any other human being. They have emotions and feelings just like a cis human. In AB 100 it states "Sex" means the sex determined at birth by a physician and reflected on the birth certificate." I have taught science and unless each physician performs a DNA test to determine the actual chromosomal sex, the physical appearance at birth can be deceiving because there are intersex humans. "Intersex is a general term used to refer to individuals born with, or who develop naturally in puberty, biological sex characteristics that are not typically male or female. That is, a person with an intersex condition is born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia, or an internal reproductive system that is not considered typical for a male or female." Examples of chromosomal intersex are XXX, XXY, and X. The expression: don't judge a book by its cover resonates in this context.

As a transgender woman, I wish I had the opportunity to grow up as my authentic self in a safe space; however, growing up in Oostburg Wisconsin, which is a small rural Christian community it was extremely difficult to be my authentic self. I hid for almost 30 years and I caused severe microaggressions on myself because I lived in fear of the hate I would receive. When I came out in 2022 to my family who still live in Oostburg, I received the worst hateful things said to me by my mother, father, brother, sister, and grandparents. I wasn't accepted. I was cast out of the community. I was still human and I was just trying to live as my authentic transgender self and be joyful but for some reason, the beliefs they had were to hate me and attack me because I am different. The Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate are no different than my family attacking me with hateful messages. It is also no different than what the federal government is doing. There is no unity in these bills to make Wisconsin better when it focuses on such a small minority of people. Invest in our future by investing in our families, education, mental health, and our economy. Do not create a problem where there is no problem because then nothing gets accomplished for the people of

Wisconsin. There are working lower-class families who are feeling the effects of the Trump administration tariffs and what does this Wisconsin Legislature focus on, AB 100 restricting transgender girls from participating in girl's sports and AB 103 legal name change with pronouns. Nothing in the bills addresses restricting transgender boys from not participating in boy's sports. AB 100 is unconstitutional because it only focuses on only half the population of a minority group. AB 103 violates Title VII.

I have heard from both sides of the aisle of government overreach and the guilty party only has to look in the mirror. Why is the government and politicians so concerned with someone else's life and what they are called based on pronouns? I find it a little hypocritical that the Trump administration and Republicans wants Americans to call the Gulf of Mexico now the Gulf of America. Well, Gulf America is now its chosen name and we can't do that because that is considered DEI. See how ridiculous it sounds out loud when one gets that nit-picky about a name and pronouns. As a teacher who just wants her students to recognize me as a human being trying to be my authentic self and do the job she loves to be called Ms. D., I am not in the classroom to indoctrinate the students, if I was going to do that, I would have indoctrinated all students to complete all school work on time and never get off task. I loved my students and I loved teaching. The real issue has been creating problems for teachers and not letting them do their jobs. Students trust their teachers and teachers provide safe places for students. When I came out in 2022 as a transgender teacher I created a safe place for students; however, colleagues and community members had a different view of me. I was sexually harassed at the school I worked at in 2022 and I was blamed for the sexual harassment. The administration said it was my fault. Once again, they wanted to put the fear into the community that I was a groomer and predator in the classroom. Hateful words were spoken about me that were completely untrue. It's one thing to be an adult and hear these words but imagine a teenager who is transgender who might have to hear these same words said to them. Of course, none of you will ever know what it is like to be transgender. I encourage you to have a conversation with a transgender individual. Actually, have eight different conversations with them before voting on the bill because that is how many times it takes to make an impression on someone.

Transgender people should not see their rights restricted like all other racial, ethnic, and cultural groups and women before them who had to fight for over a hundred years for their rights. It is 2025 and we should be better than its 1789 restricting rights because someone is different. Only the guilty party needs to look in the mirror. Right now AB 100 and AB 103 are bills looking for negatives in a positive and you will get electrocuted. What I mean by that is this, There is always a positive in a negative, but if you look for a negative in a positive you will get electrocuted. These anti-transgender bills are exactly that, looking for a negative thing in positive individuals and trying to make their lives miserable. There are way better solutions than these two bills; however, what we call in education for those in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate; are those in a fixed mindset and not a growth mindset. Remember this, the Constitution says "We the people," meaning We the humans and we are ALL humans. Treat others how you would like to be treated because I'm pretty sure if the shoe was on the other foot and your majority rights were being restricted you would be upset too. I leave you with this thought to think about as you cast your vote. If these bills pass, I Harper DePagter will be running against you for your seat in 2026. I will not stand for this and I as a transgender human being, I have rights, and if the government does not protect my rights; then I have the right to do something about it by running for office myself and beating you and ousting those that do not uphold the Constitution and my rights. Thank you for taking the time for my testimony.

Harper DePagter

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

1808 Van Hise Avenue
Madison WI.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee of Education,

My name is Lynette Miller, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for fifty-five years. I have been a member of a Christian Church for all those years. There are youth in my church who have identified themselves as transgender or on the LGBTQ+ spectrum. They are very concerned about the way the government is targeting them. Some are even considering moving away.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100 and 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to these bills because legislators are not trained to understand physical and mental sexual identity and are hurting these children and youth. I developed a little understanding about the variety of sexual identities from an acquaintance who studied psychiatry at Columbia University under a professor who worked with parents and babies around the world who were born without a definite sex.

There is great physical and psychological variation in people even in individuals of the same sex. Even if everyone on a team identifies as the same sex, there are going to be some who are better than others. Sports are for physical and social development. It is a place where people can learn to appreciate and work with a variety of people. A good coach will help the members of the team work as a team. Vote no on assembly bill 100.

I think we all want to be called by the name we prefer and be identified by the pronouns we associate with. Vote NO on assembly bill 103.

These bills discriminate against a group of people instead of treating people as individuals. At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin.

Sincerely, Lynette Miller

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Members of the Assembly:

I am writing to express my opposition to AB100 and AB103.

I am the coparent of a wonderful young trans woman. She's intelligent, athletic, kind, gentle, and empathetic. She's a human being who's working to become a contributing, caring, and productive member of society. The bills being proposed are an attempt to strip my daughter, and other transgender children, of their humanity and right to exist as who they are. We—and it's no secret to any of us, including members of this body—know that rates of suicide amongst queer and transgender children are statistically higher when compared to other children. I've already started mourning the needless deaths by suicide that will occur because of bills such as these. I've already started mourning the irreparable mental harm these bills will have on our children. My daughter is loved and cared for, and despite the hatred purported by these bills, will be loved and supported by her parents who will do anything to protect her and to make sure she grows into the empowered woman she is. Other children won't be so lucky.

The State of Wisconsin has an opportunity to distinguish itself from other states and the federal government and to come out in support of our transgender children, family members, friends, and neighbors. Please—don't be a party to the death of our children. Vote no on these bills.

Jason D'Acchioli
He/Him/His
jdacchio@gmail.com

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan,

My name is Dani O'Brien, and I am professor of education in Ashland, WI. My research and work focus on making schools safe, supportive spaces where all young people can thrive. I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103. These are harmful bills that will no doubt make schools more dangerous for transgender and non-binary students in our state. Queer students, and transgender students in particular, are at an increased risk of suicide. A recent peer reviewed study found that when states pass anti-trans laws suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth increases by up to 72%. If you care about children, and their safety, you must oppose these bills. A 2023 study found that 48% of Wisconsin's LGBT youth have seriously considered suicide and we should be doing all we can we to decrease that risk. Regardless of your political party or individual views, I hope you can see the harm that bills targeting transgender and non-binary students causes.

Please help save young Wisconsinites' lives by opposing these bills.

Dani O'Brien, PhD

Ashland, WI 54806

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

As a parent, business owner, and advocate in Middleton Cross Plains School District of Dane County, I am writing to you in concern of bills AB100 and AB103 currently being considered, that would ban trans athletes from school sports.

I even more strongly am opposed to the idea that children are no longer allowed to use pronouns to which they feel comfortable with based on their gender identity.

I understand that federal funding may be withheld. However, I believe we as a state need to come together to find alternative funding sources for our schools.

The current administration's bullying tactics are disgusting and unconstitutional. I would encourage law makers and representatives of Wisconsin to not fall susceptible to the authoritarian, racist, xenophobic, homophobic, and exclusion-based leadership.

As a state we must stand strong to protect our children and families. Every child deserves the freedom of unadulterated and uncensored educational opportunities with freedom to express their own identity with respect from staff and peers.

Childhood and adolescence is already a challenging time of learning, growth, and development paired with social pressure and rejection. Our children do not need the additional pressure and stress of being surrounded by hate and targeted for their differences.

Many trans and LGBTQ+ children already face difficult navigation of their identities in families and in their community. They have some of the highest suicide rates of all children and demographics. Children and their families spend the majority of their waking hours at school and involved in school activities.

Taking away this protection in schools is inequitable, and quite frankly appalling. I urge you to carefully consider the consequences of Wisconsin families which should be our ultimate goal.

One aspect that makes Wisconsin unique is the culture of inclusion and community. In trying times we come together and we stand for what is right, regardless of what the rest of the world is doing.

Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the 19th amendment to allow women to vote, setting the precedent for equality within our state, our communities, and our families. We should remain steadfast in this commitment.

I strongly urge you to take this bill off of the table and allow children the safety, dignity, and respect they deserve within their school community.

Erica Page
Cross Plains, WI
608-982-6097

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Noah Leigh and I am the school board president for the West Allis/West Milwaukee School district. However, today I am providing testimony only on behalf of myself, not the entire board of education since this was not a topic we had a chance to discuss as a board.

AB 100 and AB 103 are both bills that I have personal issues with in regards to the damage they could inflict on vulnerable students of my district. However, I am not going to focus on these concerns for my testimony, but keep it much broader in that both of these bills aim to strip my authority as a duly elected school board member for the district I serve and give that authority to the state.

As a school board member, I am elected to represent my constituents in regards to the operation of the West Allis/West Milwaukee et. al. school district. This includes the consideration and creation of policies that govern said school district. Bills AB 100 and AB 103 would force policies on my district, and all other school districts in the state of Wisconsin, circumventing the statutory authority granted to myself as an elected school board member.

As a school board member, there are many concerns that I aim to address in order to improve my district. The topics addressed in AB 100 and AB 103 are not topics that my constituents have brought to myself or the board as topics of concern. However, if these topics were ever a concern for my constituency, I would like the opportunity to address those concerns based on what is best for my district and not be restricted by the state in how to address those concerns.

In conclusion, I believe that AB 100 and AB 103 are an overreach by the state to exert control of decisions that should be made locally by the duly elected officials designated to make those decisions. I guarantee that there is no state representative or senator that understands the needs and concerns of the school district I represent better than myself. I ask that you allow me and my fellow board members to continue to serve our school district as informed by our constituency without interference from the state.

Respectfully,

Noah Leigh, President of the West Allis/West Milwaukee et. al school district"

Noah Leigh
He/Him
WAWM School Board

The statements contained in this email in no way represent the opinion of the WAWM school district or the WAWM school board as a whole. These are my personal opinions and should be treated as such.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hi,

I'm Wyatt Garlow, a Wisconsin resident and a Transgender person who is concerned about the bills AB100 & AB103. As a former transgender student who received education within Wisconsin schools, the possibility of Bills AB100 and AB103 passing into law are worrying to me.

For myself and many others, having the ability to have teachers/faculty use my chosen name and pronouns as well as the ability to play team sports was an extension of my freedom. Even if I was denied the possibility of being called my chosen name and pronouns by one teacher, there were many others that understood the importance and chose to respect my decision.

If Bills AB100 and AB103 are passed, not only are you restricting transgender students freedom of expression, you are creating an unsatisfactory and uncondusive environment for their learning. Students shouldn't have to worry about advocating for themselves the way I had to worry, and I hope my words don't fall on deaf ears.

Thank you for reading my testimony and I hope this may provide some insight.

Thank you,
Wyatt Garlow

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

Unfortunately I cannot make it in person, but I strongly oppose Bill AB 100 and AB 103.

At a time when teens in the area are committing suicide in alarming rates, and knowing the high rate of suicide attempts by transgender people, it is horrible that these bills are even introduced. This is nothing more than grandstanding. Who are they protecting? No one. What are they "protecting" from? Reality. Not everyone is the same. That's life.

To single out and ostracize transgender students who are not hurting anyone, and simply trying to live their lives, is horrible.

While racist and homophobic people are being emboldened by the president, I ask you to stand up for what's right.

These bills seek to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools.

Rita Krause

Black Earth, WI 53515

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

My name is Drew Laser, and I am a Milwaukee county resident. I am writing to ask the assembly committee not to pass bills AB100 and AB103. Both of these bills are attempts to make life more difficult for trans and queer students. As a trans person myself, I understand the discomfort and pain that students go through when they feel left out and unsupported. There are so few of us, and we ask only for basic respect: to be addressed by the name and pronouns that feel comfortable to us, and to be included in our community. Trans children deserve to feel safe and comfortable at school. Banning trans kids from being in their preferred sports team and making social transition such as a name change or pronoun change a difficult bureaucratic process serves no one, and in fact creates harm. It also seems like it would create confusion — if we have to go through this process for any non-legal name, can no one go by nicknames? These bills are short-sighted attempts to make life even more difficult for a very small group of people who pose no threat and are generally just trying to exist. Please choose to be a kind person and to try to understand and support the people around you.

Thank you,
Drew

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly committee on Education ,

My name is Laura Komai, and I am a resident of Madison and business owner in Madison. I have lived in Madison for over 50 years and have always had great pride and love for this state. Unfortunately the Republican party has been testing that. Where is the dedication we had towards the ways that rural and urban communities depend upon each other, for our wonderful natural resources, for the foundation of public schools and access to education for everyone, and the fair treatment of all people? Where is the care for the way that success of our children brings success to our communities and our economy? I'm tired of the ways you are wasting time and resources, targeting innocent people who simply want to live their lives with the freedoms that you would expect for yourselves.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on AB 100/103. I am opposed to these bills because they interfere with the individual liberties of our children. Is this helping with rural transportation to schools? Is this helping create learning environments that are safe from gun violence? Is this helping with budget shortfalls and failure to keep up with inflation?

I really don't understand why politicians are so concerned with private lives in ways they would not tolerate in their own lives. I hope you will focus your time and attention on matters that will improve fairness and success of all children of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Laura Komai
Madison, WI 53705

and Anthology
Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

I am writing this testimony against current Wisconsin Bills AB100 and AB103. Hate has no place in our communities as marginalized identities continue to be attacked by the current presidential administration, and as a state, we must do everything in our power to resist the current wave of facism that it has allowed to crop up and allow transgender youth to thrive and have a sense of community and welcomeness in spite of the Federal Government.

Best regards,

Mx. Claire A Durgan

Pronouns: they/them fae/faer

SUNY POLY '15, B.S. Information Systems

Radio Station WZ90

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about AB100 (K-12 Trans athletic ban) and AB103 (restrictions on the use of pronouns for trans and non-binary youth).

These bills are breathtaking in their scope and the harm they can inflict, with no evidence that their good outweighs this harm.

Only 1.4% of all youth in the US ages 13-17 identify as transgender. I couldn't find statistics for Wisconsin, or national statistics for ages 12 and under. Why do you need AB100 when only a tiny number of youth identify as trans and it is likely that not all of those want to participate in sports? And what business is it of the state to legislate the use of pronouns? Why is it in the state's interest to interfere in this deeply personal part of people's lives? We have much more pressing issues in this state to address.

I want to remind you that it was in the late 1990s, that marriage equality for gay couples a hot button issue. Bills were introduced to ban or support gay marriage, and it was highly politicized. Miraculously, the more we as a nation talked about it, the more we became aware of family members who were gay, and became personal. Now a significant majority of Americans support gay marriage. In 2023, 80% of Wisconsinites approve of it.

Many of us are only recently, becoming aware and educated about what it means to be transgender. And only a few of us, especially in my generation, have transgender people in our lives. Thankfully this is beginning to change. My son and daughter have transgender people in their lives, including my daughter in law's trans sister. My 6 and 12 year grandchildren have transgender classmates, friends, even a teacher or two. They go with the flow.....they use pronouns fluidly and play in mix gender sports. It is no big deal to them; they are all human. They simply would not understand these bills, which sideline and vilify their family and friends.

Others will speak to the facts that should persuade you to say no to these bills. And facts are super important. As important is the consideration of the potential harm you inflict should these bills pass. You are trying to legislate being transgender out of existence and denying those who are transgender any agency....and all, it seems to fulfill a political agenda rather than address a pressing problem. I urge you to vote no on obit. Thank you,

Mary Wichita
Mason, WI 54856. 715-413-0177

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Sarah Gaskell and I live in Verona WI. As a cis, white female, I am writing to vehemently oppose AB100/AB103. At a time when legislators' efforts could be spent on far more important issues, focusing on regulating pronoun use and a trans athlete ban is ridiculous and cruel. Trans kids threaten absolutely no one. Leave them alone.

Thank you,

Sarah

--

Sarah Gaskell

Morgan Adams

Regarding the Presentation of AB100 and AB103 to the Wisconsin
Legislature

March 5, 2025

I am a concerned Madison community member and am testifying about how these anti-trans bills frighten me because of the precedent they would set and the danger they would impose on our trans youth.

Transgender kids are so brave, and we should be celebrating their discovery of identity, not condemning it. They should be allowed to play sports with other children of their gender and be referred to by their correct name and pronouns.

I didn't know I was trans until college, and it was (and still is) a challenge to get people to respect my pronouns. If I had to manage the misgendering when I was a child, I'm not sure that I would have been able to cope. Students, especially those in middle and high school, have so much going on in their day-to-day and they deserve basic levels of respect so they have the energy to manage all the other things life is throwing at them. They shouldn't be forced to be deadnamed or misgendered every single day. That is a miserable and exhausting way to live. I want trans kids to grow up to be trans adults and these bills will be huge factors in preventing that. "The Trevor Project's 2023 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People found that 41% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including roughly half of transgender and nonbinary youth¹". If you take away a sport they love and force them to be deadnamed and misgendered, that will certainly contribute to suicide rates among trans youth.

These bills will also set a dangerous tone and precedent, opening the door for more anti-trans legislation to be introduced in Wisconsin. Legislation of this kind will harm the safety of so many Wisconsinites, trans or otherwise. It's terrifying living as a trans adult in America today, I can't imagine the terror experienced by our trans youth. I felt the need to speak out because we all deserve to live in peace, not constant fear and dread.

Please reject these bills. They are dangerous and will lead to trans deaths, one way or another. We need to love and protect our trans communities, not destroy them.

Trans people have always existed and will always exist. You get to decide how many of us continue to exist and what our quality of life looks like. Please make the right choice.

Thank you for your consideration,

Morgan Adams

1. Quote from <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/>

Dear assembly committee on education,

I am writing as a lifelong Wisconsin resident to express my concern about the new anti trans bills, AB100 and AB103. These bills do nothing to protect children. In fact they do the opposite by making trans children feel bullied and unsafe in school.

School is difficult enough for students. For students to succeed they need to feel like school is a safe place. By banning them from sports or refusing to use their pronouns as they request them, you are not only refusing them agency but are making them a target for bullying. Imagine a student who dresses masculine, goes by a masculine name, and at a quick glance LOOKS masculine, and forcing them to play on the woman's softball team, or be called 'she' in class.

These students already face so much discrimination and hate. How does refusing to use their chosen name or pronouns protect them or anyone else at the school? Alienating children like this will lead to more insecurity, more bullying, and likely higher rates of drop out and suicide.

Please protect trans youth. They deserve to be cared for in school just like every other student.

Best,

April Presnell

To the members of the assembly Committee on Education

These bills will undoubtedly harm Wisconsin kids. I oppose both AB100 & AB 103.

First, the bill on banning transgender athletes will ostracize trans youth from enjoying recreational activities. Most of the time, kids are just participating in an after school activity for socialization and being involved with something. Why are we trying to restrict children from that? Additionally, at this age group, sports have very little to do with natural ability. If this bill is at all meant to allow "fairness" in sports based on the physical ability of children, the fact that children go through puberty at different rates throws that out the window. Two kids in 7th grade can have wildly different strengths, growth spurts, etc, and this bill completely overlooks that to vilify trans kids specifically. I strongly oppose this bill.

The Second bill will also harm kids. Why is the government trying to get its hands in how kids perceive themselves? Is the next bill going to restrict the use of nicknames, another way that kids and people self identify? I oppose this bill and its goal of the government to restrict kids self expression.

Aedan Gardill
Madison WI 53711

To: 2025 Assembly Education Committee
From: Patti Clark-Stojke, Appleton

I oppose both AB 100 and AB 103. First, Wisconsin was the first state in the nation with a broad anti discrimination policy for schools. Transgender and gender-nonconforming students have the right to be safe and be themselves at school. Wisconsin Statute 118.13 requires school districts to have a formal complaint process called "pupil nondiscrimination. Federal law prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes gender identity, potentially requiring schools to accommodate students' preferred names and pronouns. Public schools have a responsibility to create a safe learning environment. Wisconsin school districts are required to comply with federal law prohibiting discrimination based on a student's sex-- and generally also gender identity. I implore the Education Committee to promote educational equity and access to educational opportunities for each student in our public schools through non-discriminatory policies.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education

I am writing to urge the Wisconsin state assembly to vote against bills AB 100 and AB 103. These bills harm children and deny them equal opportunities. Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as cisgender kids. Trans kids belong in school sports if they choose to participate. All school children deserve the opportunity to join a school team of their choice and explore their own athletic abilities. To bar any kids from school sports is truly unjust and unkind. This bill would directly harm trans kids and does not make cis kids safer. It's a wholly unnecessary legislative attack on a small number of children, which is sickening to me. Transgender kids and cisgender kids alike deserve to be addressed with the name and pronouns they use at home or with friends, while they are in school. The first day of school, most teachers will run down the class list and ask kids what name they use. Example: "Elizabeth? Do you go by your full name or a nickname?" The teacher asks each student this question because it shows respect for the student's autonomy. Kids deserve the right to change their names and pronouns whenever they want to, just as adults do. This should be a matter between a student and their teachers, and should not require parent notification. Name and pronoun changes can represent safety, autonomy, and authenticity for students. This bill is similarly unnecessary, and harmful to children who are exploring or embracing their identity.

James Guckenberg

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education

I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103. I believe these bills are seeking to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports and use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right of trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools. My transgender child and all children deserve equal access.

My 17 year old child has been working through their transgender journey since they were 13 years old. Because of so many negative and painful experiences of judgement and discrimination they have slowly transitioned adding new ways of living in their gender identity with each phase - using they pronouns when entering high school then thoughtfully progressing to he when reaching 11th grade and feeling more confident, secure and supported in their community. The path he took isn't unusual. It mirrors many young people's exploration and discovery of self - the job that every young person is tasked with - to figure out who you are and how you can best contribute to our world.

AB100 and AB103 would take away my child's and all other children's right to be themselves and contribute their full selves to society. Because of my child's ability to be themselves he thrives as an A student, an athlete, a performer in theater and choir and student leader.

Please don't take these rights away from him. Please don't pass these harmful bills out of your committee.

Thank you
Susan Rampscher,
Madison WI, 53704

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

For 34 years I was a pediatric nurse practitioner in the Madison School District. Many of those years I worked with students who were transgender. They needed the love, acceptance and support from all of us. These students just want to be students who can live life without someone imposing restrictions on whether they can play sports or not. These students were beautiful individuals just like all children. They just want to live their authentic lives with names that fit who they are. Why is there such a fixation on names, pronouns and bathroom use?

Why is it that legislators feel the need to take valuable time away from important topics like education, homelessness, & the economy among many other issues? Why must you try and ruin the lives of children who just want to be children? I just cannot understand why Republicans have decided they can take parents rights away by deciding what is best for children who are transgender. Health care providers, parents and the children should be able to decide what is best...not legislators.

Please, please support children who are transgender.

I strongly oppose AB 100 & AB 103. Please get back to work on legislation that will improve lives, not destroy them.

Elly McGraw Chybowski
Madison, WI 53717

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

As a resident of Wisconsin since 1980, I am contacting you to express my concern for anti-equality Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. This anti-LGBTQ+ proposed legislation is aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms of our transgender and non-conforming Wisconsin citizens. They represent a cruel attack on our transgender youth. I urge you to oppose these two Bills at every opportunity!

Thank you, Jane Evans
Madison, WI 53711

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Kate McKay and I am a resident of Madison, WI writing you today to ask you to oppose both AB100 and AB103.

Regarding AB100: As a former NCAA Division III college athlete at one of Wisconsin's public universities, I find it abhorrent that you would try to take the joy of sports away from anyone. Growing up, sports were the one place I felt like I belonged and it wasn't important who we were playing against, but that I could be part of a team and play the games I loved. By taking away the ability for trans athletes to participate in sports teams aligned with their gender, you're taking away so many opportunities for kids to learn, grow, move, and succeed. As a woman, I want to play sports with other women. Trans women are women. Trans men are men. This goes for students and minors too.

Regarding AB103: A person's name - the name they prefer to go by - whether it's a shortened version of their first name, their middle name, or something completely different - is so important to identity. By stripping students of their right to be called the name they identify with is stripping them of their identity! Pronouns are similar. When referring to students by pronouns they do not identify with, you're not only disrespecting their identity, but showing that you don't care at all about who these students are. It's frustrating that over and over again the right for both cisgender and transgender students to be addressed in their preferred manner comes into question.

Trans rights are human rights. Whether or not you believe trans people when they tell you or others about their identity, what they are experiencing is real. These bills will hurt and exclude people. I vehemently oppose them and ask you to think about the people these will impact. Oppose these bills!

Thank you for your time,

Kate McKay

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Virginia Kamp. I grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin, completed my Bachelor's Degree at UW- Madison, and am currently a resident of Wauwatosa. I am writing to strongly urge you not to move forward with bills AB100 and AB103.

When I was a high school student in Appleton, I knew that I was gay. But I also knew that I wanted to be seen as a "good" student, so for a long time, I didn't tell anyone. But later, I got to know other students who were openly LGBT, and who were bullied and made to feel unsafe because of it.

So, along with a few other students, I started a Gay-Straight Alliance at my school. I still did not tell my teachers that I was gay, but they knew I was part of forming this organization. And to this day, I can still remember how I felt in each of my high school classrooms after my teacher's found out this information. There were some classrooms where I felt safe to learn, safe to be myself. But unfortunately, there were lots of classrooms where I did not feel that way.

I am deeply concerned that these bills will only serve to increase self-harm, self-hatred, and even suicide among Wisconsin's kids.

I hope that that is enough for you to not move these bills forward. But in case it's not, let me also share my perspective as a former classroom teacher. We are already having a hard time keeping teachers in classrooms, and I fear that we will lose more teachers - good, kind, loving teachers - if you tell them that they can't listen respectfully when a child asks them to use a preferred name or pronouns.

There is one final thing I hope you will consider. When I did finally start coming out as gay, I remember that there were certain people who surprised me. People I expected to be disgusted who instead were curious and kind, who kept our connection and our communication open long enough to get to actually know me, and for me to actually get to know them. I see a Wisconsin where it's possible for that type of kindness to overcome partisanship. Let's be the state where you can be a Republican or a Democrat, where you can disagree wholeheartedly, but where we don't let fear or hatred prevent us from taking care of all of our kids.

Morgan Lange
Madison, WI 53704

AB100/AB103 OPPOSE

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on AB100/AB103,

My name is Morgan Lange, I am a registered nurse, a parent, currently a public health nurse for Madison & Dane County, a family member and friend of individuals in the LGBTQ+ community in Madison, and a former school nurse.

I am testifying to oppose the anti-trans legislation being proposed in AB100 and AB103. I was a school nurse for 5 years in the Madison Metropolitan School District (2019-2024) and know firsthand how harmful and dangerous this type of legislation is for trans youth and the school community overall.

These bills completely take away the power of an individual to determine their identity and instead give it to a person of power (the school principal). NO ONE should be allowed to tell anyone who they are. This is a completely inappropriate guideline for a school community - as one of the foundational pillars of the school environment is acceptance of others and being unafraid to be yourself. Specifically, the sports team environment fosters teamwork and working with others, and engaging in camaraderie. These bills create a tableau for others in the school to fear and discriminate against their trans peers or their trans students.

More than 1 in 10 LGBTQ+ young people attempted suicide in the past year, and 39% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year — **including 46% of transgender and nonbinary young people.** (These statistics are from the TrevorProject.org). I want to emphasize that LGBTQ+ youth are **not** more prone to suicide because of their gender identity or sexual orientation but rather because of how society has treated them and stigmatized them.

I also want to point to the statistic from the [trevorproject.org](https://www.trevorproject.org) that clearly shows 49% (almost HALF) of LGBTQ+ youth experienced bullying at school. As a school nurse - this is something I have personally witnessed. I have taken care of many trans students in the health office, in mental health distress or even crisis from bullying or discrimination that they are experiencing from peers, and in some cases from school staff. As someone who has worked in the middle and high school environments, I can say with absolute certainty, that stigmatizing trans youth, but disallowing them to express themselves will have a

devastating, and likely deadly effect on the youth in our Wisconsin schools and the education community. I am completely horrified that these bills are even being proposed; schools are a place for inclusion and acceptance of self-expression, *not* hate and discrimination.

Thank you for hearing/reading my testimony. I hope you will consider what I have shared with you today, and stand up for trans youth (and all people) in Wisconsin by opposing AB100 and AB103 which severely harms trans students in the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Morgan Lange RN

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Liz Charewicz, and I am reaching out to you to respectfully urge you to oppose **AB100 and AB103**. These bills, which seek to ban transgender athletes from participating in sports and restrict of pronouns, represent an overreach of government authority and undermine the principles of fairness and individual liberty that, we, as Americans, hold dear. I am a mom of two boys who are heavily involved in youth sports within the City of Franklin, WI.

Contradicting values of limited government: Both bills unnecessarily increase government involvement and interfere with the lives of taxpayers like me. Decisions about sports participation and pronoun usage should be made by individuals--and not by the state. These bills impose a one-size-fits-all solution that disregard individual freedom public servants, like yourselves, were elected to fight for. As a parent, I am a consumer of youth sporting clubs. I don't think I want lawmakers to craft the policies and procedures of organizations my kids are involved in. These bills are a 100% overreach.

Undermining fairness: Transgender youth, like all children, deserve the opportunity to participate in sports and enjoy the benefits of teamwork, discipline, and physical activity. Excluding them from sports denies kids of these opportunities and sends a harmful message saying that they are not valued members of society. Fairness can be achieved through thoughtful policies that balance inclusion with competition, without resorting to blanket bans. If Boy Scouts of America can get the memo of gender identity why can't educated state lawmakers? I expect some follow up to help me understand who has the time to manifest such a time and money drain by promoting hate among youth and families which is being done by these bills.

Infringing on personal freedom: Pronouns are a matter of personal expression, speech, and respect. The government fundamentally, should not proactively censor or influence speech. This bill is a mean spirited, dangerous, and unprecedented threat to our First Amendment rights. I would like to see the WI legislature pass laws around supporting spelling, grammar, phonics, and communication skills instead of wasting taxpayers' time, money, and resources on banning a population of children from accessing positive recreational activities. I encourage lawmakers to review writing of youth in our public and private schools and report back to me on what we should focus on--fear mongering or helping our students have access to academic excellence.

Distracting from budgetary, social, and economic issues: Regardless of your beliefs around the existence of an entire population, of people, we can agree that it is not anyone's right to dictate who an individual is or can be. Please consider the constitutional and long-term harm that will be caused to individuals, State constitution and laws from passing what I see as a shameless and publicity-focused pot-stirring win for republican law makers. According to the Williams Institute, only 1.4% of youth athletes are transgender. As a mom whose kids are in hockey, football, snowboarding club, diving, swimming, tennis, and baseball, I can assure you that the use of pronouns and gender identities of children is not an issue.

Please fulfill your civic duty by opposing both of these bills and aligning with our constitutional freedom.

Liz Charewicz
Franklin, WI 53132

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

This letter is speaking out against bills AB100/AB103.

I am a parent of a cisgender child, but fully support the full inclusion of transgender athletes in sports at all levels. I believe that students, regardless of their gender identity, should have the opportunity to compete and thrive in a welcoming and equitable environment. Transgender students are already at greater risk for depression and anxiety. However, a 2022 study done by of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC Foundation) and the University of Connecticut 2022 LGBTQ+ Youth Study found that high school-aged transgender and non-binary student-athletes reported higher grades, lower levels of depression, and were less likely to feel unsafe at school than those who did not play sports.

In 2023, when the Wisconsin State Assembly signed off legislation limiting transgender participation in youth sports, author Barbara Dittrich (R) said she was aware of only six transgender athletes in Wisconsin. I don't have concerns with my daughter playing sports with transgender athletes. I do have increasing concerns on genital checks being required if any student's sex is called in question.

Transgender individuals, like all athletes, deserve respect, safety, and the ability to pursue their athletic goals without discrimination or exclusion. Inclusion in sports not only enriches the lives of transgender athletes but strengthens our collective commitment to fairness, teamwork, and community. By ensuring that everyone has access to play and compete, we foster a society that values diversity, acceptance, and human rights. I am calling on the Wisconsin state assembly to reject policies that discriminate against transgender athletes and instead champion efforts to ensure their equitable treatment and participation.

Together, we stand for inclusion, equality, and a future where all athletes belong.
Best, Molly Schuman

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing in regards to my opposition to Assembly Bills 103 and 100

As the parent of a trans person, I have witnessed how beneficial it is to have a trans person referred to as the chosen name and pronoun that identify as. Attacks on transgender people, especially youths have life long emotional and mental health difficulties. Those that have Gender Dysphoria are trying to live their true, authentic selves and school should be a place where they can focus on their education. Transgender is not a new concept, across the world many cultures have thousands of years of history that includes transgender people. Current focus on transgender people now is not about the best interest of them, it is emboldening a society of hate on a marginalized group and any vote to restrict their right to exist can only be seen as an act of hate.

Assembly Bill 100 is another needless assault on transgender individuals. It invites gender policing that could subject any woman to invasive tests or accusations of being "too masculine" or "too good" at their sport to be a "real" woman. It also reinforces the stereotype that women are weak. Women and girls who are trans face discrimination and violence that makes it difficult to even stay in school. According to the U.S. Trans Survey, 22 percent of trans women who were perceived as trans in school were harassed so badly they had to leave school because of it. The idea that women and girls have an advantage because they are trans ignores the actual conditions of their lives.

Jason Goyette
Cedarburg WI 53012

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Maks Kopish, I am a constituent from La Farge, WI (54639). I've lived in Vernon County for the past six years, and I am in training to become an interfaith minister. Four years ago, I decided to change my name with the realization that my interior self is much more masculine-leaning than people would assume based on the sex (female) and name I was assigned at birth.

I discovered that there is a name for a feeling I had my entire life, the feeling of not really fitting within the category of "girl" or the social expectations of girl/womanhood. The word is dysphoria. Gender dysphoria is what I felt when I'd open birthday presents from my mom to find pink clothes, barbie dolls, and heart-shaped jewelry, when my young self wanted army men, spy gadgets, and science books. Gender dysphoria is what I felt when I had to wear a dress to prom and felt like a man in drag. Despite being biologically female, I have never fit within the box of girl/womanhood, and I knew it from the earliest age I can remember.

Changing my name and adopting gender neutral pronouns (they/them) was a massive relief for my mental and emotional health. I immediately felt more confident, happy, and excited about life. I was getting to know myself better, no longer hiding under labels that always felt off. I was being more honest with my friends and loved ones about who I really am. Changing my name and pronouns was one of the most important and life-affirming things I've ever done. My only regret is that I was kept from my own truth for so many years trying to fit within a category I didn't belong.

Please do not cause misery for our kids. They have it hard enough with everything going on in the world. Just let them be themselves. Gender is not some big scary thing. Gender expression should be fun and interesting. Don't you want to know who people really are, in all of our wonderful and wild glory, and as our Creator, rather than our government, intends?

Please do not pass AB100 and AB103. Trans kids should be able to use the locker room that suits their self-understanding of their gender; and refusing to use a person's name and pronouns is not only supremely disrespectful but also massively harmful for that person's internal well-being and sense of self. Just let us be.

Thank you,
Maks Kopish
La Farge, WI 54639

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I have never written a testimony before. But as a transgender individual living in Wisconsin I have to speak out against Assembly Bill 100 and 103.

In regards to AB 100. I was a freshman in highschool when I started socially transitioning. The importance of being called the appropriate name and be correctly gendered cannot be overstated. Socially transitioning is just as important as medically transitioning, especially when gender affirming healthcare is not always accessible. Principals and schools should not be allowed to discriminate against their transgender students. They should not be able to inflict their personal beliefs to harm trans youth. Calling someone by their correct name is a sign of respect and acknowledgement that causes no one harm and does not cost anything. Legal name changes are a lengthy process should not be required in order to be called the correct name.

In regards to AB 103. It is unfair to target and discriminate against any child who wishes to participate in school activities. The legislators who are looking to impose this bill, and the countless others across the nation, are in a fight against literal children. There is an insignificant number of trans kids in athletics that are being harassed by conservative ideology. They are seeking to exclude them because they do not agree with their personal decisions.

Please let me know if this is sufficient! I hope to hear back from you confirming that you have received this and it will be some use!

Jesse Goyette (he/him/his they/them/theirs)

Dear Members of the Assembly Bill on Education,

I am writing to oppose Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

For Bill 100, I am opposed because school sports are not professional sports. All children and youth are still developing and develop at different rates regardless of gender and that includes transgender kids. Blocking transgender children and youth maintains them as second class participants and reminds me of the days when girls were only allowed to play half-court basketball, or were only allowed to wear dresses and skirts, or when we forced left-handed children to try to become right-handed--all within my parents' lifetime. All children and youth play and participate in athletics because first and foremost it's fun, it's something they enjoy. In a world where transgender children and youth are more likely to be bullied. Studies from the National Institute of Health show that 53% of cisgender boys and girls are likely to be bullied, but that rate is 83% for transgender kids. Disallowing trans children and youth from participating in athletics, including locker room use, contributes to the sense of isolation and poor mental health and well-being, as shown in that same study. Inclusion of transgender children and youth has the opposite effect of building self-esteem and acceptance among *all* children and youth, including both transgender and cisgender kids. The percentage of transgender youth ages 13-17 is less than 1.5 percent of the entire U.S. youth population. We are talking about a small number of children and youth who just want to be treated like everyone else. Please oppose Assembly Bill 100 to assure fair treatment and mental well being for all of our children and youth.

For Bill 103, I am opposed because people change names and use nicknames all the time. Are we going to not allow children to use the nickname they prefer? Are we going to insist they use the last name they are registered in, even if they are not in the custody of that parent and choose to use a different family last name? This is an unnecessary bill. For transgender children and youth, studies have shown that using their preferred names and pronouns boosts self-esteem and mental well-being. This is the same for cisgender children. I myself was given a nickname by my family that has been used my whole life; when someone uses my full legal name I know they do not know me personally and do not know who I really am. I know other cisgender adults who were given a nickname by their family and as they became teens they stopped using it because they found it didn't fit. Why would we do this to children and youth? This seems unnecessarily cruel. Allow children and youth to use the names they prefer. Pronouns are also a similar way of declaring who someone is, and it seems rather ridiculous to tell someone they aren't who they know themselves to be. But not only is it ridiculous, it is harmful, and contributes to bullying. Studies from the National Institute of Health show that 53% of cisgender children and youth are likely to be bullied, but that rate is 83% for transgender kids. This seems like

a waste of legislation to target a small percentage (less than 1.5% of all children and youth in the U.S.) and would also affect cisgender children who use a different name at school. Vote no on Assembly Bill 103.

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell
Brookfield, Wisconsin

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

As an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a resident of Wisconsin, I strongly oppose AB 100 and AB 103. These bills undermine the basic human dignity that should be afforded to all people, including our transgender neighbors, friends, and family members. My faith calls me to recognize and affirm the worth of every person as a beloved child of God, and these bills fail to honor that fundamental truth.

Beyond the harm they cause to transgender individuals, these bills also place undue burdens on families, educators, and school staff—forcing them into impossible positions that fracture trust and create fear where there should be care and support. Policies that target and marginalize vulnerable populations do not reflect the values of compassion, justice, and equity that should be afforded to all residents of Wisconsin.

I urge you to reject these harmful measures and instead work toward laws that uplift and protect the dignity of all Wisconsinites. We are called not to create division, but to care for one another in love.

The Rev. Jason Poole-Xiong
Madison, WI 53704

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing today to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

My name is Astrid Hooper Lofton and I am a Madison resident. I studied Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Wisconsin- Madison. While there, I took an internship through Madison School & Community Recreation where I worked in a middle school afterschool program and helped run summer school.

While there, I worked with some of the Trans students who will be impacted by AB100 and AB103 if they are passed. I think about them and what they will experience going on to highschool and how they would be excluded from participating in extracurricular sports or potentially be forced to go by an incorrect name or pronoun. The intense shame and othering this would cause is hard to imagine, and trying to do so breaks my heart.

Recently, my family lost my step-sister to suicide. She was a Trans woman. I hope you all keep in mind the undisputed fact that the Trans community faces much higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality than cisgender people as you discuss these bills. Constant discrimination from unaccepting communities is what drives those statistics. I do not believe there is enough reason to pass these bills. All the reasons not to, however, are perilously important as they may save the lives of our Trans youth.

Thank you for your time,
Astrid Hooper Lofton

March 4th, 2025

Dear Assembly Education Committee members,

My name is Laura Stoesz, and I am a licensed professional counselor in training with a Master's of Science in Counseling from the University of Madison. These are my own views, and they are informed by psychological science. As a psychotherapist, I work with children and adults who have been harmed by anti-trans legislation like AB 100 and AB 103. I ask that you vote no on both these bills because they will harm children and adults in our state, leading to public health impacts, lost productivity and creativity, and lost faith in your work as politicians.

Trans, gender nonconforming, and nonbinary people have always existed. It is society's prejudiced views, policies, and actions that harm non-cis people, not their gender identity. The evidence in scientific literature is clear. As researcher Ilan Meyer established in his seminal 2003 peer-reviewed paper, "stigma, prejudice, and discrimination create a hostile and stressful social environment," which leads to mental health problems and can lead to negative physical health effects. (Meyer, "Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence," *Psychological Bulletin*, 2003). We have known this for over twenty years, and yet bills like these continue to inflict minority stress on people, causing public health impacts that reverberate for decades.

Lost productivity and creativity: As nonbinary author Alok Vaid-Menon says in *Beyond the Gender Binary*, "Gender non-conforming people face considerable distress not because we have a disorder, but because of stigma and discrimination. There is nothing wrong with us, what is wrong is a world that punishes us for not being normatively masculine or feminine." Pronouns are a zero-cost affirmation of identity. If you could affirm a child with a word, why would you refuse to do it? I'm not talking about potentially hurtful words. Using a correct pronoun or name is morally neutral, costs nothing, and affirms a child without harming another person. The discomfort of the person being asked to use the correct name or pronoun is not harm; dysphoria is. Dysphoria is traumatic, and the more gender nonconforming children and adults are forced to experience it, the more trauma builds up, leading to challenges in life functioning, just as we see in PTSD, and in fact, sometimes rising to the level of clinical PTSD. This mental trauma of being misidentified, stigmatized, and ostracized has a social cost, as traumatized people often need additional support from friends, family, or social systems. Traumatized people and their allies pay the cost, but so does society, when a person's potential goes underutilized and their relationships and lives are affected by trauma. Some people still excel despite these stacked odds, like trans athletes, and they are my inspiration.

Trans-inclusive sports can still be fair. Trans athletes in sports aligned with their gender should be allowed to compete. Overcoming transphobia and adapting to changing bodies are challenge enough for trans athletes. They should not be subjected to exclusionary practices just to be able to enjoy their sport. Far worse outcomes can and do happen to girls and women in sports than competing with trans athletes, who pose no threat to safety. Look at the recent US Olympic Gymnastics team and how many were systematically abused by a cis male team medical provider, who did present a threat to safety and who was allowed to continue far too long. Look at the intrusive testing being proposed to police women's categorization as women just to

participate in their sport. Inflicting this testing would be traumatizing, objectifying, and unnecessary.

Lost faith in you as an elected official: It's not a good look to be anti-trans. It may seem politically expedient now, when others are attacking trans rights. But in the years to come, anti-trans politicians will suffer the consequences of alienating so many people -- allies, loved ones of trans people, folks who come to realize what brilliant, beautiful contributions trans people bring to society. I watch Roller Derby, a sport that is inclusive of trans athletes, BECAUSE it is inclusive of trans athletes. At games, I get to witness gender diversity, excellence in sport, and welcome for all. At the most recent game, competitors wore shirts that affirmed, "Trans Athletes Belong Here." There was a palpable joy in the arena and on the bleachers. Children clamored to high-five all the athletes at the end of each game. This is the positive impact inclusion can have: sportsmanship, compassion, and inclusion. Who doesn't support those values? Anyone who votes for AB 100 or AB 103.

Sincerely,

Laura Stoesz, M.S., LPC-IT

(she/her/hers)

Therapist, Willow Counseling and Therapeutic Arts Center
laura@willowcounselingandarts.com

From: julie P <utahlucy@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2025 4:47 PM

To: Rep.Kitchens <Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Goeben <Rep.Goeben@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Mursau <Rep.Mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Duchow <Rep.Duchow@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Snyder <Rep.Snyder@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Dittrich <Rep.Dittrich@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Penterman <Rep.Penterman@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Melotik <Rep.Melotik@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Brill <Rep.Brill@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Hong <Rep.Hong@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Cruz <Rep.Cruz@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Phelps <Rep.Phelps@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Sheehan <Rep.Sheehan@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Bender-Olson, Katie <Katie.Bender-Olson@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Gorzlanecyk, Abby <Abby.Gorzlanecyk@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Subject: Written Testimony against Bills 100 and 103

The following is my written testimony which I spoke today:

I am here to testify against Bill 103AB [and Bill 100] that attempts to erase Trans people. I am a mother of a Trans girl- and though you shouldn't give a hoot what her name is or what gender she is, here we are. And *she* just wants to live her best life.

Do you understand what happens when we support people to live their best lives? They succeed. Which means their family succeeds, and their communities succeed. And it doesn't end there. When we make it harder for people to live their lives- like trying to take away personal choices- which your bills propose to do- they struggle more with anxiety, depression and addictions. Their stress and pain- their suffering- should be enough of a wake-up call to end hurtful legislation like what is proposed here today. And, appalling, it's not.

So, think about the cost. What does this cost you in time and money? What does it cost your constituents and your families to interfere and attempt to dictate what children can call themselves and which sports team they can play on. Think about how wasteful you're being. In our current culture where we talk about the misuse of governmental money, this is the epitome of it! Not only do you have the power to stop squandering our time and money, you have the opportunity to help people succeed, which will ensure our communities and our state will flourish. I urge you to vote against Bill 103AB [and Bill 100].

Thank you.

Julie Plotkin

Hal M. DeLong
Glendale
53217
Opposed

To the respected Representatives of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Hal M. DeLong, and I am a resident of Assembly District 10. As I am unable to attend today's hearings in person, I have submitted this testimony in addition to my testimony on Assembly Bill 100. I vehemently oppose these additions to state statutes put forth in Assembly Bill 103, and I kindly ask that you also reconsider your support for this bill.

Again, my name is Hal. I am 24 years old and have lived in the city of Glendale since I was two, where I attended Nicolet High School before heading off to Lawrence University in Appleton, where I obtained my BA in German and geoscience. I am a lifelong learner, and I deeply value the quality education I have received thus far in my life. Looking back, it is easy for me to see how fundamental my experiences at Nicolet were in shaping the kind of man and learner I would become.

Had you met me as a child, you might be surprised to hear that I would grow up to be a man. Yes, my name might be Hal, but that has not always been my (legal) name. I am a transgender man, meaning I was assigned female at birth. I do not merely identify as a man- I am a man. I did not choose this for myself, nor did any person or group of people cause me to be this way. A word to the men of this Committee, my masculine identity is just as innate as your own. But unlike you, it has taken a considerable amount of work to express myself in such a way. I knew growing up that I wasn't like my female peers, even well before I learned about transgender people or even considered the possibility that I might be transgender myself. It took a lot of learning outside the classroom and self-introspection before I could even begin undertaking the steps needed to help me physically become the man I was meant to be.

I mention learning outside the classroom explicitly as that's what learning about transgender people was for me. I graduated from high school in 2019, but even at that time, transgender people and the issues facing them only ever came up in the classroom a handful of times. School was nonetheless the place where I felt I could be my true self before I felt ready to come out to my family. I spent just shy of three full school years going by Hal and using he/him pronouns in high school before making it known to my family that that was the only way I wanted to be addressed. Were other students kind to me about it? Not always, and there were certain teachers who were less than kind about it too. But it was worth it. It was worth it taking what could have been three abjectly miserable years of trying to pretend to be someone I wasn't and turning it into something better, into three years in which I could find a time and place to be myself. The number of peers and teachers who supported me in this way vastly outnumbered those who opposed the changes I'd made. For someone who couldn't medically transition at that time, all that meant was using the right name for me, Hal, and the right pronouns for me- even if that wasn't yet what I went by outside of school.

My story is the reason why I see it as imperative that I submit this testimony today regarding Assembly Bill 103. For many students, using a name and/or pronouns that don't align with what you might see on their school records and legal forms is one of the only ways they can try to express themselves as gender-diverse youth. As my story illustrates, I was one such student. I found comfort in the name and pronouns that I advised others to use for me, even if they didn't match my records at the time. Quite honestly, I had a lot of company in that sense in regard to my name- sure, I might have been the only Hal who was then legally referred to by a very feminine name, but the Dans and Sams and Chrises and Maggies with longer legal names were all technically in the same boat. The same can even be said for some of the representatives germane to today's hearings, such as one Representative Kreibich who helped introduce this bill on Tuesday. Would it at least irritate you, Representative, if people were required to only ever call you Robin even though you publicly prefer Rob? You may explicitly exclude such shortened nicknames from consideration under this bill, but there's plenty of people out there of all ages who instead use a completely different first name than their legal name. Where do they fit into this equation? Would you care about a David who wants to go by Jude if they didn't happen to be transgender? What's the difference if they were?

Attempting to exert control over what names people can and can't prefer to be called is thus an exercise in futility. It is impossible to legislate trans people- including trans youth, who are already much more subject to legislation and parental control on account of being minors- without hurting us all. To repeat a point I raised in my testimony against Assembly Bill 100, exclusion is a barrier to equity. Childhood is a time of exploring oneself and one's place in the world, and all children deserve the right to express their identities in ways that allow them to feel more secure in the world. Perhaps there are some children out there who adopt a name and pronouns other than the ones they are expected to use and later drop them- no harm has come to them in the end, and with any hope they still come out of it with a stronger sense of who they are. But for those like me who made that switch for life, it means the world to be supported for who you are within one of the places you spend the most time as a child.

I love learning and I love this state. I wish to remain in this state for future postgraduate education. I long for the day when all Wisconsin students are treated equitably in their educational pursuits, regardless of who they are or who they might become. But as long as bills like these are being considered, the more I worry that that day is being pushed yet farther away. The 'M.' in my name is for Mark, by the way- the name of a high school teacher who changed my life for the better and encouraged me to be my truest self, all while helping me become someone ready and willing to help make the future a brighter one. And that is exactly why I have written these testimonies for you today. Will you make this future a brighter one for all Wisconsinites?

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Hal M. DeLong

Thank you to the Assembly Committee on Education in receiving my written testimony . I wish I could be there in person, but I have prior commitments.

My name is Amy Wall and I live in Sun Prairie. I oppose AB100 and AB103. These bills were both authored by Rep. Dittrich, who seems to have a particular obsession with this topic.

I testified late 2023 against AB378, a bill very similar to AB100, whereas anecdotal evidence was used to try to justify barring transgender students from participating on sports teams that match their gender identity. This bill, AB100, is particularly focused on transgender girls and completely ignores the existence of non-binary students and transgender boys. There are reasons for that, misogyny being at the top of the list, which is ironic, given the other bills Rep. Dittrich has authored in support of women's rights.

The bill does not seem to directly explain why this is justified. The subtext is that women are weak and need to be "protected".

The other reason this bill was authored, along with AB103, is purely for bigoted reasons. As we know, conservative lawmakers in our country at both the state and federal level do not want to acknowledge the existence of transgender people. They are singularly obsessed with this topic. Transgender people make up hardly 1% of the population, yet we waste so much taxpayer money and legislator time on this.

I am a transgender woman. I am 52 years old. And I am real. And if you spent time with me, you would not call me a man.

For bill AB103, it approaches its anti-transgender bias by putting the decisions on the school board and in particular, gives the school principal the decision to force a child's legal name and pronouns to be used unless parental permission is given.

There are so many reasons why trans kids should not have to get parental approval on how to be addressed in school. Parents can be very cruel to their children and not listen to them even as they would plead they are not the gender assigned at birth.

I acknowledge it is difficult for a cis-gendered adult to understand this, but I assure you, it is so important for a student to be called by their desired name and pronouns. When I came out as transgender to my employer, after my name was changed on corporate email, the feeling was indescribable. That I finally had my name on email and it was me. When the name change went through I sat and just looked at a draft email from me for 10 minutes.

Please do not allow AB103 to interfere with how children come to terms with their gender identity. I wish I had this opportunity when I was a child. I have had to struggle a lot to fully realize life as a woman. When you begin this process as a child, you avoid so much difficulty, you avoid depression, you avoid so many issues with having to live as a gender you do not identify with.

Please kill AB100 and AB103. They do not deserve to be made law in Wisconsin. It's purely for cruelty and because the sponsors do not want to recognize that we are real and we exist.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Jahna Cook, I am from Madison, Wisconsin and reside in the 53705 zip code area. I have been a Madison area resident since 2005.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any legislation that discriminates against transgender students and restricts their rights in schools. In regards to the anti trans bills AB100/AB103 I strongly oppose these bills.

Every student deserves a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment, regardless of their gender identity.

Policies that single out transgender students for exclusion or scrutiny violate the fundamental principles of personal freedom and equal protection under the law. These measures not only harm students' mental health and well-being but also set a dangerous precedent that undermines the values of fairness and dignity that our communities hold dear.

I urge you to oppose any efforts that limit transgender students' access to bathrooms, participation in sports, or the ability to be addressed by their correct name and pronouns. Instead, I encourage policies that promote safety, respect, and equality for all students.

Please stand on the right side of history by defending personal freedoms and protecting the rights of transgender youth in our schools. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jahna Cook

Madison Wisconsin resident and parent

To the members of Assembly Committee on Education,

As the parent of a transgender child in the state of Wisconsin, I am writing in opposition to bills AB100 & AB103. These would be incredibly harmful to trans youth and exclude them from 1) being their most authentic selves and 2) experiencing sports with their peers and friends.

My daughter told us she was a girl when she was 5 years old. Without any prior exposure to transgender humans or without even knowing what being transgender is. From a very young age, I have known there was something different with her. And when she asked our neighbor if she would still love her if she were a girl, we immediately consulted our pediatrician. We were instructed to have a very basic conversation with her. We asked her very simply "are you a girl or a boy?" To which she answered "I am a girl". Since then we have loved her and supported her exactly where she is in her journey and as a mom of 4 beautiful children, I can Without a doubt say she was meant to be a girl and that she is my happiest and most adjusted child.

This bill would not only hurt her, but also many of her friends who she loves dearly. They have a right to feel safe and themselves while getting an education.

Thank you,
Cassandra Krajnik

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing today to express my dismay over these two bills, Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Please do not pass these two bills. We are better than this.

Everyone deserves to participate in sports and be themselves at school. If passed, these pieces of legislation would prevent trans youth from doing so on the basis of their gender. The bills aren't designed to protect students but rather to punish a minority of students for living their own life. All students deserve protection, respect, and love. The status of all students is a fundamental right we all share.

Sincerely,
Pamela Wyss
Greendale, WI 53129

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

- Representative Kitchens (Chair)
- Representative Goeben (Vice-Chair)
- Representative Mursau
- Representative Duchow
- Representative Snyder
- Representative Dittrich
- Representative Penterman
- Representative Melotik
- Representative Brill
- Representative Hong
- Representative Cruz
- Representative Phelps
- Representative Sheehan

I am against AB100 and AB 103. As a Wisconsin born 69 year old grandmother of a very dear, intelligent, creative, caring, and joyful Nonbinary grandchild and as a cousin to two transgender adults and one nonbinary child, I feel strongly that a person deserves to be identified as they identify themselves. It is respectful and affirming to them as the person they are. Taking away that respect and affirmation makes the person feel dehumanized. It makes them question their worth as a human being. It can cause mental anguish and even suicide.

I am also a registered nurse for the past 45 years and spent 28 of those years as a School District nurse. I have worked with many youths who identify in the LGBTQI+ community and some are transgender/nonbinary. Gender is not about external genitalia. It is about the biological influences within one's body. Hormones and genetics play major parts in a person's identification. People who do not understand and do not accept this and prevent people from being who they are being very discriminatory and very cruel. There are many biological influences for gender identification. I know personally how important it is for a person to use the bathroom and locker room in which they feel comfortable using. I also know how very, very important pronouns are to people in their self-identification and self worth.

The mental health and wellbeing of many people are in your hands. You have no idea the pain and fear transgender and nonbinary people feel and experience. The bullying of our transgender and nonbinary youth can be very cruel. Our representatives and senators are to do right by all. Please stop the fear mongering. Be kind. Be caring. Stop AB100 and AB103.

Terri Mael, BSN, RN
364 Sacramento St.
Berlin, WI 54923

To The Members of the Assembly,

I have been a Wisconsin resident all my life. Living in both rural and suburban communities. My experience growing up and living all over this beautiful state has shown me that most people here are kind and we want to do right by others.. which is why I must express that I vehemently oppose these bills.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, which seek to ban transgender athletes from participating in sports and prohibit schools from using accurate pronouns when addressing students. While obtaining my social work degrees, I gained extensive experience working with LGBTQ+ youth, and I have witnessed firsthand the profound benefits of inclusive practices on students.

In my experience with social work, I have had the privilege of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and have observed how gender-affirming care and friendships contribute to their well-being. These supportive environments not only empower LGBTQ+ students but also foster empathy and understanding among their cisgender and straight peers. Such interactions promote a culture of inclusivity that benefits the entire student body.

Furthermore, as a reverend, I am guided by principles of love, acceptance, and respect for all individuals. These values align with the belief that every person deserves to be recognized and addressed by their true identity. Denying students the use of their accurate pronouns is a denial of their personhood and contradicts the teachings of compassion and respect that are central to my faith.

The proposed legislation undermines the dignity and rights of transgender individuals, sending a harmful message to all students about the value of inclusivity and respect for diversity. Instead of enacting laws that discriminate against a vulnerable population, we should be working to create educational environments that celebrate and support the identities of all students.

I urge you to reject Assembly Bills 100 and 103 and to stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community by promoting policies that foster inclusivity, respect, and love.

Sincerely,

Rev Katelyn Danielson, MSW

Teddy DeVos
5327 N Milwaukee River Pkwy
Milwaukee, WI 53209

Dear Assembly Committee,

I ask for you to oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. These bills are incredibly harmful to already vulnerable members of the population. I know several transgender youths and was one myself. These children want nothing more than to be accepted and loved; they are not a threat to cisgender (non-trans) children.

The government should protect everyone, not strip away the rights and safety of a small minority of students who are already facing higher levels of violence, sexual abuse, suicidal ideation, and homelessness just for requesting different words to be used for them. No child should be abandoned -- as I was by my parents -- for asking for love and acceptance. It is cruel and disrespectful to force trans children into situations that have been proven to lead to worse health and mental health outcomes, as these bills will do.

Thank you for hearing me out,
Teddy DeVos

My name is Cole McMillin, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am substituting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. I have personally seen what bigotry and hate can do to the children of our world. I was in high school when a dear friend of mine killed himself, to have a sophomore kill themselves because of the hate and vitriol spewed is disgusting and shameful for this country. We cannot then legalize this hate and lead so many more over the edge, it is wrong and frankly goes against the founding principles of this country. We must live and let live, we do not interfere with the lives of others here.

Trans people exist and continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence against trans people. As Representatives of Wisconsin, I ask you to acknowledge the trans people in our midst and work to stifle hate. Please vote against AB 100 and 103.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Mariah Rayne, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th. AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation. As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. (insert personal reasons). Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely, Mariah

Dear Representatives,

My name is Justis Mulqueen, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee.

I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th. AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation. As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Justis Mulqueen

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I strongly oppose these two bills, AB100 and AB103.

I get very frustrated when our government chooses to fix problems that don't really exist. This bill is implying that there is harm done by having trans students participate in sports of their chosen gender or use pronouns that they choose to go by. I'm having trouble seeing why this is a problem for anyone else. Call people what they want to be called - why does this matter to anyone else?

There are so many other issues that actually affect a huge number of Wisconsin residents and could make so many lives better, but instead this is what you are spending time on. Instead of bullying school children, let's improve our education system in Wisconsin. Let's improve health outcomes for children and the elderly (thereby reducing the tax burden for everyone).

Please stop just creating bills for posturing towards a minority base of supporters and actually govern our state for the betterment of all of us. Please.

I have lived in Wisconsin for most of my life, and I just want our government to legislate on real issues, real problems and create real solutions that can improve our lives.

Sincerely,
Marianne Griffin
Madison, WI 53726

My name is Danielle Shuster, Milwaukee, WI 53202

I oppose Assembly Bills 100 & 103 because they will impact *everyone* in communities for the worse, but especially transgender young people.

Assembly Bill 100 will prevent certain kids from being able to fairly participate in team sports by ostracizing and shunning students who are transgender and create a hostile environment where students' physical attributes and identities are scrutinized, questioned, and policed. It's invasive and sets the conditions for bullying by peers and adults especially for transgender kids but for all kids. We should be fostering environments where kids can be themselves, feel accepted, and learn how to collaborate and support one another: teamwork. Transgender kids should not feel othered, less-than, or rejected. Enough. We need to support ALL kids. I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and you should also.

Assembly Bill 103 is also harmful for *everyone*, especially transgender kids. The government should not be legislating the speech of anyone. This is absurd overreach, unnecessary, and will impact everyone for the worse. It is basic respect to address others the way they ask other to address them. Whether it's a nickname, a married name, or a name change that aligns with a person's deepest sense of self, people, everyone, students and young people and adults should be free to choose their own identities and to speak freely. The government should have NO role in this basic tenant of a free society. It is obvious these bills are designed to make transgender people illegal, which is unacceptable. We love our transgender neighbors. Assembly Bill 103 is foolish and an absurd act of government overreach.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Michael Phillips, I am a Wisconsin constituent and a resident of Pulaski. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation for one of the most vulnerable populations in our society.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. As a high school educator for almost 14 years, I have had several students over the years that have been transgender or nonbinary that have wanted to be addressed by a name other than on their legal documentation with the district. The emphasis for nearly all of my schools has been on building relationships with students as an essential foundation to educating them. Calling them by the name they prefer is the first step in establishing that relationship, whether that be a nickname or if they are figuring out their identity just like every one of the peers in school. Schools are meant to be a safe place for students to figure out who they are and as an educator, my role is to create that space for them to grow as a person. If I will be expected to use the nickname of students whose name choice conforms to their assigned sex at birth (for instance, if I preferred to shorten my name to Mike) without confirming with their parents, then equal protection under the law entails that I should respect a student who prefers a name that does not match their assigned sex at birth. Considering that studies have shown laws like this have caused suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth by 72% in recent years (The Trevor Project), I believe it would be far more damaging to these students if I were not able to meet them at the ground level of using their preferred name.

As for the athlete ban, the impact this has on the competitiveness of girls athletics pales in comparison to the message that it sends by restricting transgender people from participating. It legislates for a problem that does not really exist in order to send a message to transgender people that they are second class citizens and not protected in society.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Michael Phillips

Dear Committee,

My name is Chloe Ackerman, I am from the 53703 zip code. I oppose these bills that prevent trans youth from playing sports and deny them their right to their chosen names and pronouns. It's so important to be recognized and respected for who a person knows that they are. Taking away these rights will remove their autonomy and ruin childhoods.

Do not pass these bills.

Chloe Ackerman

To the members of the assembly To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am providing this testimony today to oppose bills AB 100 and 103 which will unjustly persecute young children, simply because they do not align with traditional western conceptions of gender identity. This issue is incredibly important to me because I have seen first hand how imposing barriers to free gender expression has caused intense mental turmoil for my loved ones. When I was the same age as the children who are being targeted by this legislation, many of my friends did not conform to traditional gender norms, and often expressed feeling othered, or looked down upon by peers who happened to conform to these exclusionary and restrictive social standards.

Excluding trans students from participating in sports teams consistent with their authentic gender identity is unfair and discriminatory. Every child deserves a chance to gain valuable experiences and friendships from participating in school athletics, especially at a particularly vulnerable time in their development. Depriving them of this is wrong and will only continue to amplify the hateful and derisive rhetoric that has deeply divided our nation.

Please reconsider this discriminatory legislation.

Sincerely,

Griffin Beronio - OPPOSE
Madison, Wi 53703 of the State of Wisconsin

Dear Assembly Committee on Education in the Wisconsin State Legislature,

As a former educator and someone who worked in the offices at a high school, I am emailing an opposition of your two bills to prohibit trans youth from participating in sports, using the locker room for the gender they identify as, and being allowed to identify their gender in school.

Students should be able to be called the name and gender they want in school. Full stop.

The only concern here is a logistical complication for people in the school. Schools need to come up with a better system to handle that. And the state doesn't need to worry about it.

Thank you,
Sharayah Preman

My name is Marie Kilde, from Wilson, Wisconsin, 54027

It is my hope that you will prioritize the well-being of vulnerable children over political grandstanding today. Transgender students have enough to deal with without being bullied by their own government --- by the people who are supposed to protect them.

Treating transgender students with respect and acceptance is good for our schools, our teachers, our kids, our communities, and our souls. But I'm not asking that of you today. All I'm asking you to do is to allow schools and teachers the freedom to do the right thing.

I don't understand why our legislature is even considering these petty and overreaching bills, when people are struggling to afford basic necessities.

Don't choose to be a bully today. Put Assembly Bills 100 and 103 in the trash where they belong.

Thank you.

Im writing to register my opposition to two anti-trans bills (AB100&AB103) being heard at the state capitol this morning.

The bills go against including and respecting all members of our community.

Katherine Curtis
Wisconsin resident
53704

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing today in opposition to assembly bills 100 and 103. As an educator and parent, I am deeply concerned about the impact these bills will have on the wellbeing of trans students. Approving these bills sets a precedent for even more anti-trans legislation in the future. Trans people have always existed and always will exist, and I believe the state of Wisconsin should recognize and support all of its school aged kids; not just the ones who are cisgender. We need to do better, and denying these bills is a step in the right direction for the future of our children.

Thank you,
Rachel Chisman

Representative,

My name is Anastasia McClain, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th. AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. As a transgender Wisconsinite, there is no reason you need to be targeting our community. It seems you've worked out that stirring a trans panic will garner more votes this election cycle, no matter how many lives you need to demonize. Trans kids deserve the same rights to life and liberty that we all enjoy in this state, including the freedom to suck at school sports. It's a foundational period of a kid's life, and there's no reason why certain kids should be stuck on the bench just because they're different. And it's made all the worse when people who declare that it's about, "protecting women," treat women's sports as a punchline. In addition, preventing kids from changing their name/pronouns with the school is just unnecessarily cruel to children. The only reason you would propose this bill is to erase trans people from public life. Deadnaming and misgendering a kid repeatedly and intentionally is not just degrading, but it's also mentally exhausting for them. Does it really cause material harm to let a kid socially transition, or is the state GOP more concerned with fantasizing about what's in children's pants like some deranged pedophile? Trans people make up less than 1% of the state population, and yet you're focusing a sizable chunk of political power on further marginalization.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Anastasia McClain

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I write in opposition to bill AB 100. As a gender-based violence advocate, a queer person, a teacher, and an auntie to nonbinary and trans children, I understand in both personal and public health ways how much harm these bills will cause. Being able to participate in sports is a positive social-emotional benefit, and trans kiddos have the right to participate as any cis child does in alignment with their gender identity. They do not threaten the safety or well-being of cis children. If you would like to better support sports for our young people, funding after-school activities and increasing scholarship access for our most marginalized communities is a more positive and impactful approach. Thank you for your consideration and attention.

I write in opposition to bill AB 103. As a gender-based violence advocate, a queer person, a teacher, and an auntie to nonbinary and trans children, I understand in both personal and public health ways how much harm these bills will cause. Forcing parents to misgender their children in documentation is neither family-centered choice nor in alignment with the party's platform to minimize governmental involvement in individual's lives. Forcing schools to misgender their students could put trans and nonbinary children in harm's way, as they may be at risk of anti-trans violence from their peers or even their own family members. National medical professional boards like the American Academy of Pediatrics wholeheartedly support the positive benefit of gender-affirming care for trans and nonbinary young people, which includes the simple act of using the name and pronoun that aligns with their identity. Trans young people are disproportionately at risk of severe mental health issues when they are refused the dignity of living as their true selves. This bill only puts their health and wellbeing at risk. Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Tegan Swanson
Madison, WI

Dear Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Joanne Nelson and I live in Hartland, WI, 53029. I want to share my position on AB100 and AB103.

I encourage you to vote NO on AB100, the bill that would ban trans athletes from competing on sports teams that align with their gender identity. I believe the concern driving the bill is primarily that transwomen will dominate women's sports. A review of nonpartisan information on this issue will, I'm confident, show that this is not an issue worthy of a bill. I also suggest viewing the five minute video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvQNS7mACGY> for a helpful understanding of how a bill such as this could have many, many negative consequences--especially for women.

AB103 seems like silly business. Can't we trust parents and educators to work through this on their own? Children and adults are often called by names other than those on their birth certificates. The amount of time and effort necessary to follow the requirements of this bill seems like it could be better spent on educating and caring for our children.

Please vote no on both of these bills.

Sincerely,

Joanne Nelson

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Rek Kwawer, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for over 15 years, and one of the reasons we moved to Madison was that we believed it was a good place to have a family. Many of my friends have children who are currently in local high schools. They have praised our local schools, in particular highlighting the supportive and committed teachers who helped their children (several of whom have ADHD or autism, and several of whom are LGBTQ) to succeed in school. While none of my friends' kids play sports at a high level, they have played on their high school teams or local Little League teams because they enjoy athleticism and teamwork.

Since moving here, I have worked for several nonprofits as well as for the State of WI in the Department of Public Instruction. One of the things that was striking when I worked for DPI was the emphasis in Wisconsin on local control, and local control over education and schools.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to these bills because they create a hostile and unsupportive learning environment for our children, and encourage suspicion of any student who may not fit in. We encourage kids to play sports, and tell them about the importance of learning teamwork and healthy competition. We need to be backing that up with support, rather than creating discriminatory barriers to participation.

AB100 targets transgender youth and encourages their peers to treat them with suspicion, rather than as teammates. This bill particularly targets transgender girls. We know that transgender women are often victimized by physical violence. This bill teaches transgender girls that they are not valid, and encourages their peers to view them as potential threats, rather than as people who are way more likely to be the victims of violence. Our teachers can be some of the most influential people in our children's lives.

AB103 limits the ways that teachers can support their students by mandating that their schools prohibit them from referring to kids in the way they want to be addressed. It puts tremendous power in the hands of a principal, and requires parental approval, which is not possible for kids who are facing violence at home (which is sadly a concern in many households). Both of these bills trample on the strong tradition of local control by not only mandating that schools have policies on these topics but *what those policies are*. They assume that the state legislature knows better than educators what is good for kids. There are real issues facing children in schools. Parents send their kids to school each day knowing that there is the risk of a school shooting (a tragedy that recently came close to home in Madison).

Child poverty is a huge issue, and rather than addressing it, we talk about cutting NSLP expansions that have been highly successful at feeding kids and removing the stigma from eating lunch at school. Girls *still* face high risks of sexual violence in schools and from adults in their lives. We have a youth mental health crisis, which we have not begun to address. If you want to support safety for youth and for girls in particular, there are real actions you can take, such as gun control laws, providing mental health counseling for youth and their families, ensuring that all children and all families have enough to eat and have stable housing.

AB100 and AB103 are attempting to sensationalize issues that face a small but very vulnerable subset of our youth, and to shield you from criticisms of the issues facing children and youth that you are *failing* to address. If you are serious about supporting youth, you should be providing more funding for schools, not targeting transgender youth.

Sincerely,
Rek Kwawer Madison, 53704

Dear Representatives,

My name is Courtney McClary, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. Trans kids deserve to be seen, respected, and included—just like any other kids. Sports aren't just about competition; they're about belonging, growth, and joy. Excluding trans kids isn't fairness—it's erasure.

The same goes for pronouns. A name and a pronoun are more than words; they're recognition of who someone truly is. Respecting that tells a trans kid, "You matter. You belong." That simple act can change a life. Trans kids are kids. Let them play. Let them be themselves. Let them live.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Courtney McClary

I would like to register my opposition to both AB100 and AB103

AB100 purports to protect girls' sports, but is not supported by several important facts:

1) the WIAA already has adequate regulations regarding participation in girl's athletics that protect cisgender girls in competition from physical advantages that could be present in those assigned male at birth

2) the proposed law completely ignores the science of sex and gender, the existence of numerous intersex conditions that defy designation of male and female and makes no provision for their safety or equal education.

In addition, this proposal singles out students who already are at risk of bullying, suicide, and violence. It is unnecessary, discriminatory, and cruel.

AB103 is even worse, violates principles of free speech, targets children for ridicule, bullying and violence, and removes the safe haven that school should be. As a parent and former school administrator tasked with protecting all students in my school, lawmakers should be ashamed for even considering such a bill that strips children of their inherent dignity and autonomy.

Specifically, this bill prohibits school staff from referring to a child using a name or pronouns that do not align with the pupil's biological sex. What kind of nonsense is that? My name is Erin. Is that acceptable as a boy's name or a girl's name? What if I want to go by my last name? Is that acceptable? The idea that names have an inherent correlated biological sex is radical, untenable, and prohibiting a child from asserting a preferred name for teachers to use and teachers using it is a clear constitutional violation in public schools.

I urge the Committee to reject both of these bills today.

Sincerely,

Erin Freiberg

1207 Middleton St, Middleton WI 53562

Dear all members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Claire Hoppe, I oppose the following bills, AB103 and AB 100, my zip code is 53715, the city of madison.

I am a History major at UW-Madison and a longtime resident of Wisconsin. As a resident of Wisconsin, I have always believed in our motto, "forward". The most important part of moving forward is for citizens of Wisconsin to gain more civil rights, not lose them. Yet these anti-trans bills say nothing but backwards. Backwards on the 1st amendment which states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Key here is the word Freedom of Speech. It's a fundamental right of our people. Despite this, a bill has been proposed that would restrict the rights of Wisconsin youth to use the name and pronouns they freely chose. Tell me how doing that spells anything but backwards. I urge you to remember what Wisconsin means, may you be part of the march forward, say no to all anti-trans bills, **AB** 103 and AB 100, and help work towards a forward Wisconsin where we all have the freedom to be as we wish to be. If you decide to go backwards, I can promise that history will not look kindly at you.

Sincerely,
Claire Hoppe (she/her)

Dear Representatives,

My name is Bri and I'm a lifelong resident of Dane County, 15-year resident of Madison in the Bay Creek neighborhood, the Director of Outreach, Prevention & Education at the Rape Crisis Center, and a member of our beautiful & brilliant Queer and Trans community in Madison.

I am fiercely opposed to Assembly Bill 100 & 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education on March 6th.

These bills are a blatant attempt to restrict, punish, belittle, invisibilize and harm Trans youth, and by extension corrode the dignity and rights of all youth. It is *unthinkable* that instead of proposing bills to ensure free access to nutritious food, to healthcare, to increased green spaces; bills that make sure no child ever has to think about being shot or killed at school, or that they'll be able to imagine a future that is habitable on this planet; that instead of ensuring access, safety, equality, abundance, dignity, care, and life, you are wasting your time bullying kids and endangering their safety.

We are talking about *children*. Babies. Sweet little ones. Young people. Who are so full of brilliance, goofiness, passion, love, curiosity, excitability, wonder, awe, joy. Sweet babes who are simultaneously being brave enough to be themselves in a world that refuses to understand and respect them, while also navigating the regular, human changes and challenges of growing up, fitting in, making friends, balancing school and family and life. Kids who are growing up in a scary, chaotic, uncertain world that is getting scarier all the time.

And this is what y'all come up with? Does it feel good? Do you feel strong, authoritative, in control? Is Daddy Trump, someone, anyone, finally proud of you now? Does terrorizing children - Trans and queer children who know and respect and love themselves more than you could possibly ever muster - make you feel better about your shame, your envy, your insignificance?

Shame on all of you who proposed and are in support of this. Do better. Literally do better. You should feel embarrassed and ashamed. How dare you have the nerve to scapegoat children, how dare you endanger an entire small, vulnerable (but fierce and magnificent) community of Trans people.

These bills do nothing to better anyone's lives and do everything to make kids miserable. To make them angry and hurt, and for many, to direct anger and hate towards themselves. But we know better, and we're throwing it right back at you. Don't fuck with our kids.

Your bills won't make Trans people go away. Nothing you ever do will make Trans people go away. We are here, we have always been here, we will always be here, we make the world a better place, and we are sacred. Like all life on Earth is.

In solidarity with all precious life on earth, and especially with Trans & queer youth,

Bri Breunig

Thank you so much for your service and your work, Fair Wisconsin! We love you!!!!

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I write today in opposition to two bills before this committee: AB100 and AB103, both in regards to the rights of trans students in Wisconsin.

AB100 severely restricts the rights of trans students to play sports on a team consistent with their gender identity. As a former student-athlete myself, including four years spent proudly representing Lawrence University here in Wisconsin as a cross-country and track athlete, this bill takes away from trans students, particularly trans women and girls, the opportunities that I myself was privileged enough to receive in the state of Wisconsin. AB103 limits the ability of students to go by a name and pronouns consistent with their gender identity, and again, this denies trans students opportunities that I was afforded throughout my education, including here in the state of Wisconsin.

This is not a reflection of who we are as a state, and this is frankly a waste of the assembly's time, and an insult to constituents who voted these members into office in order to work on actual, tangible issues facing their communities. Wisconsinites are dealing with rising prices and uncertain economic futures as a result of national policy changes, and instead of focusing on how to support communities, the legislators who have put forth this bill have instead chosen to focus their time and energy on attacking and demonizing children for the supposed crime of living their lives authentically.

I ask the committee members, and the rest of the Assembly, to vote against both of these bills. You owe it to your trans constituents, but your cisgender constituents as well, to support all members of the communities you purport to represent.

Sincerely,
Rain Orsi
She/they

To the Assembly Committee on Education -

I write to you today in opposition to two frankly lousy bills:

- AB 100, the trans athlete ban, and
- AB 103, which seeks to deny kids their preferred names and pronouns.

That the Wisconsin GOP is trying so hard to push these bills, and trying to sneak them through in a rush, is, in a word, shameful.

Of course this is a word the GOP nationwide does not respond to anymore – we know this better than ever after the last few weeks. *Shameless* is more their style – from the president letting his billionaire bestie take a chainsaw to the federal institutions that sustain us, all the way down to the parents trying to get queer books banned from libraries.

So why bother to speak out at all? Because, to put it simply, they're wrong. Disinformation is the fuel that makes this effort run. The case against trans kids – the case against their participation in sports, in school, and in public life – is built on a foundation of lies. It's a grift, pure and simple. The GOP is exploiting our culture's baseline ignorance about trans issues, and trying to *keep* voters uninformed and scared for political and financial gain. They're lying about trans people being a danger because they want us to be scared. They're lying about bioessentialism because they want to be able to enforce a gender binary that doesn't reflect reality. They're lying about protecting women and girls because they want to control them.

That they're choosing to fight this battle on the field of public education is one of the cruelest ironies. School is for everyone, *knowledge* is for everyone – but they want our schools to provide the opposite. They want our schools to lie to our children – to tell them they're defined by what's in their pants, and not what's in their hearts and minds and actions. The GOP wants to force us to lie to our children about *who they are*. And it's not meant to protect kids, like they keep trying to tell us. It's meant to protect their sense of control over *us*, and how we live our lives and express ourselves. It's meant to protect their power over our political process. And it's meant to protect ~~the~~ the money they make from hanging onto that power.

Today's Republican party operates from a position of quaking fear. Fear of a changing world. Fear of diversity, fear of equity. Fear of a world that includes people who don't follow their narrow rules or adhere to their blinkered view of reality. And it's sad, because if they truly wanted to learn more, if they truly wanted to conquer their fears, most of us would welcome them with open arms. But instead here we are, having to take time out of our already busy, stressful lives to testify to the basic humanity of trans folks once more.

I ask this committee and our legislators in general to vote a hearty NO on AB 100 and AB 103, and stop wasting our precious time on this kind of monstrous legislation.

Thank you,

Stacey Williams

Madison, WI 53704

Hello,

My name is Michelle Sullivan and I am resident of Mcfarland, WI ZIP 53558. I would like to submit testimony to oppose anti-trans bills AB100 and AB103. My partner and I decided to move to this state after traveling much of the country and wanting to be closer to family. We know that Wisconsin is full of good people who try to live kind lives. These bills are unkind and frankly dangerous. They stigmatize and other a small community that is already being harassed and harangued at every level of their lives. I am an out lesbian who has had trans friends since I was able to make friends. I have friends and family members who are no longer with us because of the unrelenting messages from the world that they are not wanted. Trans people are not going anywhere and to try and limit what precious little autonomy they have already had to fight tooth and nail for is unconscionable. Please do not regress Wisconsin like so many other states and communities have been.

Thank you,
Michelle Sullivan

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Assembly Committee on Education
Re: AB100 and AB103

I cannot testify in person before your committee tomorrow as my husband will be having a hip replacement, but I wanted to share my thoughts with you. I come from a family of teachers. My father was a teacher and coach in the Madison School District for 45 years. My sister taught in the same district and then in higher education all across the country, as her husband did.

I know how important it is for young people to be part of a culture in their schools that allows them to be true to themselves while doing no harm to others. The use of pronouns to identify one's gender is not a harmful action against anyone. Much like preferring a nickname to one's given name at birth it is the identity that the young person knows reflects them the best rather than what their parents gave them a birth.

As a parent of a non-binary identifying adult child and grandparent of an 11-year-old non-binary grandchild I have seen that their ability to use pronouns that best reflect who they find themselves to be is vitally important to their well-being. And it brings absolutely no harm to any other person who chooses to use pronouns that reflect their gender identity at birth.

As a daughter of a coach, I have been an avid supporter of sports as well. And while I can understand there are some concerns about transgender youth performing in sports under the gender that identify they now feel to be accurate versus the one assigned at birth, I feel that this too can be handled in thoughtful ways. And I believe blanket legislation is not the answer.

However, at minimum, I would hope that the State in which I have spent my 77 years will not legislate in harmful ways against the use of chosen pronouns for trans and non-binary students, and give thoughtful consideration to all ways in which the small percentage of young folks so impacted are far more harmed by proposed legislation that reflects on their differences versus their many similarities.

Sincerely,
Betty Harris Custer
Madison, WI 53717

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
I am writing in strong opposition to bills AB 100 and AB 103.

I am the parent of a non-binary middle school scholar and athlete. As a parent, it is heartbreaking to see these bills come forward. My child deserves to thrive as much as any other child. These bills make them feel as if they don't belong, as if they can't pursue the sports and activities that other children can, and that their name and pronouns are wrong. There is nothing wrong with my child. They are who they are and they deserve the same as every other child, boy, girl, or however they identify. Their preferred name and pronouns are essential to their sense of self and ensure their mental well-being.

As a lifelong female athlete, I can say with confidence that this call to ban trans girls and women from sports is ridiculous and only intended to do harm. I have been fortunate to count as teammates and opponents trans women, and I stand in strong support of their right to access the sports I have found so empowering and enriching. Their use of locker rooms that fit their agenda ensures their safety and security and does not threaten mine.

I urge you as a parent, a woman, and an athlete to oppose these bills.

Sincerely,
Amy Washbush
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Good evening.

My birth name is Anna Claire Stamper, and though it is not the name I currently use, I expect it will get me farther here. I live under the 54703 zip code in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and I am a senior in high school.

I am sending this message in the hopes The Assembly Committee on Education in the Wisconsin State Legislature will listen to it. The assembly bills number 100 and 103 are being discussed, and I would like my voice to be heard. Though I cannot attend this meeting, as I will be in school, I am sending a message. These bills directly impact my education. Though I am a senior, and moving into secondary education, I am heavily impacted to the precedents that these bills send. It is about more than the silencing of children, which means to erase the ideas of trans children across the state. It is about the politicians and people that have been trying to erase our histories from the moment they began. Being transgender is not a new idea. It has been around since the Egyptians, and will continue to exist no matter how hard legislation tries to stamp out our voices. Once we declare that these children cannot express their first amendment right of free speech by referring to themselves as their chosen genders and names, we step into territory we cannot step back from. This isolation of transgender students from sports, from saying their names, is all intentional. They want us isolated so that no one may remember us. Already they have tried to erase our history, saying that this "new wave" of transgenders happens out of nowhere, forgetting the people they met in high school that were trans. They forget these people not because they never knew them--in fact most had probably encountered trans people in their schooling. The difference, is that the legislation kept those trans kids scared. It kept them quiet. In the same way that these bills are trying to keep trans people quiet. Once they silence our children, they will move on to the next thing they can accomplish. It will start with the trans kids, and then anyone in the LGBTQ+ community. These types of bills are the beginning of the end. Once we silence one group of people, the precedent is set, and they will move on to the next group. How many times wist me repeat the mistakes of our ancestors. The Nazis did not stop at Jews. They did not stop at the disabled, the elderly, the gay, the trans, the disordered. We are watching history repeat itself, and I plead that if you listen to anything in my message that you listen to this. They will not stop with trans kids. This hatred is the kind that cannot be satisfied with one group of people. So I ask you, how long do you think it will take to reach you? Already DEI programs are affecting more than just the disabled, and the POC. When you sign this bill you are signing away more than the rights of our transgender children, you're signing the beginning of the end for yourself. This will not stop here, no matter what--and we will not go down without a fight.

Thank you for your time,

K. Stamper
(They/them)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 67 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, dignity-affirming, equal, inclusive, caring education free from harassment and discrimination with the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ramona Keyes
Madison, WI 53705

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Lori Vavrus, a concerned parent/grandparent from Washburn, WI 54891. This is my written testimony for opposing bills AB 100 and AB 103 Both bills are aimed at stripping the rights and dignity of transgender students.

These students have the right to compete in sports and to be called by their name and pronouns of choice. These students, like all of our students, have the right to feel included, supported and welcomed. School sports provide opportunities for staying healthy, working as part of a team and creating friendships - all lifelong benefits.

Being called by their name and pronouns of choice are especially important. Studies show that transgender youth suffer mental distress when referred to with the incorrect name and pronouns. This show of support is especially important if they are not receiving that respect in their own home. They need somewhere to feel validated. Everyone deserves to be heard.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

March 5th, 2025

To: Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

From: Soren Shivy, Madison WI 53704

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

I wish to express my opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

I believe trans kids have the right to exist in our society. Period. All this extra attention persecuting trans people, particularly kids, is very unproductive to the general public and is rather harmful to trans kids.

Regarding Assembly Bill 103, the government should not concern itself with names and pronouns at school, other than to support kids being themselves. People use nicknames and such all of the time. Let's stop pretending you are protecting parents' rights. You are only looking to out a child or suppress their authentic selves. We need our government to work on actual issues that affect people every day, not persecuting a small group of people. This bill is a dog whistle.

Regarding Assembly Bill 100, trans kids do not transition to dominate girls sports. Trans kids who want to participate in sports should be allowed to do so. This bill is also a dog whistle.

Your exhausting and relentless attacks against a small population are ridiculous. Do actual work that improves lives rather than working to exclude trans people.

Sincerely,

Soren Shivy, concerned Constituent and supporter of trans kids and people

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee of Education,

I could not be there in person, but wanted to write to share my concern over the bills regarding student athletes and pronouns in schools (AB100/AB103). I fiercely advocate to make this world a safer place for transgender and non-binary children.

Parents of transgender and non-binary children have become all-too-familiar with the danger that can come if a child is unable to express their gender identity. Research shows that transgender and non-binary children are at great risk of emotional harm, showing that 82% had contemplated suicide over the last year and 40% have attempted suicide [1].

Please think about that for a moment - over two-third of all kids who are transgender come to the conclusion, at some point in their young lives, that they would be better off committing suicide than live in a world that believes they are not welcome. I ask you to take time to speak with families of trans children. You will find story after story about trans children whose "choice" literally came down to being their true self or dying.

It causes harm when we deny or reject a child's gender identity. It is irresponsible and shameful for you, or any other elected official, to pass two anti-LGBTQ bills that further stigmatize these children and call into question their judgment.

I'm asking you to think about the way children in the LGBTQIA+ community are treated. This is a difficult, scary and beautiful mountain for them to climb, and we need to be there for them. I'm asking that you provide support and acceptance. Please do not propose a trans-athlete ban and a bill restricting pronouns and names used by transgender kids.

Thank you,

Brooke Dykema

Mequon, Wisconsin

Cited by:

[1] Suicidality Among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the Role of Interpersonal Risk Factors, National Library of Medicine, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Emily Erler, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee, WI. I am writing this testimony against AB 100 and 103.

As an educator in this state, I have seen the extreme mental duress that LGBTQ+ youth navigate as they explore and discover who they are, who their families want them to be, and at times, have to navigate the deeply traumatic times when those two futures are in direct opposition. Adding the government's involvement in limiting extracurricular choice and name usage!? The purposes of AB 100 and 103 are clear: To encourage discrimination against trans kids. To alienate youth and stoke a climate of fear amongst children. Students cannot learn if they do not feel safe.

Why in the world is our government wasting time on policing what name a kid goes by? The club they want to join? Why are we spending time limiting the future of our youth and silencing the young voices of Wisconsin?

I'm not sure why our representatives feel the need to engage in viral, hate and outrage-based political theatre when Wisconsinites are struggling under the weight of so much already.

Trans people, at any age, exist and will continue to exist. Vote against AB 100 and 103.

Forward -

Emily Erler
HS English Teacher
Milwaukee WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Testimony Regarding Assembly Bill 100 & Assembly Bill 103:

To the Assembly Committee on Education,

The vilification of trans youth is abhorrent and does not belong in the Wisconsin legislature.

Transgender people comprise 1.6% of the human population. Of that fraction, even less play sports. Only 34 trans athletes have openly competed in U.S. college sports to date and fewer make it to the professional level. The largest disparities in sports fairness come from the socioeconomic disadvantage of marginalized populations, not trans participation. Proximity to privilege predicts success in sports, not testosterone levels or biological markers. Meanwhile, disparities faced by the trans community begin at a young age and impact all facets of life including sports access. Trans youth are 9 times more likely to experience homelessness than their cisgender peers, and 68% experience bullying in middle school and high school. 22% of trans women surveyed in 2015 reported that they were bullied so badly in school that they dropped out. Many trans students worry about where they will use the bathroom at school, never mind which locker room to use. Without supportive services to help them navigate these additional challenges, it's tougher for them than their peers to make it through classes, let alone onto a soccer field. (Thank you to ACLU for the use of their stats and statistics)

These bills are only fueling anti-trans rhetoric that trans women have an unfair advantage in sports, despite a lack of consistent research to suggest this. As a woman, please do not speak for me to say that this bill is protecting mine or my daughter's rights, when in truth it is only limiting the rights of small group of individuals who should be receiving care, support, and affirmation instead of hate.

Nicole Kester
Madison, WI 53714

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 40 years, have served our community as a substitute teacher, legal secretary, member of the Middleton Commission on Aging, and community volunteer. I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an educational environment free from harassment and discrimination, where they feel safe to take the risks involved in learning, where they feel valued as a community member and able to explore their future roles in society, where they feel able to contribute to the community as themselves.

In my time working with students, changing pronouns was not a distraction to anyone's education. Participating in any group activity, like sports, when adults model the self respect and respect for others that we all require to live in community has not made anyone feel unsafe. But trans kids have felt unsafe and unseen every day when they use the restrooms in public, people ignore their respectful requests to be addressed as requested, and adults model the language and behaviors that give children in the room tacit permission to ignore, bully, or harass another student.

Sincerely,
Stacy Austin-Li
Middleton, WI 53562

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin all my life and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen and a parent.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, respectful education free from harassment and discrimination. They also have the right to participate in sports -- to stay healthy, be part of a team, and build confidence and self-esteem.

I have many transgender children in my circles, and they are the loveliest human beings. I can assure you that they do not pose a threat to anyone. They are silly and kind, funny and talented, imaginative and smart. They also struggle in similar ways to other kids -- worrying about friends and fitting in, how to achieve success, and make themselves and their parents proud. They are kids, just like any other kid -- just like the kids in your life, even.

Trans kids are struggling to get by, just like the rest of us, and they deserve a fair chance. Please give them that chance and oppose both of these bills.

Sincerely,
Maggie Fitzsimmons
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived in Wisconsin for most of my adult life and work with children as a swim instructor. I'm writing on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, caring education free from harassment and discrimination. A dear family friend is a transgender high school athlete.

Thank you for considering my written comments.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Olajos
668 Harvest Lane
Verona, Wisconsin 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education -

I am writing to oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 30 years overall. As a child, I attended public school in Stevens Point, and now my children are attending Madison Public Schools. While I am an active Quaker and Board member for the Tenant Resource Center, I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills. Trans children are not a danger to my children, and in fact have improved their educational experiences. Varied gender expression has made more space for my own kids to be who they are, and they know themselves better as they have grown up in an inclusive environment.

As I'm sure you'll hear in the hours of testimony before you, kids need to be able to live as their honest gender expression (including pronouns at school, and full participation in sports), or else face crushing depression and suicidality. The trans youth I have known - community members, friends of my kids - have gone through a period of suicidal ideation before stepping into themselves and living their lives fully. When I have seen these types of bills come before this committee in the past, I get the sense that legislators do not seem to care if these youth live or die. I do. I want them to live. I want Wisconsin law to tell them that they are free to be themselves.

It is astonishing to me that people believe that trans girls in sports endanger other girls. In fact, this is not the case. Because of gender dysmorphia, trans girls are the ones who least want to expose their unaltered bodies to other girls, and often hide or change separately. If this committee wishes to protect girls or youth generally in sports contexts, I suggest: stop asking about kids' genitals. Banning trans youth from any context makes it much more likely that adults will feel compelled to check children's genitals, which is a breathtaking safety risk for all children. In fact, children are much more likely to be sexually assaulted by a coach than by another athlete, trans or no. The NIH has a number of studies that speak to this, but one says, "that 0.5% of adolescents experienced sexual abuse involving a coach," and "When considering all adolescents who experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime (10.2%), it appears that 5.3% of them were victims of sexual abuse by a coach."

In truth, the schools have very little way to verify who is transgendered and who is cisgendered amongst the children that attend our schools, aside from self identification. Legislation such as this has little enforceable impact, and only serves to tell trans youth that they do not belong. I inherently oppose this stance.

If we are to protect both cisgendered and transgendered youth, the clear path forward is to oppose these bills. I ask this committee to show the youth across the state that they are safe from harassment and discrimination, and oppose these bills.

Sincerely,
Laura Dixson-Kruijf
Madison, WI 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 47 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive education free from harassment and discrimination.

I have 4 minor children of my own, all of whom have trans friends. The thing about these friends is they're only referred to as "trans friends" by adults. Kids at school simply call them friends, or teammates, or classmates. Kids in the neighborhood call them by the name they introduced themselves with and aren't bothered by using their friends' preferred pronouns. If our children can accept people just as they are, our government leaders should too. Please oppose these bills.

Sincerely,
Sara Milhans
Verona, WI 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly,

I am writing in opposition to the bills AB100 and AB103, which seek to restrict Athlete's and Children's Transgender rights in Wisconsin.

I am born and raised in Wisconsin for nearly four decades, and this bill will adversely affect our state and communities within in untold ways. To put it plainly, these bills are the Republican party seeking to do legally harm a minority community, for no apparent reason other than the goal of causing harm. To borrow a phrase levied at then Senator McCarthy decades ago, 'Have you no decency?'

Of all the goals you could be focused on at this moment, you are choosing malice and pain towards students over quite literally any other form of support this state currently needs. Workers Rights, equitable tax distribution, equitable tax contributions, caring for the environment, to name but a few goals for the common good. Rather than take on any of that, well, here we are.

I will close by asking what other minority groups you would seek to hide from public view again because you feel irked by their existence? Why can we not just let our kids grow up and thrive?

In Opposition to AB100 and AB103 on March 6, 2025,

Bob Grabow
Madison, WI 53718

March 5th, 2025d

To: the Assembly Committee on Education in the Wisconsin State Legislature

From: Lane Pierce, Milwaukee, WI 53217

I would like to express my opposition to the Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Every person deserves to use restrooms that match their gender identity, participate on teams that match their gender identity, and particularly feel safe enough to be authentic in their schools by referring to themselves with pronouns that match their gender identity. We have to support and protect our trans kids. They belong just as they are.

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing to vehemently oppose bills AB100 and AB103. These are bills that attack LGBTQ+ rights, especially for transgender youth. The Wisconsin Legislature has continued to advance bills that target transgender people. LGBTQ people have the right to participate in sports activities, to live in safety, to thrive, to be addressed by the name and pronoun they choose, and treated with dignity. These bills will cause harm to LGBTQ youth.

I ask that you reconsider your support of these bills.

Sincerely,
Barbara Mottl
Dousman, WI 53118

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Cedar Worth, and I am a constituent from Middleton, Wisconsin. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, which are scheduled for discussion in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly designed to ban transgender athletes and restrict name and pronoun changes for transgender youth. These bans, amidst an unprecedented wave of anti-trans legislation across the US, will only serve to alienate and harm transgender children, fostering a climate of fear rather than support.

As your constituent, I urge you to vote against these proposed bills. Transgender people exist and will continue to exist at every age. Enacting these bills would not only harm the transgender people you represent but also the broader transgender community by enabling hate, creating further division, and cultivating a climate of fear.

I ask that you, as representatives in Wisconsin, acknowledge all of the trans people you represent and vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Cedar Worth

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Amy Basel and have been a resident of Madison since 1995, with a home now in the 53714 zip code, and I'm writing to oppose the Bill AB100 and AB103. As a person with the same initials (AB) as these bills, I do not want to be even closely associated (no matter how random) with something so horrible. Please vote NO to both Bill AB100 and AB103!

I'm not proud of my state representatives taking the time to even introduce these bills in the year 2025. You all should be spending time fighting back against the takeover we are seeing and cuts to important supports and supporting our education system instead of trying to criminalize gender identity and tell kids that they don't belong. We should be trying to work toward sports teams that are open to all pupils. Why must we continue to separate folks by their gender that people want to maintain is binary when it is not. You should be ashamed of yourself for wasting the time it takes to write and get these before the committee. These bills seek to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools. There is not any need to further provide laws against a small and marginalized group of kids. This is blatant discrimination instead of working with kids, schools and parents.

There are so many other things that our schools and kids (pupils) attending them need instead of these hateful and discriminatory Bills. Please start spending your time on those and not trying to vilify trans youth.

I'm not trans, but I know several people who are and I've taken the time to listen and learn from them. There is a specific friend of mine that was born a female and grew up a girl and always was referred to as a tomboy. This friend of mine who is now an adult had qualified to participate in the CrossFit games and has been an athletic trainer and athlete themselves. They even started a fitness company and helped the roller derby league I was a part of with some training. Within the last few years, they have transitioned to using he/they pronouns and getting gender affirming surgery. He identifies as a non-binary trans male and is now living life as their authentic self. This friend of mine recently took themselves out of the CrossFit games and was disappointed to see this organization comply with an executive order based on fear and without any scientific evidence behind it. How can anyone think this is better for all kids, instead of appeasing the instances of a few people who "think" that they were discriminated against.

Ironically, Bill AB100 would not have applied to my friend as a pupil or athlete in school had they decided to transition sooner, since they are a female at birth and therefore would be able to qualify for male sports since the bill just refers to male at birth folks not able to qualify for female sports participation. Doesn't that just scream for a lawsuit of discrimination? Why would you just making it one gender and not include trans folks that identify as male not be able to participate in female sports?

More importantly, I've worked with skaters in a sport, and students in college who have clearly expressed the fact that they have gender identities that are not easily put into binaries of male and female. Whether or not you think that gender exists within that spectrum - the fact remains that people identify along that and are not changing their gender assigned at birth or going by different names or pronouns to win on a female sports team or impersonate anyone. They are trying to live their lives as themselves, and you and I don't need to understand or agree with that to know that it is harmful to force people to put themselves in one group or the other. Sports teams and Schools should be where we are helping kids to build identities, friendships and teamwork skills as well as getting to know one another.

I feel that both these bills AB100 and AB103 would only be creating more fear, hate and discrimination and I strongly urge you to vote NO.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Basel (she/her)

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Amy Basel and have been a resident of Madison since 1995, with a home now in the 53714 zip code, and I'm writing to oppose the Bill AB100 and AB103. As a person with the same initials (AB) as these bills, I do not want to be even closely associated (no matter how random) with something so horrible. Please vote NO to both Bill AB100 and AB103!

I'm not proud of my state representatives taking the time to even introduce these bills in the year 2025. You all should be spending time fighting back against the takeover we are seeing and cuts to important supports and supporting our education system instead of trying to criminalize gender identity and tell kids that they don't belong. We should be trying to work toward sports teams that are open to all pupils. Why must we continue to separate folks by their gender that people want to maintain is binary when it is not. You should be ashamed of yourself for wasting the time it takes to write and get these before the committee. These bills seek to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools. There is not any need to further provide laws against a small and marginalized group of kids. This is blatant discrimination instead of working with kids, schools and parents.

There are so many other things that our schools and kids (pupils) attending them need instead of these hateful and discriminatory Bills. Please start spending your time on those and not trying to vilify trans youth.

I'm not trans, but I know several people who are and I've taken the time to listen and learn from them. There is a specific friend of mine that was born a female and grew up a girl and always was referred to as a tomboy. This friend of mine who is now an adult had qualified to participate in the CrossFit games and has been an athletic trainer and athlete themselves. They even started a fitness company and helped the roller derby league I was a part of with some training. Within the last few years, they have transitioned to using he/they pronouns and getting gender affirming surgery. He identifies as a non-binary trans male and is now living life as their authentic self. This friend of mine recently took themselves out of the CrossFit games and was disappointed to see this organization comply with an executive order based on fear and without any scientific evidence behind it. How can anyone think this is better for all kids, instead of appeasing the instances of a few people who "think" that they were discriminated against.

Ironically, Bill AB100 would not have applied to my friend as a pupil or athlete in school had they decided to transition sooner, since they are a female at birth and therefore would be able to qualify for male sports since the bill just refers to male at birth folks not able to qualify for female sports participation. Doesn't that just scream for a lawsuit of discrimination? Why would you just making it one gender and not include trans folks that identify as male not be able to participate in female sports?

More importantly, I've worked with skaters in a sport, and students in college who have clearly expressed the fact that they have gender identities that are not easily put into binaries of male and female. Whether or not you think that gender exists within that spectrum - the fact remains that people identify along that and are not changing their gender assigned at birth or going by different names or pronouns to win on a female sports team or impersonate anyone. They are trying to live their lives as themselves, and you and I don't need to understand or agree with that to know that it is harmful to force people to put themselves in one group or the other. Sports teams and Schools should be where we are helping kids to build identities, friendships and teamwork skills as well as getting to know one another.

I feel that both these bills AB100 and AB103 would only be creating more fear, hate and discrimination and I strongly urge you to vote NO.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Basel (she/her)

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Sarah Forzley, and I am a Madison resident. I've lived here since 2012, and my husband and I settled here to be near his family, just like all his siblings. I say this to emphasize that even while pursuing a masters, a doctorate, and a corporate career, I continue to prioritize family values. Additionally, I am a former instructor at the University of Wisconsin, a former high school teacher, and a former elementary school teacher. Given that I live according to my family values, and that I spent over twenty cumulative years teaching young people and participating in girls' and women's sports myself, I care deeply about safety and equity in school and in sport.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100 and 103. These bills do not increase safety or equity in schools or sports. Trans girls and trans women do not threaten the success of individual women or of women's sports in general. I have seen this myself as both an athlete and a teacher. Instead, they reveal a fundamental misunderstanding of sex assigned at birth, of the actual threats that girls and women face every day, and of athletic competition. Sex assigned at birth is not a perfect way to identify a person's sex. I have had students with different medical conditions whose sex assigned at birth did not take into account their chromosomal makeup because the doctor simply visually assessed the baby's features. I also have had students who felt that they belonged nowhere because they did not "fit in" with the boys or girls at their school. I would have loved to see those students find belonging, purpose, and friendship through sports. These bills instead teach our students to fear and discriminate against their peers. These bills teach our students that the definition of "girl" or "woman" is ever narrower. These bills threaten to drag us back into a time when the United States was more sexist, when women had even fewer opportunities in sport.

After my master's degree, I taught at a university in Paris and ran for a team there. I was just a run-of-the-mill varsity athlete in college, but in France I quickly climbed the national rankings. Why? Because France has less gender equality than the United States. I know that sometimes, conservative folks fear that liberal folks are not proud of the United States. I can say without hesitation that I am proud of the United States for how far we have come in girls' and women's sports since my mother's time. In France, I faced more sexual and physical harassment, more restrictive expectations for my gender, and more inequality in sport than I face here. Though it meant giving up my excellent ranking in France, I was relieved to return to the competition scene in the United States because, frankly, I love how many women in the United States are faster than I am – women's sports here have thrived under Title IX to the benefit of all, including mediocre athletes like myself. We are carried along in the wave of those who run faster than we do. It is in our interest to compete against as diverse a group of women as possible so as to improve our training and overall times.

Perhaps, if you feel that discussing nonbinary genders is polarizing, you can remember a time in your life when you did not fit in. Remember how uncomfortable that was, how isolating, how sad you felt. Trans students do not choose to be trans; nobody chooses to have a more difficult life in this way. Allowing trans students to participate in sports, allowing trans students to use the bathroom most comfortable for them, tells them that they belong. Nobody would undergo so

much social stigma just to cause harm to others. Trans students are not trying to harm anyone, and they certainly don't threaten our sports. Do you know what does threaten girls and women in school and sport? Sexual harassment by male students, teachers, administrators, and clergymen. Bias from adults who do not believe girls or women have what it takes to lift weights, to succeed in STEM, to obtain advanced degrees. Let's focus on real problems instead of an imagined one.

Sincerely,
Sarah Forzley
Madison, 53704

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

Vote No on AB100. Sports and locker rooms should be available to all students. Sports are an essential foundation for many students' participation in extracurricular activities in public schools. As a high school student at West High School, I played on the soccer team and still have friendships with my teammates today.

You must oppose this bill because it attacks the freedom of all kids to play sports in Wisconsin. It creates an environment where it is ok to sideline kids rather than include them in the sports they love. We ought to do everything we can to support the rights of all kids to play sports in Wisconsin.

A vote yes for these bills is a vote yes to take away the right of all kids to enjoy sports with their friends. Make sure you vote no to protect kids' rights to play sports.

Vote No on AB103. The government has no business getting into our personal lives and telling us how to live our lives. Vote No on AB103 to keep the government out of all our kids' lives and let all kids be themselves.

Vote No on AB100 and AB103!

All the best,
Eli Tsarovsky
Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB100 and AB103. These proposed bills are deeply harmful and would actively contribute to an unsafe and hostile environment for queer and transgender students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

AB100 and AB103 are not about fairness or protection—they are transphobic measures that seek to erase and marginalize transgender youth. Trans students, like all students, deserve to be affirmed, supported, and safe in their schools. Denying them the ability to participate in sports or forcing them to be misgendered undermines their dignity, mental health, and overall well-being. These bills would fuel a climate of discrimination, making schools even more unsafe for queer and trans youth.

I have lived in Wisconsin for over 20 years and I am a full-time therapist. Many of the clients that I support are queer or trans, or have loved ones who are queer/trans. In my work, I see firsthand the destructive psychological and emotional impacts that legislation such as these proposed bills have on queer individuals and the queer community. Particularly under this new administration, trans folks are being targeted, scapegoated and persecuted. Trans people are under attack, and bills like this are nothing more than state-sanctioned discrimination.

Trans people exist. Trans people are not a threat. Trans folks are simply asking for the basic human right to be themselves without fear of persecution.

These proposed bills do nothing but put trans students at greater risk of bullying, isolation, and harm. If the goal of this committee is to protect and support students, then the focus should not be on banning pronouns or excluding children from sports—it should be on addressing the real dangers facing our schools, such as gun violence. Gun violence is the leading cause of death among young people in this country. Instead of wasting precious time and resources targeting one of our most vulnerable student populations, I urge you to prioritize real solutions that will protect all students.

I strongly urge you to reject AB100 and AB103. These bills do not protect students; they only harm them. Schools should be places of learning, growth, and acceptance—not sites of state-sanctioned discrimination.

Sincerely,
Tiffani Amber Sebastian

Representatives,

My name is Ani Miskowski. I am a resident of Milwaukee. While I believe that there is plenty of evidence detailing the harm Assembly Bills 100 and 103 will cause, part of me fears that those points do not matter to you. I fear that hearings like these have become an easily dismissible formality where the physical presence of a committee is meant to placate us. I hope I'm wrong. I cannot force you to open your hearts, and I would not want to. All I have is my hope that you will let yourself hear me.

I was born into a God-fearing family. We went to church every week. We communed with people who shared our faith and our values. But despite all of the faith that my parents claimed to have, they were afraid every day, afraid of making even one misstep, afraid of others, afraid of themselves, afraid of God, and afraid of punishment. That fear destroyed our relationship. I was not brave enough to ask them then, so I ask you now, those of you with open hearts who truly believe trans children are hurting themselves and genuinely want to protect them:

What if you're wrong? What if God's priority isn't the names or pronouns of these children but whether they are accepted and loved? What if trans children are not perverting their bodies but are transcending them, embracing a divine energy inspired by God?

I can't answer for you. I understand it might be scary to grapple with these questions regardless of what faith you may or may not hold. Your mind might conjure memories of shame or even physical punishment, times where you were deemed not masculine or feminine enough. Or perhaps you witnessed others receiving similar treatment and vowed to avoid it. Your instinct might be to defend these corrections, to insist they were acts of love, but *you know what it feels like to be loved*. Love is incompatible with the rejection of mental and physical autonomy. Do you know how it feels to find joy in who you are only for someone else to insist "You are who I say you are." If you know how that feels, if you remember that confusion and frustration, how can you carry that pain forward? How can you give it to *children*?

I feel sorry for you. Because I see the joy in these children. I see the love and transformation they bring to their families. Why don't you trust their joy? What messaging have you received that taught you their truth is in opposition to yours?

The only people you are protecting with these laws are yourselves, and, while you might feel like you've done something good (despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary), you are also holding yourself back. You are running away from your cognitive dissonance because you are afraid of what will happen if you're honest. As long as you avoid honesty, you will never know true peace. I do not want you to be trans if you're not trans. I do not want you to change your name unless you'd like to. I want you to have the freedom to celebrate differences in others and in yourself without fear of punishment. I want these children to lead long, happy, and fulfilled lives.

I beg you to use this moment and your power to show trans children love and acceptance. You have the ability to reject these bills and their rhetoric, and, furthermore, you have a moral responsibility to do so. All it takes is one moment to choose to embrace change. Aren't you tired of being afraid?

Compassionately,

Ani

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly or Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Sloan Greenheck and I oppose bills AB100 and bill AB103.

All children deserve safe and supportive environments. Encouraging knowledge, learning, and self exploration is the purpose of education. By restricting a child's access to education and acceptance of gender expression, irreparable harm WILL be caused.

I am nonbinary. I am scared. I can only imagine how horrifying it is to live as a child in this political climate. Please do not make children feel less safe.

Thank you.
Sloan
Waterloo, WI

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Aislinn Hutchinson and I am a concerned resident of the city of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for five years and have called Madison home for all of them. I am a business owner, spouse, and active member of my community. I am also trans. I am testifying on bill AB100 and AB103. I am testifying both about allowing trans youth to participate in sports according to their identified gender as well as their ability to use their chosen name and pronouns in school.

I am testifying about this because I myself just came out as non-binary this year. I am also a former college D1 athlete, and sports were and are my entire life. I recently had to find a new league to play hockey in because all of this hate that is being spread towards trans people is becoming a problem everywhere. My league tried to ban all trans players, including non-binary players. This significantly impacted my mental health as hockey is the place I go to play, have fun with my friends, decompress, and get physical activity. There was absolutely no scientific reason for banning athletes like myself from participating in sport, and the same thing is happening to youth if this bill is passed.

I wanted to share my story because I believe all PEOPLE should have the right and access to sport, as well as to use the pronouns of their choosing. Sports, and feeling safe in a dressing room are so important. This is a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. We are just people, wanting to respectfully be shown respect and honor like any human person deserves. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for it in my community. Madison is a welcoming community for all trans and queer people and I have never felt safer to be myself in a community. Passing these bills will create an environment where others can openly hate and fear monger them when all they want is to be accepted for who they are. Just believe them. How does it affect you? Do you know a trans person? Have you loved a trans person? I do, and I have, and they are the most caring people who know themselves deeply, and just want to exist with the same human rights and decency that cis people get. Please, just leave the trans kids alone.

I wish I had access to language like non-binary or trans when I was a kid this age, I would have known myself a lot better then. It took me 29 years to come out. I have never been happier, or thriving more than I am today. I have never felt safer in sport when others use my pronouns and allow me in their locker rooms. Please don't let youth have to deal with hatred from this young of an age. I barely made it to 29 years old, and a lot of these kids will not survive passing a bill like this. Suicide rates dramatically decrease when we allow kids to be themselves, and to be recognized by others as themselves. My solution is to allow kids to use the

pronouns of their choosing, because why does it affect you to respect what someone wants to be called? Let trans kids play sports with their gender, because there is no real difference in athletic ability at these ages, and we all just want to play.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story, and I urge you to think about these kids as people, trying to figure themselves out, instead of as some scary group of people that the media and leaders of this country have decided are bad and wrong. Thank you for your consideration of these matters and solutions, it is very much appreciated.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 30 years. I came as a teen from California and could never leave because I felt more at home in Madison than I have ever felt. But lately I've found myself questioning if this is where I can stay. If Wisconsin is where I want my children to go to high school and college? Why would they stay in this place if we pass bills that restrict the rights of others who are doing nothing more than asking to live as their authentic selves?

As you consider your vote today, I'm asking you to think about the children of today and tomorrow who these bills truly affects. What do you have to lose? What do you have to gain?

I personally have loved ones who, in the past few years, have been able to be their authentic selves, to go to school and use the pronouns that reflect who they truly are. Passing this bill would take away their comfort, their safety, their ability to live as who they truly are meant to be. I have gained the honor of knowing Trans youth who make our community a better place.

But, if these bills pass, I have so much to lose. I lose knowing the people I love as they authentically are. I lose seeing the people I love who can live safely and who feel comfortable living their lives in our community, this community, where they were born and raised and want to be able to stay. These bills are nothing more than a way of telling someone they don't belong. That's not the Wisconsin way. That's not who we are. Please consider the people who would truly be affected by these bills and support their rights to be who they are.

Trans youth deserve the right to participate in sports, and to use the pronouns that reflect who they are. Please vote in a way that supports the inclusive community we know and can be proud to be a part of.

Thank you for your support,
Ellen Weismer
Madison, 53717

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Trans youth deserve to learn and participate by playing on sports teams and using locker rooms that match their authentic gender. They also deserve to use the name and pronouns they identify with at school. Every person has the right to be and to belong. This is what schools and school sports are for. Learning to appreciate each other's differences and how they contribute to the whole (as well as make us stronger). By not allowing students to be themselves, we are contributing to their mental health problems which is detrimental to not just them but other students and society at large. Please consider sending a message that we are here to love one another and unite in the acceptance of trans youth. They deserve to belong as themselves in schools and extracurricular activities.

Thank you,

Shawn Brown
Stoughton, WI 53589

Aria Xavier Trucios
8430 Market St. Apt. 203
Middleton, WI 53562
In Opposition

RE: AB100 and AB103

To the members of the 2025 Assembly Committee on Education:

Wisconsin Assembly Bills 100 and 103 are yet another installment in the latest wave of legislation aimed at destroying the rights and freedoms of transgender individuals -- this time, attacking our children. These bills will prevent transgender students from participating in the school sports that align with their gender identity and also forcibly out transgender students if they in any way request staff to recognize their authentic selves. They are not just unnecessary wastes of Wisconsin taxpayer dollars; they are actively harmful.

Supporters of AB100 argue that the bill protects fairness in women's sports. These claims, however, are based on misleading political narratives and reject widely respected scientific evidence. Countless major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as the American Medical Association, recognize and confirm that transgender athletes do not inherently have an unfair advantage over cisgender athletes, and sports governing organizations such as the International Olympic Committee already have policies ensuring fair competition regardless of gender. AB100 is really just a solution in search of a problem, and in the process of trying to fabricate a crisis, it singles out and excludes transgender youth, sending a message that these children are not welcome.

AB103 is another attempt to marginalize transgender students -- this time by restricting how schools recognize and respect their identities. This bill would prevent schools from using a student's chosen name and preferred pronouns unless they align with a legal name change and are formally requested by a parent. If any parent or legal guardian makes such a request, ALL guardians will be given the opportunity to intervene. I know several people whose parents divorced or separated due to deep disagreement over whether their child should receive lifesaving care. Had AB103 been law they would have been subjected to the whims of their anti-trans parent, whether or not they were involved in their daily lives. Such policies disregard the lived experiences of transgender and nonbinary youth and will force their guardians to weigh whether to risk outing their children to unsupportive family members, who themselves will have the power to override a supportive parent. Or likewise, if they will risk the scrutiny of potentially unsupportive or even bigoted school administrators, personnel who may not even know the child in question. These barriers to simply existing at school are only in place for students the author deem unworthy of identity; students who request a name or similar accommodation who are not transgender are not burdened by AB103. Respecting a student's chosen name and preferred pronouns should not be a matter of politics; it is a matter of dignity, mental health, and safety. AB103 is not about parental rights or educational integrity; it is about policing identity and forcing schools, teachers, and staff to participate in discrimination against transgender youth.

Wisconsin's AB100 and AB103 are not about fairness or protection -- they are about discrimination and control. The bills target an already vulnerable population, ignoring general scientific consensus and the voices of transgender people themselves. If these bills become law, they will cause real harm, not only by worsening stigma and mental health, but also the likelihood of self-harm among transgender youth.

A study published in the Journal Nature¹ September of 2024 assessed 19 states where anti-trans legislation passed from 2018 to 2022 and found an up to 72% increase in past-year suicide attempts by transgender and nonbinary youth, with a causal relationship by those states' anti-trans legislation.

Children's suicide rates increased across all states where anti-trans bills had been passed, and specifically as a result of those bans being enacted by their state legislatures.

These bills kill children born the same way as I was – created by God to find and live as our authentic selves. At best, they are intended to penalize and subjugate children who themselves are unknown by this bill's authors or the members of this committee. But in effect, this body will be setting policy that certain children are unwelcome in our schools, and unwelcome in our society more broadly. How many children must die before their lives are considered by this body?

I firmly believe what my church teaches: that all children, transgender nonbinary or otherwise, are created by God to find and embody our authentic selves and live out our lives as any other child of God. These bills attack that purpose, and with it our dignity and humanity. Would this body cosign the hatred, verbal and physical attacks transgender Children of God will be forced to endure by their peers, teachers, administrators, extended family and community? Will this body shield itself from the reality that children will be subjected to conditions which guarantee they will be told they are unwelcome in our society? This was a reality I was forced to live through for many many years, and as a result I regularly considered ending my own life beginning at the age of 13. I know many others like me who considered the ultimate sin, and I can only wonder how many more people would be alive today had they not experienced the same. I pray this body looks beyond themselves to see the humanity they will be snuffing out by putting their political careers over the lives and safety of fellow Children of God.

“If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!”

-Jesus, via Matthew 18:6-7

Respectfully,

Aria Xavier Trucios
(they/them)

1 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>

Sam Nesovanovic

Regarding the Assembly Committee on Education

3/5/2025

My name is Sam Nesovanovic, and I am a concerned Wisconsinite and youth worker. I am testifying on how bills AB100 and AB103b will further isolate trans youth, which is detrimental to their wellbeing.

As a nonbinary adult who went to Wisconsin public schools for the entirety of my youth, I know firsthand how difficult it can be to feel that you need to tuck away parts of yourself so you can survive and fit in. I didn't have the language back then to describe my gender, but I knew I was different from the rest of my peers. I didn't feel like I could truly connect with my classmates, I lacked confidence, and I didn't feel as if I belonged at school. When people used my legal name, it felt confusing and wrong. Now that I am older, and have had the space to explore and assert my nonbinary identity, I have felt so much more at home within myself. I feel more in touch with the skills that I have and positive attributes I hold, and that allows me to show up for my community more than I have ever been able to in my life.

I feel it is necessary for me to testify today because I know the harm this bill will cause to current and future students in Wisconsin. These bills will strip away important spaces for trans youth to explore their passions, build connections with their peers and community, and feel more confident in their identity. Banning trans youth from playing sports on the team that matches their gender will isolate them from their peers. As someone who had close friends play on various sports teams in high school, I've seen how important being a part of a team was for their personal and professional growth; AB100 would eliminate that critical opportunity for Wisconsin's trans youth. Likewise, AB103 will cause trans youth to hide at school. They will lose the ability to trust adults at school, and potentially even their peers due to their fear of being outed. The reason that trans youth come out at school and not with their parents or guardians is because they don't feel safe enough to be out at home. The transgender community is already under attack on so many fronts in public and private spaces, and this pair of bills will further sharpen the target on their back.

I thank the Assembly Committee of Education for taking the time to read my testimony. I urge each of you to vote NO on this legislation. Children's lives and wellbeing are at stake.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Elizabeth Di Salvo I am from Madison, Wisconsin and reside in the 53719 zip code area. I have been a Madison area resident since 2002.

In regards to the anti trans bills AB100/AB103 I strongly oppose these bills.

As a parent of a child in the trans community these bills if passed will have detrimental impact on a small but important group of people.

Calling an individual by their preferred pronouns is one of the simplest ways to acknowledge a person for who they are. It may take effort to learn this, but it is simple and easy and respectful of another human being's freedom of choices.

My child also participated in school extracurricular activities including sports. The choice to participate in the gender that they identify with is important.

As explained in Harvard Health from July of 2021 by Sabra L. Katz-Wise, PhD (she/her) who is an assistant professor in adolescent/young adult medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, in pediatrics at Harvard Medical School,

"Imagine a scenario in which you are called the wrong pronoun or honorific — for example Mr., Ms., or Mrs. — multiple times a day. It might happen in person, over the phone, or via email. Each time it happens, you must decide whether it is worth it to correct that person or easier to let it go. Imagine that you are repeatedly confronted with this experience and the decision of whether or not to correct it throughout the day — every day. As we know from research, and as I've also heard from the TNB people I know, this is both exhausting and demoralizing. When people are misgendered, they feel invalidated and unseen. When this happens daily, it becomes a burden that can negatively impact their mental health and their ability to function in the world."

I can testify that since using the aligning pronouns, of their choice, my child, has had a huge shift in their attitude and outlook on life. As well as participating in sport that align with their preferred identity.

We have much bigger issues in the state of Wisconsin to address, than attacking and focusing on restricting the trans community. A group of individuals that just want to be free to be whom they are and be respected in their communities.

Thank you for your time and once again I oppose these bills in question AB100/AB103

Elizabeth Di Salvo

Testimony for AB100/AB103

lassic Wilkening madison 53703, opposing this bill

"To the members of the Assembly Committee,

My name is lassic or Moss and I use they/them or he/him pronouns. When I first came out as trans I was in 8th grade, it was 2017 or 2018, I cant remember. But what I do remember was the level of care and support I got from my teachers. I remember on the first day back from summer break, all of our name cards were laid out on our desks, and everyone looked at me as I sat down at a desk with a name card that others didnt recognize. My teacher sat everyone down and explained that I would be going by a new name and that I would be using he/him pronouns from now on. Many kids in my class understood but some did not. It was my teacher that helped me get through the bullying and harassment, and my teacher who helped me feel safe at school. If it wasnt for my teacher being able to help me advocate for myself and for other students like me. I dont know what would have happened. But I know that if it wasnt for me being able to go by lassic, to use he him and they them pronouns, that i would have ended up just like the 40% of trans kids who attempt suicide. That is around four out of every ten trans kids. Two out of every five. But those statistics are from 2022, the number now is around 72%, seven out of ten kids. We should be worried about what collages were going to get into, not about whether or not were going to live to graduate high school.

I'm now that teacher, and the times have not changed. Trans and nonbinary youth now more than ever need teachers and safe adults on their side to help them advocate for themselves and to help show them they are wanted, loved and appreciated. The way we do this is by using their preferred name, using their preferred pronouns."

Hello, my name is Sarah; I am from Madison (53716).

I am writing to the state lawmakers today to oppose the bills targeting transgender athletes and use of Pronouns in school (AB100/AB103).

These bills claim to secure women's and girl's rights in Wisconsin, but as a woman myself, these bills do nothing to protect me.

If lawmakers truly wanted to protect women, they would consider reforming health care so people could actually afford to have children without going in debt over hospital bills. They would work to provide mandatory paid parental leave that is in par with European countries. Lawmakers should secure and increase funding for the Woman, Infant, and Children programs to ensure children are taken care of after they are born.

If lawmakers wanted to protect women and children, they should change the laws so rapists and pedophiles are held fully accountable for their actions. They would increase funding to help women escape domestic violence situations (and work with places like DIAS to learn more about what can be done to actually protect women and children). They would not condone a rapist and felon as the President of the United States.

Please get off your culture war bullshit and do something that actually protects people instead of seeking control.

I leave you with the words of Lady Gaga:
Whether you're broke or evergreen
You're black, white, beige, cholo descent
You're Lebanese, you're orient
Whether life's disabilities
Left you outcast, bullied, or teased
Rejoice and love yourself today
'Cause baby, you were born this way

No matter gay, straight, or bi
Lesbian, transgendered life
I'm on the right track, baby
I was born to survive
No matter black, white, or beige
Chola or orient made
I'm on the right track, baby
I was born to be brave!

I'm beautiful in my way
'Cause God makes no mistakes

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Rebecca Johnson, I am a resident of Madison, ZIP code 53704, and I am writing to express my opposition to AB 100 and AB 103.

As a former teacher, I've had multiple students that preferred a name that was different from their legal name, and preferred pronouns that didn't align with their assigned sex at birth. Being able to respect those students' identities is a necessary first step to building trust. Without the trust of my students, I would be fundamentally unable to do my job. Classroom management requires that respect goes both ways. If my students don't feel respected in my classroom, why should they respect me? Why should they listen to me at all?

And why waste everyone's time with this bill to prevent trans students from participating in sports? The number of trans girls playing on girls' sports teams in the nation is likely in the single digits, so how many even are there in Wisconsin? The only thing that this bill would serve to do is signal that trans students are dangerous or untrustworthy. These kids are already being bullied, already facing much higher rates of mental health struggles and suicide, and already feeling ostracized from their peers. For a bill that purports to be about protecting vulnerable students, it is certain to have the opposite effect.

I identify with the gender that was assigned to me at birth, but not only do bills like this directly harm the trans people in my life, they are the first step towards stripping away the rights and dignity of other LGBTQ+ people. After that, who's next? What other measures that are supposedly meant to "protect our students" will actually infringe on our civil liberties?

I hope that the members of the Committee on Education take a stand to protect our most vulnerable students, and vote against AB 100 and AB 103.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to ask you to oppose Bills 100 and 103. These bills would create an environment of surveillance and discrimination that would especially hurt transgender children and children who don't fit specific gender roles, but they also have the potential to harm all children in our schools.

Regarding AB 103

I grew up in the 1990s, where all the messaging I saw said girls could do anything boys could do, including sports. We celebrated news stories of girls joining the boys' hockey or even football team if their school didn't have a girls' team. I saw countless TV shows, movies, and commercials where girls were pitted against boys, on the field and elsewhere, and proved themselves just as strong and capable as the boys. In sixth grade, my best friend and I, both cisgender girls, were inspired by these kinds of stories and signed up for the touch football club in the after school program. We were the only girls. Admittedly, we didn't know how to play at first because no one had ever taught us before, but we had fun, learned a lot, and gained a lot of confidence.

But this bill is only about stopping certain kids from joining the *girls'* team, you say? Let's talk about the message that this kind of bill sends to cisgender girls. I find it deeply disturbing how far our culture has backslid on this issue in the last decade, all to target what amounts to a very small minority of people who just want to be themselves. The primary argument I see against allowing transgender girls to play sports with other girls is that "boys" are inherently stronger, more powerful, more dangerous than "girls." Is this really the message we want to be sending young female athletes? That no matter how hard they work, they will never be as good or as strong or as capable as kids that happened to be born with a penis are. How is it protecting girls to say that boys are just naturally better than them at sports without even having to try, and that's why anyone perceived as a "boy" can't be allowed to play or compete with them?

Singling out, scrutinizing, and demonizing transgender girls does the most damage to those girls, and to other transgender and intersex children who don't neatly fit into rigid categories. It sends a message to these children that we think they're dangerous, predatory, and suspicious just because they challenge our society's rigid concepts of gender. They are the ones I am most motivated to protect in speaking against bills like this one. However, because the counter-argument seems to be interested in "protecting" cisgender girls, I think it's crucial that we take a step back and ask what messages these actions *really* send to the only children the bill's supporters claim to care about.

Regarding AB 100

School is a place where children learn academics, but it's also where they learn about who they are and how they interact with peers and people in positions of authority outside of their families. For kids whose home may not be safe for them to be fully themselves, it can be truly life-saving to have a place away from home to express themselves. But requiring schools to monitor, police, and report on children's gender expression (and yes, even experimentation) through name and pronoun changes is not only harmful and potentially dangerous. It's also a poor use of already stretched school resources and staff time.

As a child, I was considered a tomboy because at a certain age I stopped liking "girly things." But rather than police my expression or go to my parents like I was doing something wrong, my teachers treated me like any other kid in the classroom. They encouraged my interests, took notice of subjects that I excelled at, and only monitored my academic performance and looked out for behavior that indicated I was having a hard time. I was fortunate to have parents who also supported my personal expression even when they didn't totally understand it. I consider myself very lucky that the adults in my life never made me feel ashamed or wrong because of something like how I expressed my gender. But I have plenty of friends who did, and even in their 30s and 40s they are still dealing with the consequences of that. It would be a travesty for Wisconsin to follow the trend of states passing laws to not only allow but require harmful messaging and surveillance, when ample research shows that affirming and supportive environments lead to better short- and long-term emotional wellbeing.

Please do not move these bills forward. Thank you.

Athena Hughes
Milwaukee, WI 53212

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 46 years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a equal education free from harassment and discrimination.

My family personally knows trans kids and their families, and none of them have an agenda to upend the world of sports, nor cause a burden on others due to their pronouns.

Sincerely,
Jake Milhans
Verona, WI 53593

To: Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

I am strongly opposed to both bills limiting rights and access for trans students in Wisconsin - AB 100 and AB 103.

These bills cause direct harm to young people who simply want to be themselves and play sports with their peers, which has a multitude of social, physical and academic benefits.

According to the WIAA "Students that participate and are engaged in school programs ... have less truancy, lower drop-out rates, fewer disciplinary issues and better grade point averages on average than their peers that have no involvement... students who took part in more vigorous sports like soccer or football performed nearly 10 percent better in math, science, English and social studies classes... participation in extracurricular activities gives all students--including those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those without stellar academic accomplishments in high school--measurable improvements on college admission exam scores. Furthermore, students who compete in sports in high school were more likely than those not participating to be active in volunteering, voting, speaking publicly and being aware of current events."

Why on earth would we ban a group of students from experiencing these benefits simply due to their gender identity?

According to the NIH, "Transgender people are at substantially increased risk for various negative mental health outcomes compared to cisgender people. These poor mental health outcomes include depression and anxiety and are likely due to social rejection, stigma, discrimination, and violence."

82 percent of transgender youth have considered suicide. Both these bills promote rejection and discrimination, which could cause the number to rise.

Let's focus our efforts on supporting vulnerable students when depression, substance use and suicidal ideations are a very real issue in the transgender community driven largely by the social rejection, stigma and discrimination that you will increase with these bills. Let's do better for the next generation.

A concerned parent,

Leah Huibregtse

Waunakee, WI

53597

To the members of the Assembly,

My name is Amber Trainor, and I am a paraprofessional at a public school in Northern Ozaukee County. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to bills AB100 and AB103.

In my role, I have the privilege of supporting a small community of transgender students within our school. As an ally who provides a safe and accepting space, I have witnessed firsthand both their struggles for acceptance and their joy in forming new friendships. Like all students, transgender students wish to be seen and recognized for who they truly are. Acknowledging their preferred names and pronouns costs nothing but holds immense value for these young individuals.

Bills like AB103 impose an unnecessary financial burden on families by requiring a legal process for name changes. This bill, rather than offering support, isolates and stigmatizes a small percentage of students who are simply seeking to express their authentic selves. Additionally, AB100 restricts transgender students from participating in sports, which not only hampers their ability to build vital peer relationships but also denies them the well-documented mental health, discipline, and academic benefits of team involvement.

These bills are harmful to the mental health, social development, and safety of transgender students. As an educator who interacts with these students daily, I cannot support legislation that would cause them further harm or marginalization. I urge you to reconsider your stance on AB100 and AB103 and to vote against these bills.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. I appreciate your service to our community and hope you will act to protect all students in our state.

Sincerely,
Amber Trainor
126 E Washington St
West Bend WI 53095

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 13 years, and I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive and inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

I serve my community as a Girl Scout troop leader for gender diverse children. My scouts are committed to the Girl Scout law, which requires that they be honest and fair, and respect themselves and others. I ask that this committee follow these same values in today's session and all future sessions which might exclude some children from expressing themselves and living their lives.

Sincerely,
Allison Martinson,
Mount Horeb, Wisconsin

Caitlin Benedetto
Regarding AB 100 and AB 103
6 March 2025

My name is Caitlin Benedetto, and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Madison. I am submitting written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103 proposed to the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6.

AB 100 and AB 103 are clearly crafted as trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bills come during a time of hardship, fear, and uncertainty for all transgender people, and if passed they would only harm trans children, their families, and their communities.

Research shows us that children become aware of their gender identity at a young age, and children's mental health outcomes are much better when they are able to start socially transitioning from a young age. Social transition for trans kids includes using names and pronouns that align with their gender, as well as participating in social and recreational activities – such as sports – in ways that recognize their gender. If passed, these bills would bar transgender children in the state of Wisconsin from enjoying the full benefits of living in society as their true gender. We know that transgender children whose gender is not recognized are at greater risk for depression, self-harm, and suicide. These bills endanger the lives and wellbeing of trans children. I do not support these bills, and as one of your constituents I strongly urge you not to vote against them.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. I ask that you do your duty as Representatives in Wisconsin and acknowledge all of the trans people you represent. I ask that you in good conscience vote against AB 100 and AB 103.

Thank you,
Caitlin Benedetto

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing in opposition to AB100 and AB103.

AB100: As a Wisconsin resident and the father of a gender nonconforming child, I plead with you, for the safety of my child, to **oppose this bill**. This bill will deny my child the experience of participating in athletics and subject my child to bullying, violence, and trauma. The adolescent experience in school locker rooms is hard enough without forcing a child into the locker room that doesn't align with their gender identity. By forcing a child to abstain from athletics in school or to be exposed to even more ridicule, bullying, and violence than they're already subject to, will create an environment that will cause irreparable harm to children who just want to be who they are. From my experience in school athletics, girls playing in traditional male sports, put a target on their back. Please oppose this bill. Opposing this bill will save lives both directly and indirectly.

AB103: I am writing as a Wisconsin resident and the father of a gender nonconforming child. Please oppose this bill. This bill will also cause irreparable harm to children, both from their peers, and create a conflict in homes with neglectful parents. By denying a child the liberty and right to be called by their chosen name and pronouns that reflect who they are, the state will be effectively outing them as transgender to their peers and creating a dangerous environment. Let kids be who they are. Let kids be safe in school.

Thank you for your time and please oppose these hurtful bills.

Sincerely,

Joseph Meador
Viroqua, WI 54665

Good morning,

My name is Aster Stefanich and I am a constituent living in Middleton, WI 53562. I am writing to express my opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103. If these bills are turned into law, they will cause real, objective harm to Wisconsin youth. Every child deserves to feel like they belong, and research has shown that trans youth are especially vulnerable to isolation, self-harm, abuse, and suicide. Enacting these bills would further isolate vulnerable children at a time when they particularly need social support. Additionally, bill 103 would lead directly to an increase in child abuse, as teachers would no longer be able to help validate and protect trans youth who are not safe at home. These bills would be incredibly harmful to our children, our schools, and our communities, and as such, I strongly urge you to vote no on both.

Thank you for your time,
Aster Stefanich

Wisconsin State Legislature

Wisconsin State Capitol

2 E Main St

Madison, WI 53703

Dear Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB100 and AB103, two bills that would harm transgender students in Wisconsin by restricting their participation in sports and limiting their ability to be recognized by their chosen names and pronouns in schools. These measures not only violate fundamental principles of equality and dignity but also place undue government interference in deeply personal matters that should be handled with compassion, not legislation.

I was born and raised in Wisconsin, and returned to the state to raise my three children. I want my children to grow up in a state that treats every child with respect and fairness. These bills send a dangerous message that transgender youth are unwelcome or unworthy of the same rights as their peers. Studies have shown that affirming a child's gender identity reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide. By enacting policies that single out and discriminate against trans students, Wisconsin would be ignoring the overwhelming evidence that acceptance and inclusion create safer, healthier communities.

Additionally, these bills undermine the autonomy of local school districts, teachers, and parents, inserting state lawmakers into private decisions that should be made by those who best understand and care for each individual student. Restricting the use of correct names and pronouns not only disrespects transgender students but also sets a dangerous precedent of government overreach into educational spaces.

I urge you to reject AB100 and AB103 and instead focus on policies that support all Wisconsin students. Our state should be a place where every child—regardless of gender identity—feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive. Please stand on the right side of history and protect the dignity and rights of transgender youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will choose to affirm Wisconsin's commitment to equality and fairness.

Sincerely,
Laura Foster
Cedarburg, WI
53012

To the Assembly Committee on Education in reference to Bills 100 and 103

As the grandparents of a transgender child and retired educators, we're asking you to let these children be the themselves. Children in general have a hard enough time figuring out who they are and their place in our world. Our grandchild, a freshman in highschool, like so many, has been through so much already realizing and revealing who he is. The family, healthcare workers, and school district have been wonderful accepting him and actually saving his life. we're asking you to stay out of this, and let those people with the education and love for these children help and as a result it helps all children be more caring about all the diversity in our lives.

Thank you for your attention.

John and Linda Harter
1727 County Rd W
Wabeno, WI 54566

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Julie Posh Dykstra. I am a resident of Milwaukee, zip code 53208. I am writing to give testimony in opposition to Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

I have lived in Wisconsin since I was 4 years old. I grew up in the Wisconsin public school system. I was lucky to have a positive experience where I felt valued, heard and safe. I had the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity I chose, which let me learn about myself, others and the world around me. I was able to develop my interpersonal skills and leadership skills. Every student in Wisconsin should continue to have those opportunities, regardless of their gender identity. It's such a critical time for young people to feel supported, encouraged and valued so that they can continue to grow and flourish.

I now have a five month old daughter. I want her to have the same kind of experience at school that I did, and I'm worried that she won't be able to have it. I don't know who she'll grow up to be, but as her mother it's my responsibility and honor to help guide and support her along her journey. I desperately want the teachers, coaches and friends she meets along the way to help too.

A major part of that is caring about who she is as an individual, respecting her thoughts & feelings and treating her with respect and kindness. Her name and pronouns are a core part of her identity and respecting them is such a small, easy way to care for the whole child.

Another major part is giving her access and opportunity to try new things. Sports in particular offer so many benefits to children.

I am not concerned at all about trans athletes negatively impacting my daughter's experience in sports. To the contrary, I'm deeply concerned that limiting a trans child's access will lead to a system open to exclusion and cruelty. As well as invasion of privacy in such a vulnerable time for young people.

I urge you to oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103 in order to protect all children and to keep Wisconsin schools a place where we want to raise them.

Thank you,
Julie Posh Dykstra

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 8 years, but I grew up here and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an education free from harassment and discrimination.

We've seen these kind of bills before. They have been brought before this committee year after year in an attempt to terrorize our trans youth, their parents, and decent folks all around the state who understand these bills are no more than hatred and grandstanding. These bills have no founding in science, data or reality. They are simply attacks by people who do not like what is different than them. If people took the time to see the truth, you'd see that being trans gives no one an edge. It is just who they are and simply that. I've seen many trans kid athletes who ~~just as bad as~~ my non trans kid at running for example.

These bills are cruel and used to terrorize people who just want to live their lives as their true selves. Wisconsin is better than this. We must be better than this. We have plenty of actual problems to solve, quantifiable issues based in fact rather than bias and superstition. Let's work on those and leave these kids alone.

Michelle Dunphy
Madison, WI 53717

Assembly Committee on Education,

I, Rose Melton (City of Milwaukee, 53211) am testifying in opposition of Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

Growing up, and even today, most of my friends are transgender. It was something they knew about themselves early, and something that they trusted to share with me. But we were all terrified of what could happen if one of us made a mistake and called someone the wrong name to the wrong person. Assembly Bills 100 and 103 will prevent trans students from having a chance to be their authentic selves in school, and makes school an even more stressful place to be not only for trans kids, but their peers and the staff who are responsible for them. Gender affirming policies and health care save lives, so I urge the Committee to reject these Assembly bills and help protect Wisconsin's kids.

Sincerely,
Rose Melton
Milwaukee 53211

I am writing to voice my STRONG opposition to AB100/AB103. I believe that anti-LGBTQ policies not only take away human rights but also ENDANGER LGBTQ kids.

Studies show that when LGBTQ kids are supported at school, their risk of suicide drops. Something as simple as allowing a student to use their preferred pronouns can SAVE A LIFE.

I also believe that trans students should be allowed to participate in sports. It's ridiculous to exaggerate this issue when there are so few cases in Wisconsin. In 2021, a WIAA spokesperson said he couldn't recall a trans kid ever competing in a state tournament. Why is it necessary to even propose this bill? It's clearly a way to stoke fear of resistance toward the LGBTQ community so the Republican party can keep an hold on their constituents. It does nothing but harm the mental health of trans kids.

Please rule on the side of the safety and well-being of some of our most vulnerable young people. They need our SUPPORT and validation. NOT more exclusion.

Thank You,
Stephanie Sharp
West Salem, WI



March 6, 2025

Dear Honored Members of the Wisconsin Assembly:

PFLAG is a nonprofit which originated in 1972. A mom decided to march next to her kiddo with a sign that said, "I love my gay son." Since that time PFLAG has become a national organization. Its mission is to create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQIA people and those who love them. We established PFLAG Cambridge (53523) in October of 2019 to further promote this mission at a local level through eastern Dane and western Jefferson counties. We write to you today as constituents and as PFLAG members.

The world does not treat our LGBTQIA loved ones fairly. The bills known as AB100 and AB103 (bills disallowing trans kids in sports and declining to use their chosen pronouns) are stark examples of how transgender people, who already face so many hardships, are treated unfairly based on their transgender identity. Allowing for this unfair discrimination creates further hardships for our loved ones. And for that reason we ask that you vote against these bills.

Discriminatory actions cause additional hardship for the people targeted. The harm this discrimination causes is quantifiable and unacceptable. GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network, is an organization founded in 1990 which has been gathering data on the safety of LGBTQIA youth in school and their safety for over 20 years. According to their 2021 biannual survey 68.0% of LGBTQ+ students felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression characteristics—50.6% because of their sexual orientation, 43.2% because of their gender expression, and 40.3% because of their gender (<https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/NSCS-2021-Full-Report.pdf>). According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Transgender individuals are nearly four times as likely to experience a mental health condition. NAMI further states that forty percent of transgender adults have attempted suicide. (<https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Identity-and-Cultural-Dimensions/LGBTQ>).

Discriminatory actions have real world results. These bills communicate to every transgender person in Wisconsin that the people elected to protect us see them as less than whole, and not worth the same protection and respect as their peers. We strongly urge you to vote against the bills known as AB100 and AB103 (bills disallowing trans kids in sports and declining to use their chosen pronouns).

Sincerely,
PFLAG Cambridge

As a proud Wisconsin resident, I am ashamed that this is even making it to the floor for discussion. I want to live in a state that welcomes everyone with open arms, not one that discriminates against the most vulnerable in our society.

These bills do nothing but give attention to hateful, discriminatory rhetoric, and our representatives should be ashamed of themselves for even entertaining it when there are actual issues that face their constituents, especially the children in their districts.

Let's talk about how the new director of HHS is an anti-vaxer amid a measles outbreak, and do something to protect our children with vaccine mandates and education.

Let's do something to address gun violence in the state, as our representatives meet in the same city where a school shooting took place just a few months ago.

Let's talk about increased funding for education and our educators so our children can be prepared to go on and be future well educated leaders in our state.

Let's talk about funding breakfast and lunch for our students like our neighbors in Minnesota.

If AB100/103 pass in the chamber, our representatives should be downright embarrassed for bowing to the president's hateful rhetoric rather than showing empathy and understanding. They have an opportunity to make a powerful statement of love and acceptance on behalf of their constituents, and I sure as hell hope that's what they choose.

Jake Bujnowski

Dear Representatives,

My name is Sam Yeskis-West, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Merrill WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th. AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation. As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Sam Yeskis-West

Dear Assembly Committee on Education.

I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

Trans students should be allowed to play on sports teams and use locker rooms consistent with their gender identity. They should also be allowed to use the name and pronouns they identify with at school.

Sincerely,

Margaret Bartelt
1612 Renee Ln
Marshfield, WI 54449

> Dear Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

>

> My name is Joe Pepitone, and I live in Sussex, 53089. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my position on AB100 and AB103.

>

> I encourage you to vote NO on AB100 the bill that would ban trans athletes from competing on sports teams that align with their gender identity. It seems most people aren't too concerned with trans boys (individuals who had been assigned female at birth but now identify as male) competing in boys' sports, but the thought of even the very small number of trans girls (individuals who had been assigned male at birth but now identify as female) competing in girls' sports makes many Republican lawmakers think they must "protect" cis-gender girls on these teams. This is paternalistic, unnecessary, and frankly, insulting.

>

> It seems the people who want AB100 to become law are afraid that cis-gender males will fake being trans in order to dominate girls' sports. Exactly what kind of "winning" would that be? Is there proof that this has happened? Even if so, the cases would be vanishingly small compared to the good that would be done for the trans-athletes who are able to compete on the team that matches their identity. Will some trans-athletes be stronger than some cis-athletes? Of course. And the opposite will be true as well.

>

> As for AB103, people should be called what they want to be called. They should be called by the pronouns they want to be called. Period. Every day students are being referred to by names other than their legal names across this state without anyone blinking an eye. Margaret? Peggy. James? Jim. Charlie? Chuck. John? Jack. Penelope? Penny. William? Bill. What does it hurt? And what does it hurt to use pronouns that feel more comfortable to the student? If you have never been misnamed or misgendered by others, you can't know what it feels like. Why would you want to impose that type of insult to other people's children? Maybe you should try it: just for a day, have people call you something other than your name and use opposite pronouns. That would be a great exercise in walking in someone else's shoes.

>

> We are better than this in Wisconsin. Please vote no on both of these bills.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Joe Pepitone

Dear Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jeanne Pepitone, and I live in Sussex, 53089. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my position on AB100 and AB103.

I encourage you to vote NO on AB100 the bill that would ban trans athletes from competing on sports teams that align with their gender identity. It seems most people aren't too concerned with trans boys (individuals who had been assigned female at birth but now identify as male) competing in boys' sports, but the thought of even the very small number of trans girls (individuals who had been assigned male at birth but now identify as female) competing in girls' sports makes many Republican lawmakers think they must "protect" cis-gender girls on these teams. This is paternalistic, unnecessary, and frankly, insulting.

It seems the people who want AB100 to become law are afraid that cis-gender males will fake being trans in order to dominate girls' sports. Exactly what kind of "winning" would that be? Is there proof that this has happened? Even if so, the cases would be vanishingly small compared to the good that would be done for the trans-athletes who are able to compete on the team that matches their identity. Will some trans-athletes be stronger than some cis-athletes? Of course. And the opposite will be true as well.

As for AB103, people should be called what they want to be called. They should be called by the pronouns they want to be called. Period. Every day students are being referred to by names other than their legal names across this state without anyone blinking an eye. Margaret? Peggy. James? Jim. Charlie? Chuck. John? Jack. Penelope? Penny. William? Bill. What does it hurt? And what does it hurt to use pronouns that feel more comfortable to the student? If you have never been misnamed or misgendered by others, you can't know what it feels like. Why would you want to impose that type of insult to other people's children? Maybe you should try it: just for a day, have people call you something other than your name and use opposite pronouns. That would be a great exercise in walking in someone else's shoes.

We are better than this in Wisconsin. Please vote no on both of these bills.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Pepitone

Dear Representatives,

My name is Ann Brummitt and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Brown Deer WI. I am submitting testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed to the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

These bans come at the expense of a very vulnerable population that needs our support and not bullying and harassment by the federal, state, and local government. I am appalled that this kind of bill is being proposed here in Wisconsin where I have been an educator and a life-long resident.

Please vote against these bills and do your job of representing ALL your constituents.

Thank you,

Ann Brummitt

414-379-5680

5120 W Donges Ct, Brown Deer, WI 53223

Alan Escobedo
Milwaukee, WI, 53212

To the members of Senate committee on Bill AB100/AB103:

I am a proud aunt of a transgender youth. Every day he gets bullied, picked on, pictures of before he transitioned being pulled up, being regularly targeted with violence and harrassment by his own classmates for being trans. No one in his upbringing told him what being trans was or what it meant. He came to figure this out about himself when he was only 12 years old. My nephew is 16, about to turn 17 later this year. This bill and every other anti-transgender bill will only normalize the harassment and violence towards people like my nephew. Shame on you, members of Senate committee for even considering passing such a heinous and hateful bills that will, without a shadow of doubt, put me and the rest of the queer community in danger. I cant believe I have to beg you people to leave Transgender people alone. We are people. They are people.

Sincerely,
An angry citizen

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to strongly oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 8 years, serve as educator and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a rigorous and supportive education free from harassment and discrimination. Many trans youth whom we encounter would not be excelling without such an environment.

Sincerely,
Lara Gerassi
Madison, WI 53717

TO: The Assembly Committee on Education in the Wisconsin State Legislature

Re: AB 100 and AB 103

Are you kidding me with this?

These bills are a transparent attempt to score political points at the expense of one of the most marginalized communities in the world. This is an obvious attempt to score political points by risking the lives of some of Wisconsin's most vulnerable children.

Make no mistake, if passed these bills will lead to suffering and WILL lead to some trans children in Wisconsin committing suicide. What you think of as a political football will be the last straw for some of our children.

To understand why, it is relatively easy in this day and age to be thoroughly educated about trans people, their struggles and their lives, from actual medical and scientific professionals in the field. You could start at the following URL. <https://wpath.org/> Remaining ignorant of the issues facing trans folks in this day and age is a choice, and if you chose to make that choice, you have no business passing laws designed to take away the rights of trans people. Further, if you are educated about trans people and trans issues and still choose to increase their suffering, you should be ashamed of yourselves. God knows, I am ashamed of anyone who votes for either of these garbage bills.

There is real work that needs to be done in Wisconsin. Scott Walker and the republican controlled legislature have brought us HUGE problems with both school funding and teacher pay and retention. Why not focus your attention on fixing some of the problems republicans have caused, instead of trying to cause more problems?

The Rev. Vivienne Andersen
Monona, WI. 53716

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 8 years, and am the parent of 3 and 6 year old daughters, who the older of whom has participated in Madison youth sports and will be attending a Madison public school this fall, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination. The data shows that trans kids are at much greater risk of harm than of being harmed. Further, this bill would lead to a massive invasion of privacy and an increase in government monitoring. As a believe in personal liberty, it is disturbing to see the party that believes in small, unobtrusive government advocating a bill that will lead to a massive increase in its authority over the most intimate matters.

Sincerely,
Andrew Bloomberg
Madison, WI 53717

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
My name is Mary Anne Reed & I am a resident of the City of Monona, WI. I have lived in Wisconsin all of my 70 years. I am a retired Registered Nurse and grandmother of three sweet children.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on AB 100 & AB 103. Years ago in my Obstetrics classes, we not only studied fetal growth and development, we also learned that establishing gender at birth was not always clear cut. If you truly believe that every child is a child of God, then why would you want to make life even harder for these children? Both AB 100 and AB 103 would do so.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne Reed
Monona, WI 53716

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

Our names are Kathie and Kevin Brohaugh and we are concerned parents from Middleton, Wisconsin. Kathie was born and raised in Madison and Kevin has been a Wisconsin resident for 14 years. We are writing to oppose bills AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct names and pronouns, and AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban.

We have a child who is nonbinary. Their school has been extremely supportive of them and us. Both teachers and the administration have helped our kid feel accepted.

All children should be able to receive similar support from people they trust whether at home, school, or elsewhere. All children should be allowed to share information with the people they deem safe without fear of consequences. The Trevor Project has data on minors that experience homelessness or housing instability, either by choice because they did not feel safe in their own homes or by force due to unaccepting parents or guardians.

In addition all children should have the opportunity to practice and compete on a sports team that matches who they are. Participation in sports offers many lessons - leadership, confidence, self-respect, and sportsmanship - which are valuable to any and all students.

Denying participation of transgender students could also cause harm to cisgendered students that do not fit society's expectations of girls or females. As demonstrated by controversies during the 2024 Summer Olympics, cisgender women were accused of being transgender because they appeared too masculine or were too good at their sport.

These bills aim to take safety away from transgender and nonbinary students, eliminating schools as a safe space for them. We thank you for your consideration for the safety and acceptance of all Wisconsin's youth.

Sincerely,
Kathie and Kevin Brohaugh
Middleton, WI 53562

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

I am writing to express my opposition to AB100 and AB103 and in support of children. Trans and non-binary children pose no threat to anyone. They are young people like all others, who deserve to explore and express their identities at school. We know that for LGBTQIA+ children and youth, acceptance by their families and communities is especially critical, as they are otherwise at great risk for suicidal ideation and attempts.

Participation in sports is correlated with improved self-esteem, engagement in school, and success in school - and there is no reason to take that away from the trans and non-binary children who choose to participate in sports. Their presence is no threat to their peers. In addition, I ask how you intend for schools or coaches to enforce rules about who can participate in girls' sports, in particular. No girl should be subjected to genital examination in order to join a sports team (and I hope no parent would allow their child to join a team where that was required), and yet that is the only way to actually enforce the rule you are considering.

Please take a step back from the hysteria about trans kids and remember that they are just that: kids. You don't have to understand exactly what they are experiencing - you just need to allow them the freedom and support to be themselves so that they can survive and thrive.

Please, do not allow AB100 and AB103 to pass. Our kids all deserve better.

Caillin O'Connor
Madison, WI
53717

Dear Members of the Committee,

I beseech you to vote NO on Assembly bill 100 and NO on Assembly bill 103.

These bills put an official stamp of approval on bullying and are not in the best interests of any child in Wisconsin or beyond. Passage of such bills will embolden more cruelty by those who feel justified with the intolerance that is the backbone of both of these proposals.

A bill to deny any child the choice of words to describe themselves, in a space they might have felt safe.

A bill to end the chance for a child to play on a team and experience a sense of belonging.

Bills that tell these children they should not be accepted unless they change; they do not deserve to be happy.

Imagine waking one day and discovering the government had decreed that you must pretend not to be yourself. It's this mindset that is wrong, not these children.

Bill 100 and 103 will certainly sort students into neat boxes but the boxes may be coffins. Perhaps this was factored into the goal as it eliminates the perceived problem. Trans youth already have a high suicide rate, which spikes after anti-trans bills pass, with their sweeping condemnations for just existing.

Kids can be cruel but adults can be crueler. Adults have power that children don't, and too often wield that power against the weakest, because it is easy. The safety and well being of Americans has not shown to be a concern for the Republican party currently; it is unsurprising that the safety of the children targeted by this bill was not considered when brought forward by members of said party.

These bills attack transgender children, our children, while the president is devastating our constitution unchecked. There are real problems in our country right now, please do not distract yourselves with legislating hate. Vote no, then come together to find a way to help others instead of harming them.

Thank you,

Darcy Carlson
Windsor 53598

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Susie Seidelman, and I am writing from Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211. I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB 100 and AB 103. I have called Wisconsin my home for all of my 44 years, and as someone who cares deeply about the well-being of all Wisconsinites, I cannot stand by while legislation threatens the health, safety, and dignity of transgender and gender non-conforming members of our community.

I believe every person deserves respect and the opportunity to live an authentic life. These bills would harm transgender youth by denying them the basic right to participate in school sports, use locker rooms that align with their gender, and have their chosen names and pronouns recognized in educational settings. As a result, these students would be singled out, stigmatized, and exposed to increased discrimination.

On a personal level, I have witnessed how affirming my transgender family member's identity transforms their confidence and sense of belonging. Supporting young people's ability to live as their authentic selves not only fosters a safer environment for them but creates a more inclusive, understanding community for everyone. Denying them these rights sends the message that they do not deserve the same opportunities as their peers—which is simply not true and runs counter to our shared Wisconsin values.

Our state should be a place where fairness and equality guide our policies. According to numerous studies, transgender people, especially youth, already face disproportionately high rates of bullying, depression, and self-harm. Legislation like AB 100 and AB 103 would only exacerbate those challenges. When schools and communities support transgender students, we see higher graduation rates and improved mental health outcomes, benefiting all of us in the long term.

I ask you to reject AB 100 and AB 103. Let's ensure our state continues to move toward greater acceptance, respecting the fundamental rights and human dignity of all Wisconsinites. I urge you to oppose these bills and stand with every community member in Wisconsin—especially our transgender youth—who deserves safety, respect, and opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susie Seidelman, Shorewood, WI 53211, Opposing AB 100 and AB 103

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Brittney Koerner-Wrench, and I am a resident of Brown County in Green Bay, WI. I've lived in Wisconsin since 2003 and have been an advocate for, as well as a part of, the LGBTQ minority for as long as I can remember. Even growing up in a small town I knew the importance of living as your most authentic self and helping to support others to do so as well. I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills AB100 and AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to these bills because children of any minority, background, and gender identity have the right to be themselves without the risk of judgement and harassment. These bills risk these children not being able to have the same opportunities as any other child gets to have in their day to day school experience all due to simply expressing themselves in a different way. The way someone expresses their gender identity does not and will never be a threat to anyone. The only threat is when we take away that freedom and suppress people's rights simply for someone else's "comfort".

AB100

Sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

AB103

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are. Their identity is not a threat to anyone and never will be.

I hope you will support our children of all gender orientations and let them have the right to express their inner selves the way that brings the most comfort to themselves, not for others who it will have no effect on at the end of the day.

Sincerely,
Brittney Koerner-Wrench

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Jennifer Smith, resident of Madison Wisconsin (53714). I'm writing in opposition of bills AB 100 and AB103. These bills are anti trans discrimination with no scientific underpinning and carry the potential for harmful and possibly fatal consequences.

First, trans athletes in sports. Believing and perpetuating myths and misconceptions about trans athletes is harmful. Denying trans people the right to participate is discrimination and it doesn't just hurt trans people, it hurts all of us, including cis women.

Second, forcibly out transgender students could threaten their well-being, and we already know that LGBTQ+ young people are not inherently prone to suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity but rather placed at higher risk because of how they are mistreated and stigmatized in society.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people aged 10 to 14, and the third leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022). Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) young people are at significantly increased risk.

LGBTQ+ young people are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers (Johns et al., 2019; Johns et al., 2020).

The Trevor Project estimates that more than 1.8 million LGBTQ+ young people (ages 13-24) seriously consider suicide each year in the U.S. — and at least one attempts suicide every 45 seconds. (<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/>)

Please vote no on these discriminatory and harmful bills.

Jennifer Smith
Madison WI 53714

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Mary Van De Loo and I live at 1208 S. Matthias Street in Appleton, Wisconsin.

I am writing to express my opposition to Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Please file my comments in the records for both hearings.

I am asking that in the best interest of youth in Wisconsin that you oppose these bills. As a former athlete (and member of my high school Athletic Hall of Fame), I know what an important role sports can be for youth. To be restrictive in accepting students is closeminded. ALL students need the opportunity to play, and this includes transgender students. Allow these children to play and use locker rooms that align with their gender. Trust their parents and current medical professionals. All children need to be accepted and encouraged to compete.

Further, to not allow students to use their preferred name is reprehensible. All members of society have the right to be called what they wish, and to take this away from students within the context of their education is nothing short of cruel. It is a way to close the door on students, not allowing them to be their full selves.

If you want children to thrive in Wisconsin, please do not pass AB 100 or AB 103.

Thank you,

Mary Van De Loo
1208 S. Matthias Street
Appleton, WI 54915

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 39 years, all my life. I participated in sports through my entire K-12 education, as well as supported them while attending UW-Whitewater, was a teacher in Madison for ages pre-K through 8th grade for 8 years. Now I support women and Marginalized gendered entrepreneurs by co-founding and leading a state-wide organization called Doyenne. Today, I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen and not on behalf of Doyenne.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, equal, inclusive, and caring education free from harassment and discrimination.

The continued attack on trans youth, and all from the LGBTQIA+ community, is deplorable. We have heard testimony from NCAA leadership, and public records that show these attacks target a very small percentage of the actual population and have almost zero confirmed cases where these items are in fact problems happening within our schools.

We know that the majority of Americans support LGBTQIA+ rights, so why are you continuing to go against constituents beliefs and wishes?

We also know that LGBTQIA+, especially Trans youth, have the highest suicide rates of any population. Are these bills worth even one child taking their own life when we know the results of passing the bills will affect less than 1% of the population?

I ask you to reconsider. I ask for you to do the humane and right thing of opposing these bills.

Sincerely,
Heather W
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Liz Anderson and I live in Madison (zip 53703)

Everyone deserves to participate in sports and be themselves at school, but these pieces of legislation would prevent trans youth from doing so on the basis of their gender. Our Constitution clearly states that we are all equals yet before us we see legislation purports otherwise.

Even if these bills don't become law, their introduction alone has proven harmful. A 2022 survey found that 85% of trans and nonbinary youth report that facing ongoing political attacks has been detrimental to their mental health, according to the Trevor Project. The effect does not end with just the youth in our state either. This continual stream of bills against the trans community invalidates the experience of state residents. In any other context the words and actions of the authors of these bills would be considered bullying and potentially harassment as we as a community have consistently asked you to stop. Asked you to treat us with respect. Asked you to have compassion from those different from you.

So I am writing to ask you to please stop targeting the trans community with bills that restrict the rights of people in this state.

I request that bills Assembly Bill 100 (K-12 trans athlete ban) and Assembly Bill 103 (denying preferred names & pronouns) not be permitted to move forward in the process.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 3.5 years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an equal, inclusive, and supportive education free from harassment and discrimination.

As a parent and as the family member of a gender-nonconforming student in the Wisconsin education system, I am deeply concerned for the safety and fairness afforded to students who simply want to be themselves, explore educational and athletic opportunities, and enjoy their childhoods.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Sveen
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 10 years years, and currently serve our community as an educator and doula. I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a caring, welcoming and affirming education in Wisconsin schools, free from harassment and discrimination.

These bills target trans children and youth and do not support students. If, as a committee on education, you care about all students then you should not single out trans students to discriminate against. In the end, trans kids are just kids and if you believe in all kids, you should believe in trans kids too. They deserve fair and equal treatment just like every child in Wisconsin schools.

Sincerely,
Jamie Hawkins
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Margaret Schnell, I am a Wisconsin constituent and voter, and I live in Madison. I am submitting written testimony against Assembly bills 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on 3/6.

AB 100 AND 103 are, frankly, a low and cowardly attempt to bully children in order to score political points. These bills would subject vulnerable trans kids to alienation and create a climate of fear that would harm all children. All kids deserve a sense of belonging, within their school, their community, and on a team playing sports, if they so choose.

As one of your constituents, I implore you in the strongest possible terms to vote against both these bills. I played girls sports for a decade, from age 8 to 18. If you've ever loved to play, or even loved to watch sports, you know that what truly matters is the people. The comradery of a team, knowing people you wouldn't otherwise get to, working toward a shared goal, learning perseverance and how handle both defeat and victory - all kids deserve these opportunities.

As your constituent and your neighbor I ask you to vote against these despicable bills.

Sincerely,
Margaret Schnell

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

I am writing to urge each of you to oppose AB100 and AB103. As members of the Committee on Education, I can only assume that each of you care very much about Wisconsin's youth and about ensuring that every young person gets both a solid education and a healthy foundation on which to develop into the adults of the future. Neither of these are possible for youth who are subjected to exclusion, disrespect, and demonization. AB100 and AB103 do nothing but exclude, disrespect and demonize youth who are transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming.

Being inclusive and respectful of trans youth does no harm to anyone other than those seeking to use trans youth as scapegoats. I assume no one on this committee would seek to do that.

Sincerely,

Jolin Mitchel
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

We are writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of students to use their preferred names and pronouns.

We have lived in Wisconsin for our entire life, and are speaking on our own behalf as private citizens.

We have personally witnessed the pain of a loved one struggling with suicidal depression stemming from gender dysphoria. Coming out as transgender was a life-changing moment for her for the better, in large part because the people she trusted at home and at school have been supportive and affirming. Being able to use her own preferred name and pronouns has been critical to her emotional health and well-being: she missed most of 8th grade from psychological distress, but is now scoring top marks on schoolwork in 9th grade. The difference has been night and day.

Imagine if her parents had not been supportive. If AB103 were law, staff at her school would have been legally barred from using her preferred name and pronouns. She would have had no support in the two most central environments of her life, leading to more crippling depression, delinquency, running away from home, even possible suicide. Maybe you scoff at the idea that AB103 could result in such outcomes for our children -- but imagine living day after day being called a name that doesn't feel like yours, with it being illegal for others to call you by one that works for you. It is a basic principle of dignity and respect that we refer to others how they want to be called. This is not "woke" but rather common decency.

Trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an equal and inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,
Curtis T Rueden
Anna L Rueden
Verona, WI 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education -

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to proposed bills AB100 and AB103.

I am a long-time member of the Village of Shorewood, hold a PhD in Child Clinical Psychology, and have worked in the nonprofit sector of Milwaukee for over 30 years. I am also the mother of a young adult trans woman.

If passed, these bills would have a devastating impact on the health, well-being, and safety of Wisconsin's trans and non-binary youth and adults. The detrimental effects of these kinds of bills are clear from more than a decade of scientific research and from the positions of all the relevant professional organizations (e.g., American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, etc.).

I truly can't imagine my daughter being barred from playing sports, unable to use the locker room or rest room that is consistent with her gender, and being prohibited from using her name or correct pronouns. In all spheres of her life, she lives and moves through the world as a woman. She, along with other trans youth and adults, have the right to live, play, and exist as their authentic selves.

Please join me in opposing and defeating these two damaging bills.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Larson
Shorewood, WI 53211

Molly Vande Slunt

Regarding Assembly Committee on Education and proposed bills AB100 and AB103

March 5th, 2025

My name is Molly Vande Slunt and I'm a concerned resident of Wisconsin.

I am testifying against the proposed bills limiting children's identity and participation in school and sports. I'm not a parent myself, but I care deeply for the children within my family and social circles and in general.

These bills are not only a waste of the legislature's time, but extremely harmful to children and their development. There are no proven risks of letting children who identify as trans or gender nonconforming playing in sports that don't match their assigned gender at birth, nor letting them have control over their name and pronouns in a school setting. There are however, plenty of documented risks in preventing these children from living their authentic lives. Roughly 1% of children in the state identify as transgender or gender nonconforming, while rates of suicide are exponential among trans youth with roughly 44% seriously considering and/or attempting suicide.

To claim that transgender youth pose a serious risk to other children is an absolute farce, proven within the language of the bills themselves. For example AB100 only references children assigned male at birth being prohibited from competing with girls or entering a girls locker room. There's no mention of children assigned female at birth entering male sports or locker rooms and no acknowledgement of gender nonconformity or nonbinary children. These bills are written with extreme ignorance, bigotry, and lack of understanding of the actual children it targets.

These bills are ambiguous and are unenforceable. They open up children, whether cis or trans to harassment from adults and put an undue strain on already limited teacher and administrative resources. Instead of this faux moral outrage, I would prefer the law makers, whose salary is funded by my tax dollars, focus on real proven issues facing school children. Roughly 16% of our children face food insecurity which is proven to impact development. 59% of high school students in Wisconsin report facing at least one major mental health challenge over a 12 month period, with another 18% seriously considering suicide. Wisconsin has a huge teacher retention problem, with 4 out of 10 first year teachers leaving the state or profession altogether within 6 years. Quality teachers and teacher/student ratios are another proven metric contributing to the health and well-being of our children. Wisconsin school children face many challenges. Their transgender friends and peers are not one of them.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am submitting my testimony today as a Milwaukee resident and constituent of Wisconsin. I have lived here for 31 years of my life and during this time, I have been proud to recognize our great state as a safe and affirming place for many queer and transgender individuals to live. I also work in both research ethics and give much of my free time advocating for women's reproductive rights. I am submitting my written testimony against Assembly Bills 100 & 103 that was proposed during the Assembly Committee Meeting on March 6th.

I strongly oppose both AB 100 & 103 that seek to limit trans girls from school sports and require adult "permission" to use different names and pronouns within the school setting, respectively.

AB100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your non-transgender constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. I stand in solidarity with these members of my community and vehemently oppose these bills that are meant to deny their rights as human beings. I have known many kind, gracious, and generous trans individuals in my lifetime and consider them friends, my family, and my chosen family. They have been there for me through some of the most painful moments of my life, and it would behoove me to not stand for them now as they have for me in the past.

Many of these bills have been submitted to the courts under the guise of "protecting women and girls", AB 100 is no exception. I do not, nor have ever, felt at risk due to the presence of a transgender individual in any restroom, locker room, public space, or sports team. If men, or any individual who wishes to harm students, will do so as they have historically: as themselves and because they believe they have the right to violate someone else's privacy and autonomy. Trans girls (who these bills unjustly target) are not the problem, adult predators concerned about the supposed genitalia of a child are.

These are all the same fear mongering tactics utilized in the early aughts regarding gay and lesbian access to locker rooms and bathrooms. We've done this before, do we really need to do this moral panic again? If we give an inch regarding transgender children, national movements to limit gender affirming care, marriage rights, adoption, and even public life will be made. This will affect not just trans people but LGBTQ+ community as a whole and we will be systematically legislated out of existence under the guise of "protecting women".

If you so desperately want to protect women, propose stronger sentences for sexual assault and rape. If you want to protect women, promote complete and scientifically-based sexual education. If you want to protect women, do more to protect access to affordable healthcare for mothers and programs like WIC and SNAP programs that keep them fed. If you want to protect women, advocate for comprehensive, scientific reproductive healthcare and research- including access to abortion.

If you want to protect women, allow trans girls the safety and opportunity to become trans women.

AB 103 seeks to limit trans girls and children from making autonomous decisions about themselves and their identity and the most crucial time of their development. Legislation such as this will put more children at risk from abuse at home and exacerbate worse mental health outcomes, including suicide. A sense of belonging, that can be achieved by simple expressions of compassion like utilizing chosen names and pronouns, is one of the largest protective factors against trans youth suicide. Students deserve to learn in a place where they feel safe, accepted, heard, and seen for who they are and who they will become. Instead, these laws seek to further alienate them and legislate them out of existence.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist despite these efforts. Nothing will erase the beautiful variation of the human experience, especially that of trans people. To enact these bills is to enact violence on trans people. As representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Grace Robinson

ZIP: 53212

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill on restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived in Wisconsin for thirteen years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen. I strongly oppose these bills as trans children and youth, like all youth, have the right to a safe and inclusive education and learning space, free from harassment and discrimination.

I have personally witnessed the positive growth and changes in my best friend's child, who two and a half years ago advised they identify as non-binary with the pronouns they/ them. This child, within their own merit and direction, found their authentic self through expressing their preferred identifying pronouns. This child is fortunate enough to have the unwavering support of their parents and community. This child has blossomed into a confident individual filled with creativity, empathy, and love. All this child, and all non-binary/ transgender children and youth, deserve is the freedom and right to live as their authentic selves. Not all children and youth have this level of support, and it is bills such as AB100 and AB103 that stifle growth and the opportunity to learn and support this unique and beautiful community.

These bills are drafted from a place of fear and lack of education... The facts and statistics do not align with the gross mistruths being shared by the current administration. By implementing bills such as AB100 and AB103, (we) are opening the door for targeted discrimination, harassment, and the inequitable opportunity to exist in what should be a safe space as a child/ youth: educational facilities and community spaces.

Sincerely,
Katherine Jacobson Smith
Fish Creek, WI 54212

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Rufus Jupiter, and I am a resident of Vernon County in Wisconsin. I was born in Wisconsin and have lived here for 35 years, in both urban and rural locales. I am writing you today in opposition of Bills AB100 and AB103.

I am a 43 year old, nonbinary transmasculine person. I identify neither as male nor as female, and I use they/them pronouns since that is the language that feels comfortable to me. As a young person growing up in the 1980s and 1990s, there was not widespread language to describe people whose gender was other than binary male or female. There were no visible, out LGBTQ+ individuals in my life and few in the public eye who I could look to for guidance. I lived a childhood feeling no true sense of who I was as a person (although I was told by others who I was all the time). By the time I was an adult, I was diagnosed with severe anxiety and depression; I felt lost and worthless, unseen, unknown to anyone, even myself.

It took until my mid- 30s for language to appear in the mainstream dialogue that accurately mirrored who I was. As transgender people and people on the gender spectrum became more visible in the public eye, I began to recognize myself. My anxiety and depression fell away as I finally began to understand and claim my identity.

Today, while visibility of LGBTQ+ folks has expanded greatly, we face a future of uncertainty and fear. How is it, in this country where individual liberties are a supposed right of all citizens, that members of my community still fight for the privilege of being accepted for who we are? AB100 and AB103 are deplorable bills that target a tiny, very vulnerable population of youth. These are bills that directly tell the youth in question that who they are, deep down in their core being, is fundamentally wrong. These are bills, made by grown adults, that purposefully and loudly shame, invalidate, and ridicule children. AB100 specifically singles out transgender youth (who likely are already misunderstood or bullied by peers) and prevents them from participating in healthy extracurricular activities on teams that match their true sense of self. AB103 encourages the shaming and outing of children in school, a setting that should be safe for all children. Research consistently shows a disproportionately high rate of suicide risk for queer and transgender youth. How will these cruel bills be reflected in those numbers, if they happen to move forward?

I am writing to implore you to vote NO on Bills AB100 and AB103. If passed, these bills will further anti- trans, anti- LGBTQ+ sentiment in this country. As someone who has lived a life that society has deemed again and again to be devoid of worth (until I decide to "be" someone I am not), I can tell you that every piece of legislation that advances these restrictive views will cost lives. At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin.

As grown adults, it is our responsibility to protect children by seeing them and caring for them as they are, as they truly know themselves to be, and for standing up for those brave children who are just trying to authentically express themselves in a society that tells them they shouldn't exist.

Sincerely,
Rufus Jupiter
Viroqua, WI 54665

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing to ask you to vote no on Assembly Bill 100. There are many options for meeting the needs of student athletes. I ask you to respectfully let each school district determine how those individual needs will be met within their own district and community. Let local school boards exercise discretion and do their jobs. It is not necessary for the State of Wisconsin to weigh in on this. Better that you look at ensuring food for hungry children than take time and space on this issue.

I am also asking you to unequivocally reject Assembly Bill 103 on the use of personal pronouns and names. You waste the precious time of school personnel and interfere with family and individual preferences by creating an unnecessary bill. School children have had nicknames since the creation of the first public school in America. A State bill is an unnecessary intrusion. Again, let local school boards and administrators do their jobs and be responsive to parents and community.

Thank you
Tamara Sharp
McFarland WI 53558

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Aleeh Schwoerer and I am a resident of Madison, WI 53704.

I am writing today to ask you to oppose Assembly Bill 100 and 103.

These bills directly harm trans students who are trying to do what any other child wants to do: be themselves, express themselves, and participate in sports.

Schools should not be a place where trans children are targeted because of their identity. It should be a place where they get to craft their identity just as any of their peers do.

These bills do not erase the identities of these students. It ostracizes them and prevents them from fully participating in what the school system is supposed to offer every student. Additionally, they are based in false information and myths about trans individuals.

Oppose these bills and protect trans students in Wisconsin.

Thank you,

Aleeh Schwoerer
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

I'm writing to express my opposition to AB100 and AB103 and to any bill that would prohibit people from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity, or any bill that would prohibit trans students from using the name and pronouns they identify with in schools.

As a high school teacher for 26 years, I have seen firsthand how transgender youth can flourish when they are able to embrace their full identity, as well as the damage done when youth are shamed for being themselves. Anyone interested in student well-being would oppose bills that target transgender youth for persecution.

AB100 and AB103 violate the right to privacy and the right to bodily autonomy, they are damaging to youth mental health, and I urge you to oppose them both.

Sincerely,
Ms. Brenda Morris
3149 Buena Vista St.
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 10 years, serve our community as a professor of human development and family studies and family medicine and community health, and I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive and caring education free from harassment and discrimination.

Research supports the importance of respecting the identity of children and youth and treating them with dignity. Our state has concerning levels of mental health challenges, which passing these bills would only worsen. Please invest in programs and policies that can support youth well-being instead of these bills that would take us in the wrong direction.

The discriminatory practices put forth in these bills ultimately will harm all of our children by teaching them to practice prejudice. Please vote 'no' on AB100 and AB103 to show ALL our community members they matter.

Sincerely,
Larissa Duncan,
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Rachel Zidon, and I am a middle level educator in Oregon, Wisconsin. I am writing to urge you to oppose any further advancement of Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. All my students, and all Wisconsin youth, deserve to be called what they want to be called. My trans students simply want to be themselves, and I know both from personal experience with students and from research, that introducing these bills causes psychological harm and increases risk of self-harm and suicidal ideation. Targeting vulnerable students does nothing to make our state better. I would urge you to use your time and political power to instead properly fund our schools rather than taking actions that will explicitly harm students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Zidon
Oregon, WI 53575

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

For Assembly bill 100 and 103:

I am a physician who takes care of kids and I have seen many children who have been so much happier and healthier after starting to use pronouns consistent with their gender at home and school. It should be up to children and families to decide what pronouns they want to use and this choice must be supported in schools. I strongly oppose these bills due to the negative impacts they will pose to children's physical and mental health.

Julia, Madison WI 53715

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Hannah Rebernick, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. We should all be doing our best to support ALL of the children in our communities. Bills like this punish trans children for merely existing and create environments that become hostile and unsafe for all children. By refusing to treat trans children the same as you would any other child you deny them their childhood. There is a 29% decrease in suicidal ideation and a 56% decrease in suicidal behavior for youth when their chosen name is used (The Trevor Project). Respecting, name changes, pronouns and protecting trans children in school is life saving and doing anything less is a blatant disregard for the safety and wellbeing of Wisconsin's children.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Hannah Rebernick

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To WI Assembly Committee on Education:

I'm writing in opposition to Assembly Bills 100 & 103. Trans kids deserve the same opportunities and dignity as anyone else. They're not hurting anyone. We shouldn't be punching down at an already vulnerable group of kids. It's wrong, it's causing unnecessary harm, and these cruel bills need to stop.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alex Habriga
Lifelong WI Resident
Veteran of US Armed Forces
Proud Transgender Wisconsinite

2133 S Fish Hatchery Rd
Fitchburg, WI 53575

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am a resident, homeowner, and small business owner in Bayfield County. I'm writing to oppose Bills AB103 (use of pronouns & restrictions) and AB100 (k-12 athlete ban).

I think it's time to stop making kids the disempowered and disenfranchised subjects of these ongoing culture wars. Middle school and high school are incredibly difficult times in life. Let's not make it more difficult by entangling kids (who are most vulnerable) in the republican party's ongoing incursion into the private lives of individuals and families.

Erik Gruber
Bayfield, WI 54184

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 5 years, serving our community as a certified arborist, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, equitable, and caring education free from harassment and discrimination. Life is hard enough and if we care about the health of our community we will honor and respect the diversity of human existence and the dignity of all people.

Please vote no to bills AB100 and AB103.

Sincerely,
Ellen Sims
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Tanner Schultz and I live in Madison. My zip code is 53714.

A friend of mine, who I met in high school and have known for 25 years, transitioned only a few years ago. Through them I have witnessed the transformative power of finally being able to express, and be accepted for, the gender they have always known themselves to be. They are today a much healthier and happier person than they were when I met them, many years ago, during a time when their parents and society were still telling them that what they knew in their heart was wrong, and trying to force them to conform to a gender they knew they were not.

I am not alone in this recognition, as many prominent and respected medical organizations, such as the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the American Medical Association, have also concluded the same.

I strongly encourage you to reject Assembly Bills 100 and 103, as well as any legislation that seeks to oppress our trans youth and deny them their right to exist as they are and be recognized for who they are. Such legislation is counter to the science of mental health, our rights, and basic human decency.

Sincerely,
Tanner Schultz

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

Please accept this as my testimony on Assembly Bill 100 (K-12 trans athlete ban) and Assembly Bill 103 (denying preferred names & pronouns). I'm unable to attend tomorrow's hearings in Madison.

Prohibiting trans students from playing on sports teams and using locker rooms consistent with their authentic gender identity, as well as taking away the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with at school, is extremely disrespectful to those students, and it's completely wrong. Students participating in sports and being themselves at school facilitates strong, mentally healthy kids who grow up to be strong, mentally healthy adults! Creating these unfair limitations would undoubtedly encourage more dangerous "othering" and shaming towards these students.

A 2022 survey found that 85% of trans and nonbinary youth report that facing ongoing political attacks has been detrimental to their mental health, according to the Trevor Project. Even introducing these bills would increase stress levels and mental health problems among many students, not just trans and nonbinary students. I oppose both of these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my voice heard and included in the official record.

Live and let live,

Jill Mitchler
Egg Harbor, WI 54209

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

Please make note of my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

Having lived in WI for nearly 50 years, and having known several trans people in my life, both these bills would be harmful to children that I personally know and love.

Furthermore, I strongly believe it is inappropriate for the state legislature to tell local school boards what they can and can't do in this area. Please leave it up to local elected school boards to set policy in this matter.

Thank you,

--

Mary E. Myers
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Education committee,

I write today in opposition to the bills AB 100 and 103 before you concerning the rights of trans gender students. The right of a student to feel comfortable with their own identity is a human right that should not be impeded in any form. If you believe that a person should be allowed to be who they are in any form you must believe it in all forms. That is not a decision that you should force on people based on your own beliefs anymore than someone should be forced to be a religion they are not. As a teacher I believe that a student alive called by whatever pronouns and name they choose is a good thing. I believe the manner in which they identify is a personal matter not to be legislated. Thank you.

Ryan Moore, Wausau, 54401

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representative Stroud Education Committee Member Chair Representative Kitchens:

I am a constituent of Assembly Representative Stroud. My address: Dana Churness, 86495 Lenawee Rd, Herbster, WI 54844.

I am writing to register my strong opposition to AB 100 and AB 103. As you know, these bills seek to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender. They eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with.

This amounts to no less than State sanctioned discrimination. As the parent of a gender diverse child, who will be impacted directly by the trans athlete bill, I can speak personally to the harm that these bills cause. (Even by merely being introduced and considered.)

1 in 3 trans kids will attempt suicide by the age of 18. Bills such as these will create an even more hostile environment for our children to have to learn in. This is absolutely unacceptable. The attack on trans youth, initiated by unconstitutional Executive Orders and enforced by bills such as these amounts to ruthless, heartless bullying behavior by grown adults who should know better.

We are not asking you to believe in something that you don't. We are asking that you kill these bills which will actively harm (physically and mentally) our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dana Churness

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am a 57 year old woman, a Lutheran Christian, and I've lived in Dane County most of my life. I believe that all children are uniquely and wonderfully made by our Creator. It is the job of families, schools, and society to encourage, accept, and love them as they grow.

The two bills before you simply make trouble where there is none to be found; they are both unnecessary. I urge you to oppose them.

RE AB100: There is ample scientific evidence that transwomen and girls have no "advantage" over cisgender women and girls in sports. Youth should be allowed - and encouraged - to participate in sports with their peers and to use the locker room that aligns with their identity.

RE AB103, there is no good reason to make it difficult for students to use preferred names and pronouns in schools. Kids have enough trouble growing up and navigating school; they do not need the added burden of having to "provide paperwork," to request their preferred name be used. To honor the use of someone's preferred pronouns is to be courteous and kind. Why would I deny someone that?

These bills create barriers to learning, and I hope the Assembly Committee on Education is able to see that.

Respectfully,
Sue Martinson-Zyhowski
Madison WI 53716

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To all members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jill Nagler and I'm a resident of Madison, WI, 53719 and lifelong resident of Wisconsin.

I write to you in staunch opposition to AB 100/103.

Here we are with state politicians engaging in the manufactured outrage towards the transgender community and vulnerable transgender children.

Here we are with yet another set of violent and dehumanizing bills that attack transgender kids, their families, and their educators for no logical, sensible, rational, or ethical reason.

It is manufactured outrage for no other purpose than to deflect and place blame on transgender people as easy targets instead of actually addressing the issues that harm Wisconsin's children, such as gun violence, food and housing insecurity, lack of accessible extramural programs especially for poor families, bullying, and lack of funds to support the sports programs that these bills claim to be protecting.

Trans kids are not the cause of any of these issues, and allowing trans kids to play extramural sports and to be able to have their pronouns respected is protective against the violence they face from society and their peers.

If you want to truly protect kids, then stop these farcical attacks on transgender kids and the transgender community.

Put in the work to address actual social issues instead of falling into the cycle of fake outrage.

Let transgender kids play sports!

Use the name and pronouns that people choose, it literally does not hurt anyone to let people choose their name and pronouns. Especially kids who are exploring the world and their place in it.

Let kids be kids!

Stop the attacks on transgender children, let them live.

I implore you to oppose these abhorrent bills and all others that are cruel, unconstitutional, unethical, and seek to target vulnerable communities with manufactured outrage.

Please act with humility, ethics, sensibility, and compassion and end this assault on the transgender community in Wisconsin.

With gratitude,

Jill

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Kim Suhr, and I live in Wales, 53183. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my position on AB100 and AB103.

I encourage you to vote NO on AB100 the bill that would ban trans athletes from competing on sports teams that align with their gender identity. It seems most people aren't too concerned with trans boys (individuals who had been assigned female at birth but now identify as male) competing in boys' sports, but the thought of even the very small number of trans girls (individuals who had been assigned male at birth but now identify as female) competing in girls' sports makes many Republican lawmakers think they must "protect" cis-gender girls on these teams. This is paternalistic, unnecessary, and frankly, insulting.

I was a female athlete in middle and high school and played with and against lots of players who had what I could have thought of as an "unfair" advantage over me. I was a 5'0" player on a volleyball team who played with and against players who were 6 feet tall—these were non-trans girls who had the good fortune to have been born with different genes than I did. Should I have insisted they play on the boys' teams? Did I need anyone's "protection?" No.

It seems the people who want AB100 to become law are afraid that cis-gender males will fake being trans in order to dominate girls' sports. Huh? Exactly what kind of "winning" would that be? Is there proof that this has happened? Even if so, the cases would be vanishingly small compared to the good that would be done for the trans-athletes who are able to compete on the team that matches their identity. Will some trans-athletes be stronger than some cis-athletes? Of course. And the opposite will be true as well. Were there times I was a stronger athlete than other players who seemed to have a physical advantage and more height? You betcha.

As for AB103, this is a problem looking for a bill. People should be called what they want to be called. Period. They should be called by the pronouns they want to be called. Period. We can find thousands of examples of students being referred to by names other than their legal names across this state without anyone blinking an eye. What does it hurt? And what does it hurt to use pronouns that feel more comfortable to the student? If you have never been misnamed or misgendered by others, you can't know what it feels like. Why would you want to impose that type of insult to other people's children? Maybe you should try it: just for a day, have people call you something other than your name and use opposite pronouns. That would be a great exercise in walking in someone else's shoes.

We are better than this in Wisconsin. Please vote no on both of these bills.

Sincerely,

Kim Suhr
Wales, WI 53183

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Mansi Singh, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Madison. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills.

I am a school psychologist in Wisconsin and work closely with students who identify as trans. These students face high rates of mental health issues (such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts) when compared to their cisgender peers. Being able to express their gender identity freely and engage in activities such as athletics that promote mental health, can improve their sense of self-worth and well-being. Bills that limit these rights work towards worsening mental health outcomes. My job involves promoting inclusion and acceptance for all students, regardless of their identities. Discriminatory policies that restrict students' access to their chosen pronouns and athletics contribute to climates of exclusion and increase stigma amongst peers. This may lead to bullying, isolation, and less support for trans students. Trans individuals have a right to their autonomy and dignity. Discriminatory policies infringing on these rights are counterproductive towards ensuring that schools are safe and nurturing educational environments for all students. As policy makers, harm prevention should be an ethical commitment you strive for when making important decisions. These policies will undermine those efforts, leading to long-term effects on trans individuals mental and emotional health.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Mansi Singh, EdS, NCSP (she/her)
School Psychologist

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is MaryClaire Burkhardt, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee, WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are both very obviously written this way in order to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids. These bills are emerging during a time when hateful and unprecedented anti-trans legislation and policy proposals are rampant across the US. These bills do nothing but alienate and endanger CHILDREN and stoke a climate of hate and fear. Trans children are still children, and you have an obligation to support them thrive. The endless examples of suicide and harm done to trans folks, and especially trans children, should immediately stop these types of bills from coming out. However, there are many who are soulless and seem to forget that people are people and trans people are just people.

As one of your constituents, I urge you all to vote against these bills. I am a trans adult, I grew up in a time where I witnessed the trans kids in my schools who were brave enough to come out be bullied and harassed. The fact that there are politicians who are nothing more than rich bullies is pathetic, and you must not stand with them. It's just embarrassing. Why do people care so much about children's genitals? That to me is a million times more creepy than anything anti-trans people make up to fear monger.

It's also absolutely horrifying that these bills are happening at a time when the people, your constituents, are struggling to make ends meet. I work in a hospital, and the amount of people who have to cancel life-saving appointments, medications, and treatments due to the mess our health care system is is horrifying. And here we are talking about banning children from being themselves. What an absolute waste of time.

We trans people have always existed, and will always exist, at every single age. The violence against trans people is just a clear example of the spin into fascism we have entered. Focus on the things that actually matter, like stopping Musk from taking over our entire country (a sentence I never thought I'd have to write.), maybe feeding, housing, clothing, and providing health care to your constituents.

Trans people will exist and be loved no matter what. These harmful laws will do nothing to end our existence. Nothing can, because we are exactly who we're meant to be, and we will always exist.

As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge and stand by all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

-MaryClaire Burkhardt (they/them)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

As a Wisconsin citizen and educator, I strongly oppose the adoption of Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. These bills target a small and vulnerable population of young transgender persons in our public schools who deserve our support, care, and commitment rather than public policy that demeans them and keeps them from being called by the names and pronouns that match their identities. As a teacher of writing, I know the harm that words can cause; as a researcher and educator, I know the mental health crises common among our queer, questioning, and transgender youth. These bills will exacerbate the alienation and discrimination felt by young people in schools, a place where they should be safe from the violence and hatred they so often encounter in public spaces. My classrooms and communities must be spaces where individuals can express themselves freely, and that expression can only emerge when students are called by their names, respectfully spoken of by others, and allowed to participate in the life of the school -- including sports -- the same as all other students. This is an issue of access, civil rights, and the continued existence of beloved young people who deserve to feel safe and seen. I repeat, I strongly oppose both Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103; they should never be made into law in Wisconsin or anywhere else that values freedom, justice, and the rights of its most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you,
Dr. Sara Kelm
Madison, WI (53705)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposed bills AB100 and AB103. These bills make me afraid for children in Wisconsin schools. Now more than ever, schools are taking on enormous responsibilities in terms of mental health support for children. Both of these bills put teachers in a position of saying and acting that they don't believe children. It would be inappropriate and negligent for a teacher to say, "No, I don't believe Mandy hit you, I didn't see it." or "I don't think you're hungry, I'm sure you have food at home."

It is also inappropriate for schools to mandate that a child be called by a name that they don't feel is theirs or to be banned from a team or activity because their genitalia does not match their brain. Laws of these types have been shown to negatively impact the mental health of transgender and nonbinary youth. Gender identity is a fundamental part of human experience and should be protected by law.

I have lived in Madison for nearly 30 years, I know children who are transgender who have thrived here because teachers and schools worked to protect and nurture these children. These two proposed bills would bring irreparable harm to children. Please do not let these two bills move forward.

Thank you,

Jen Lynch
Madison, WI 53715

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

I am writing regarding AB 100 and AB 103. I am writing to encourage you to oppose these bills. I oppose these bills because there is data that indicates that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>

States that passed anti-transgender laws aimed at minors saw suicide attempts by transgender and gender nonconforming teenagers increase by as much as 72% in the following years

<https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2024/09/25/nx-s1-5127347/more-trans-teens-attempted-suicide-after-states-passed-anti-trans-laws-a-study-shows>

I have lived in WI all of my life. I urge you to oppose these bills that will do harm to other humans.

Sincerely,

Christine Carini
2823 South 85th Street
West Allis, WI 53227

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Jenny Benjamin from Milwaukee (53207), and I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. These bills are trying to take Wisconsin back in time, but it won't work. The fabric of our state and nation will always have trans youth who want safety, acceptance, and fairness.

Sincerely,
Jenny Benjamin

--

Jenny Benjamin (she/her)
JB Communications, L.L.C.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

My name is Erin Schimmel and I am a school social worker for the Milwaukee Public School District. I have lived in Wisconsin my whole life and worked my whole career in Milwaukee. I am writing today in opposition of AB100 and AB103.

Firstly, to those who continue to bombard and attack transgender and LGBTQ+ youth and adults, I would like to ask, how dare you? This is a minuscule population of people in this county who want to do nothing but exist as they are. They are not indoctrinating children. They are not forcing children to be transgender or gay. They are people simply wanting to exist, and same as you and me.

The number of students I have worked with in my career who don't go by their full, government name, and are not LGBTQ+, is substantial. So why should we look at transgender kids any differently? As a school social worker, and educator, and an advocate for my students, my mission is to ensure my student feel safe and supported to be themselves at school. Education is power and is a right to all people. In order to learn, and grow into strong, functioning members of society, students must feel safe at school, and this starts with simply being called the name they want to be called. Being transgender is not something new and has in fact existed in history for millennia. Why now this focus? It's shameful.

The microscope that has been placed on this minuscule community in the United States needs to stop. There are significant bigger issues that need to be addressed over focusing on something like allowing kids to play sports and allowing kids to be called the name they want to be called. It's time to take the focus on these kids and turn the attention to solving bigger issues in Wisconsin, such as record-high inflation, sky-rocketing housing prices, and access to health care for all Wisconsinites.

Let kids be kids. If they are not your kids, kindly butt out. It is none of your business, and frankly out of control. It's time to focus on bigger issues.

Thank you,
Erin Schimmel

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee Members,

My name is Katherine Hinson. I live in Washburn Wisconsin and have resided in this community for 24 years.

I am writing as a citizen of this country, a Wisconsin resident, a community member, a parent and an educator.

I am apposed to the passage of AB100 and AB103.

It is important and necessary for all humans to be seen, heard and believed for who they truly are. When you limit people's ability to be themselves you are taking away basic rights. Taking away these rights from youth is unnecessary, unkind and harmful.

It does not harm you or anyone for a person to use a name or gender marker that they personally know to be their own. It may make you a bit uncomfortable but it does not harm you. Please try to imagine the discomfort and pain and harm that is associated with being denied the truth of who you are and what you are called. Can you imagine being mis gendered and called by a name that has a negative connotation throughout your work day? That is what will happen to some students throughout their school day if you pass AB103.

If you truly want to protect youth then you will not pass AB100 or AB103.

Thank You,
Katherine Hinson

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

I am Brooke Walsh, a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. I am from Medford, Wisconsin, spent almost a decade in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and a year in Madison, Wisconsin. I've generally been a proud resident and Wisconsinite, however I am concerned about some bills targeting the transgender community that, quite frankly, are embarrassing. There are so many issues my fellow Wisconsinites are facing that would be a better use of your time and energy.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. I am a teacher and have been an athletic coach, and, again, there are many many issues that need your time and attention in education and athletics, but this is not one of them. All kids, trans kids included, deserve equitable opportunity, safety, and acceptance by all. These bills do not support that.

As one of your constituents, I urge you to vote against these proposed bills and to remain committed to moving Wisconsin "Forward" and not backwards.

Sincerely,

Brooke Walsh

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

Please do not pass Assembly Bills 100 and 103 banning trans athletes in public schools from participating in sports activities and preventing trans students from using their preferred names and identities. People are who they are. People do not choose to be gay, bi-sexual, homosexual, trans, etc. I understand that there are particular reasons why it might be unfair for a trans female to compete in women's sports or the reverse may also on occasion be true. However, identification with a specific gender that is not the birth gender is traumatic for a family and difficult enough for a child.

Please understand that being a trans person or a gay person is not a choice people make. This is a fact of nature or a choice from God. People do not choose to be different, etc. If this was really a choice people make in life do you think people would really choose to make life this hard for themselves? Try to put yourself in the position of a gay person or a trans person. How would you feel if there were laws passed to keep you from being who you truly are? Being a trans person is tough enough without having to deal with legislation against your unique identity. If you study the science of LGBTQ identity I think you will realize that laws can't change life for people whose identity differs from what you might consider "normal."

Legislators have spent an inordinate amount of time debating an issue that impacts a very tiny number of people. In the event that a trans women is competing in a sport and wiping out all the competition then it is reasonable to consider some special action but the issue is so rare that I hope we can use our laws for purposes that impact greater percentages of people. Thank you for considering my concerns about this issue.

Sincerely, Nancy Piper Jankovich, 1155 North Osborne, Racine WI 53405

Dr. Stephanie Budge, Madison, Wisconsin
Regarding Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103
To: The Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Education

My name is Dr. Stephanie Budge and I am a resident of Wisconsin who has a specialty in understanding the mental health impacts of discrimination related to transgender individuals. I am a licensed psychologist in the state of Wisconsin. While I am testifying as a private citizen, my role as a Professor of Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison provides me with the expertise necessary to comment on this bill (I have published 100+ academic articles mostly focused on transgender people, over 180+ conference presentations mostly focused on transgender people, and have engaged in clinical work related to over 200 transgender people). I have worked in the field of transgender research and clinical work for 17 years.

I am testifying that the passing of these bills and the subsequent actions from these bills have a high likelihood of causing both physical and mental health impacts on youth. For the record, I oppose the proposed bills AB100 and AB103 based on the scientific research presented below.

Broadly, psychological science has used the concept of “minority stress” to understand and explain the reasons why transgender people (and members of other minority groups) experience physical and mental health disparities (see Meyer, 2003; Hendricks & Testa, 2012). The minority stress model indicates that there are three types of minority stressors: 1) external stressors, 2) expectations of external stressors, and 3) internal stressors. Examples of external stressors experienced by transgender people include discrimination, prejudice, harassment, rejection, and non-affirmation of gender identity. Examples of internal stressors experienced by transgender people include concealing one’s gender identity, internalizing gender-related stigma, and constantly thinking about one’s gender. Transgender people will often expect that they will experience external stressors due to having actually experienced them in the past, as well as witnessing or hearing about other transgender people who have experienced external stressors. This lens can assist with understanding the impacts of both exclusion from sports teams (AB100) and the impacts of not being able to use chosen names and pronouns in required settings, such as schools (AB103).

Sports Participation

For children and young adults, school-sponsored sports offer lifelong benefits and have a positive developmental impact that is second only to family support. These benefits can be seen in a variety of realms in students’ lives, including social and emotional development as well as physical and mental health. With regards to social benefits, students who participate in sports are given the opportunity to make friends and become part of a supportive community of teammates and peers (Boone & Leadbeater, 2006). Athletes spend considerable time with their teammates, often experiencing high-pressure situations together that lead to deeper friendships and students who participate in sports also can build teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills (Thompson et al., 2022). They learn the importance of working as part of a team to achieve a common goal and the importance of each teammate’s role in bringing about that goal (Salcinovic et al., 2022). Moreover, coaches and other staff members provide students who participate in sports access to meaningful mentorship and guidance. (Mills & Clements, 2021). This mentorship can extend beyond school sports, guiding students through other areas of their lives.

With regards to emotional benefits, school sports provide an opportunity for youth to gain confidence. They also reduce the effects of risk factors, such as stressful life events, that lead to increases in depression. Furthermore, learning how to manage stressful events at a young age provides benefits to student athletes throughout their lives, such as learning how to regulate their emotions. Students who participate in sports experience significantly lower levels of externalizing issues (for example, aggression and delinquency) and anxiety/depression (Vella, 2019). Students also experience the success and personal fulfillment achieved from discipline, hard work, and perseverance through many hours of practice and competition, all of which helps students develop positive habits that can benefit them in many other areas of life (Eime et al, 2014).

Based on my experience working with transgender youth, it would be psychologically damaging for a transgender youth to be banned from playing sports on equal terms with cisgender peers. This type of discrimination causes irreversible and severe damage to transgender youth development. Specifically, discriminating against transgender youth athletes leads to an increase in youth anxiety, depression, trauma, and suicidal ideation/attempts as well as an increase in physical health concerns for transgender youth (Chan et al., 2024). Barrera et al. report that the physical consequences for transgender youth of not being able to participate in sports include worse cardiovascular outcomes, poor bone mineral density, and poor neurocognitive development when compared to cisgender youth. In addition, physicians report that participation in sports is often one primary method through which transgender youth gain access to regular medical care, and if they do not participate in sports, it increases the disparity between cisgender youth and transgender youth (Hughes et al., 2022). In addition to the physical and mental health consequences of not being able to participate in sports, transgender people report greater experiences of harassment, prejudice, rejection, and bullying as a result of legislation focused on restricting transgender people's rights (Tebbe et al., 2022).

Transgender youth will also internalize the shame and stigma of being excluded for a personal characteristic (being transgender) over which they have no control and that already subjects them to prejudice and social stigma. Fear of additional discrimination and violence are two primary outcomes that stem from transgender youth being excluded from sports (Kosciw et al., 2022). Not only are there the actual consequences outlined above that occur from direct discrimination, but fear of additional sports-related discrimination leads transgender youth to avoid gym/physical education class, locker rooms, and athletic fields and facilities. Also, being misgendered (i.e., requiring transgender girls to participate in boys' sports) is associated with the internalization of stigma and the subsequent mental health consequences that arise from internalized stigma (McLemore, 2015).

Importance of Social Transition

The incongruence between a person's gender identity and sex assigned at birth can manifest in clinically significant distress, which the American Psychiatric Association calls gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria is codified in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (APA, 2022; DSM-5-TR) and is the medical and psychiatric diagnosis for distress associated with gender incongruence. Two current diagnostic categories are used by mental health and medical providers when children and youth are transgender: Gender Dysphoria in Childhood and Gender Dysphoria in Adolescents and Adults. Although individuals who are diagnosed with gender dysphoria can experience a diversity of symptoms, the shared diagnostic criteria that is required for both includes clear,

distinct, and significant distress from the incongruence between the sex the individual was assigned at birth and their gender identity.

For transgender individuals, social transition can be an important aspect of treatment to reduce the symptoms of gender dysphoria. As part of a social transition, an individual will typically, among other things, use a name and pronouns congruent with their gender identity and use sex-designated facilities such as restrooms that align with their gender identity. To be clinically effective at alleviating the distress associated with gender dysphoria, a social transition must be respected consistently across all aspects of a transgender individual's life—for example, at home, in school, and at work. It is the aim of treatment to assist the individual in successfully integrating their internal identity into a life that allows them to function consistently in accordance with that identity and not feel shame for who they are. For those transgender adolescents for whom social transition is part of treatment of gender dysphoria, it is likely that serious distress will result if clinically indicated aspects of transition are impeded, as is suggested in both AB 100 and AB 103.

The precise treatment for gender dysphoria depends on the individual. For most transgender individuals, a gender transition is considered psychologically and medically necessary. Transition can take either or both of two forms: (a) social transition, and (b) medical treatments that change a person's body to align with their gender.

Gender dysphoria reduces significantly when the treatment aligns with the individual's goals, and the medical community has known for decades that there are effective interventions to reduce gender dysphoria. Every major medical association in the United States agrees that medical treatment for gender dysphoria is safe, necessary, and effective (Lockmiller, 2023).

For transgender individuals, social transition can be an important aspect of treatment to reduce the symptoms of gender dysphoria. As part of a social transition, an individual will typically, among other things, use a name and pronouns congruent with their gender identity and use sex-designated facilities such as restrooms that align with their gender identity. To be clinically effective at alleviating the distress associated with gender dysphoria, a social transition must be respected consistently across all aspects of a transgender individual's life—for example, at home, in school, and at work. It is the aim of treatment to assist the individual in successfully integrating their internal identity into a life that allows them to function consistently in accordance with that identity and not feel shame for who they are. For those transgender adolescents for whom social transition is part of treatment of gender dysphoria, it is likely that serious distress will result if clinically indicated aspects of transition are impeded.

Psychotherapy to reduce the harmful effects of stigma and improve resiliency can also be an important form of support for individuals of any age with gender dysphoria (see Budge et al., 2025; Budge et al., 2021; Exposito-Campos et al., 2023). While psychotherapy can be useful as a support tool, it is not a substitute for social transition and medical treatments needed to reduce/eliminate gender dysphoria (see Lindley et al., 2023).

Attempts to "cure" transgender individuals by seeking to change their gender identity to match their assigned sex are ineffective and cause extreme psychological damage (see APA, 2021). All major associations of medical and mental health providers, including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, consider such efforts unethical.

Failing to support a transgender minor's gender identity can cause serious harm to their long-term health and wellbeing because transgender youth experience that mistreatment as a profound rejection of their core self. This harm often includes significant psychological distress

and difficulty maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships and developing emotional resilience, among others. Research demonstrates the importance of social transition for transgender youth. Research from the longitudinal TransYouth Project (TYP) indicates that transgender youth who have socially transitioned demonstrate similar mental health patterns when compared to cisgender youth (Durwood et al., 2017; Olson et al., 2016). Additional research demonstrates that social transition processes are related to less depression, less suicidal ideation, and less suicidal behaviors (Russell et al., 2018). Consequently, delaying social transition is detrimental for transgender youth. Horton's (2022) qualitative study of parents of transgender youth provides an in-depth analysis of the consequences of delaying social transition for children, notably mentioning the psychological distress that results from delaying social transition. In the largest nationwide survey in the U.S. focusing on discrimination experiences of transgender people 18 and older, impeding social transition processes (for example, not being able to change one's name) is directly related to experiencing harassment and assault (James et al., 2016). In a large (N = 1,519) nation-wide Canadian survey of transgender youth, findings similarly demonstrate that not being able to access social transition components/processes is also directly related to experiencing harassment, assault, and denial of services (Taylor et al., 2020).

In addition to studies that focus generally on external stressors, there have been several studies that delve into specific types of external stressors. For example, there is one type of external stressor called "misgendering" that includes communications or actions that convey that a person's gender is misperceived or is being purposefully denied, as is being highlighted in both AB 100 and AB 103. Examples of misgendering can include using a name or pronouns inconsistent with a person's gender identity or denying them access to gendered facilities that are consistent with their gender identity (McLemore, 2018). In a study with 1,091 participants, researchers reported higher anxiety scores for participants who reported more instances of misgendering (Jacobsen et al, 2023). As well, McLemore (2015) found that experiences of being misgendered were associated with anxiety and negative affect (e.g., hostility and guilt), lower self-esteem related to appearance, and felt stigma. In a follow-up study with more specific measures regarding mental health, McLemore (2018) again reported that experiences of being misgendered were related to depression, anxiety, stress, and felt stigma. In addition to depression and anxiety, Colson et al. (2024) found that participants reported post-traumatic stress symptoms as a result of misgendering.

Misgendering, along with other forms of external stressors, is considered a form of social exclusion. Social psychology has established that seeking social acceptance is one of the most basic human needs and that the harms of social exclusion based on identity are widespread and can be catastrophic. On an individual level, social exclusion impacts one's sense of belonging, self-esteem, sense of existence, and self-control. Social exclusion is associated with an increase in maladaptive behaviors and risk-taking behaviors. On a systematic level, social exclusion is often reinforced by organizations and institutions adopting policies and procedures that can enforce discrimination toward certain groups of people. Social exclusion is considered harmful in general; however, it can be even more harmful when people in positions of power perpetuate notions that isolate and stigmatize transgender people. Research on social identity theory describes the harm that results when people of higher status—usually people in power such as administrators—fail to affirm or actively disaffirm lower-status individuals with a marginalized identity (Hogg, 2016). This often leads to external forms of harm such as ostracization and discrimination against the individual by peers and others, as well as internal harms such as internalized shame and self-hatred. These internal and external factors can be directly related to

psychological distress, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, and hypertension, amongst myriad other health concerns.

In a study involving 610 transgender individuals (Galupo et al. 2020), study participants provided information about their experience of gender dysphoria. When asked about the impact of being misgendered or otherwise discriminated against based on their being transgender, they provided descriptions such as “it’s like a visceral, violating, physical manifestation of psychological pain for me” and “each of those [misgenderings] is a knife.” In our recent publications on the experiences of gender dysphoria, the data indicate that gender dysphoria is distressing (Lindley, Lee, Norton, & Budge, 2024) and that social experiences, like misgendering, increase gender dysphoria (Lindley, Pulice-Farrow, & Budge, 2023).

Misgendering and Gender Discrimination Have Long Lasting Mental Health Effects

Transgender people report extensive exposure to mistreatment, harassment, and violence (James et al., 2016). One of the largest nationwide studies in the United States focused on LGBTQ+ youth demonstrates that transgender youth experience significant amounts of harassment, bullying, and violence (Kosciw et al., 2022). In a report from the data that compared transgender and cisgender youth (GLSEN, 2021), 84.4% of transgender youth felt unsafe at school when compared to 20.6% of their cisgender LGBQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer, but not transgender) peers. In addition, 43.6% of the transgender sample reported missing school because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable, compared to 24.9% of their cisgender LGBQ+ peers. The study indicated that 77.3% of transgender students reported experiencing discrimination at school, compared to 46.1% of the cisgender sample. In the overall report (Kosciw et al., 2022), 80.3% of youth reported hearing biased language regarding gender expression and 65.2% reported hearing anti-transgender language while at school. Of those youth, 72% reported that there was a staff member present while hearing those remarks and that 91% of staff did not intervene. In one of the largest nationwide Canadian studies to focus on transgender youth (Taylor et al., 2020), 66% of youth reported being bullied, 35% were physically threatened or injured, 9% were threatened with a weapon; 63% reported experiencing verbal sexual harassment, 34% reported physical sexual harassment. In another study, transgender youth reported high rates of physical violence at school (57%) and nonphysical victimization at school (68%) (De Pedro & Gorse, 2023).

Transgender children and adolescents experience a great deal of victimization in the school environment, including bullying, physical assault, sexual assault, maltreatment, property victimization, and witnessing/indirect victimization. In their systematic review, Martin-Castillo et al. (2020) examined the effects of school-based victimization throughout 19 studies covering over 23,000 transgender people. Results from this systematic review indicate that transgender youth experience significantly higher rates of victimization at school than their cisgender peers.

There also is robust data regarding the psychological impact of external stressors for transgender youth and young adults. Exposure to discrimination has been linked with higher reports of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, self-harm, and suicidality (e.g., Chozden et al., 2019; Price-Feeney, Green, & Dorison, 2020; Veale et al., 2019; Wilson et al., 2016). Pease and colleagues (2022) note that external minority stressors were directly related to psychological distress for young adults. In addition to this finding, they also note that experiencing more anti-transgender discrimination leads to higher levels of gender dysphoria, which then increase psychological distress for young adults. A recent meta-analysis noted that gender related discrimination, gender related rejection, gender related victimization, and non-

affirmation of gender identity were all positively related to depression and anxiety (Wilson et al., 2024).

Regarding mental health disparities, transgender youth consistently report higher instances of mental health concerns when compared to their cisgender counterparts. When compared with cisgender matched controls, transgender youth displayed a twofold to threefold increased risk of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, suicide attempt, and self-harm (Reisner et al., 2015). In their study, Fox et al. (2020) report that transgender adolescents were 8 times more likely to report depressive symptoms when compared to cisgender adolescents and were 5 times more likely than cisgender adolescents to report self-harm and suicidality. There is a large body of research demonstrating that these disparities can be explained primarily by the presence of external stressors. One study by Suarez et al. (2024) analyzed data comparing 98,174 cisgender and transgender youth and found that transgender students were more likely than cisgender students to report experiences of violence, poor mental health, suicide risk, some sexual risk behaviors, unstable housing, and felt less belonging at school. A recent meta-analysis noted that transgender young adults experienced significantly higher rates of 7 types of victimization (violent victimization, sexual victimization, intimate partner violence victimization, stalking, bullying, microaggression, and discrimination) when compared to cisgender young adults (Daigle et al., 2024).

Although all psychological distress deserves attention, suicidality (suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and completed suicide) is perhaps one of the most devastating outcomes due to the finality of completed suicide. For transgender youth, the evidence indicates that suicidality is an overwhelming mental health disparity. Data indicate that transgender youth are more likely to attempt suicide when compared to cisgender youth; for example, that 45% of transgender youth compared to 12% of cisgender boys and 24% of cisgender girls (Zell & Kerr, 2024). Additional studies indicate that transgender youth are 2.71 times more likely to attempt suicide than cisgender youth (Jackman et al., 2019). In one of the largest samples of transgender young adults (age 18-25) in the US, 66% of respondents indicated an experience of suicidal ideation (Wang et al., 2024). In addition, in a sample of transgender youth, 86% reported suicidal ideation and 56% reported a previous suicide attempt and that external stressors such as harassment and bullying were directly related to suicide attempts (Austin et al., 2022). As noted above, these disparities can be explained primarily by the presence of external stressors. A recent systematic review indicated that safety and connectedness at school were amongst some of the primary protective factors from suicide attempts for transgender youth (Christensen et al., 2023).

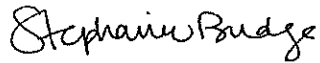
Studies demonstrate that a negative school climate is not only detrimental to transgender youths' mental health, but also impacts their academic achievement. When compared to cisgender youth, transgender youth were three times more likely to be truant from school due to feeling more unsafe and distressed (Day et al., 2018). Additionally, transgender youth reported greater victimization at school and poorer academic performance when compared to cisgender LGBTQ+ peers (Poteat et al., 2021). Transgender youth are statistically more likely to fail a class than cisgender youth and are less likely to take advanced math classes by the end of their school (Wilkenson et al., 2021).

Conclusion

I urge the Wisconsin Legislature to understand the mental health effects of excluding transgender youth from playing on sports teams that match their gender identity and effects of not using the correct name and pronouns for youth. As outlined above, these effects can be

detrimental and are considered discriminatory. Your consideration of these matters is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,



Dr. Stephanie Budge
Licensed Psychologist

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March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

Please do not pass Assembly Bills 100 and 103 banning trans athletes in public schools from participating in sports activities and preventing trans students from using their preferred names and identities. People are who they are. People do not choose to be gay, bi-sexual, homosexual, trans, etc. I understand that there are particular reasons why it might be unfair for a trans female to compete in women's sports or the reverse may also on occasion be true. However, identification with a specific gender that is not the birth gender is traumatic for a family and difficult enough for a child.

Please understand that being a trans person or a gay person is not a choice people make. This is a fact of nature or a choice from God. People do not choose to be different, etc. If this was really a choice people make in life do you think people would really choose to make life this hard for themselves? Try to put yourself in the position of a gay person or a trans person. How would you feel if there were laws passed to keep you from being who you truly are? Being a trans person is tough enough without having to deal with legislation against your unique identity. If you study the science of LGBTQ identity I think you will realize that laws can't change life for people whose identity differs from what you might consider "normal."

Legislators have spent an inordinate amount of time debating an issue that impacts a very tiny number of people. In the event that a trans women is competing in a sport and wiping out all the competition then it is reasonable to consider some special action but the issue is so rare that I hope we can use our laws for purposes that impact greater percentages of people. Thank you for considering my concerns about this issue.

Sincerely, Nancy Piper Jankovich, 1155 North Osborne, Racine WI 53405

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing in strong dissent to assembly bills 100 and 103 and in strong support of our Wisconsin youth, ALL of them.

As a middle and high school teacher of forty years as well as a parent of two and grandparent of four, I have seen firsthand the importance of acceptance of youth at their most vulnerable ages and giving them opportunities to be their authentic selves.

The bills proposed would further alienate our transgender students when and where they are most vulnerable - in their teen years at school, which, for some, is their most safe place.

All students are vulnerable, but our LGBTQ youth are, by far, the most vulnerable of them all, and these bills would create a school environment that would make them more susceptible to bullying and singling them out further as they try to find their way.

Here's a suggestion - why don't we find out what our young people think? My experience with students taught me that they were much further along in accepting their classmates and their differences than the much older adults in a position to be creating laws about lives they don't understand.

VOTE NO! There are lives that depend on it.

Victoria Swetz

To the members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Kaelee Heideman and I am an elementary school counselor and 2023 Wisconsin State Teacher of the Year in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, zip code 54904. Although I am unable to attend the hearing in person, I am writing to respectfully submit the following testimony in opposition of Assembly Bills 100 and 103 relating to proposed bans on trans athletes and pronouns and names.

Private parts are just that, private. As an elementary school counselor, I spend part of every school year teaching my students about protective behaviors. We review that our whole bodies belong to us and no one should be looking at or touching the private parts of your body without a good reason. Excluding student athletes from school athletic activities based on the private parts of their bodies is nothing short of discriminatory and a violation of privacy. It is no one's business what lies underneath another person's clothing. A trans girl is a girl, no questions asked. A trans boy is a boy, no questions asked. If you attempt to exclude a student from participating in a school athletic activity based on their sex assigned at birth, you are making a decision based solely on the private parts of that child's body. Ask my elementary students if this is right or wrong, and even they will tell you that talking about someone else's private parts is wrong.

Pronouns save lives. Every person, every child, deserves to feel safe and loved for who they are. This means that our trans students deserve to be called by the correct name and pronouns. Unfortunately, our trans youth are not always safe to be out at home, in part because proposed bills like these perpetuate the negative stereotypes that exist around trans folks. When home is not safe for students, school often becomes the place where students are wrapped up in care and unconditional love. Schools become the place where trans youth are safe to come out and use their names and pronouns. Guardian consent should not be required in order to use a child's name and pronouns. This is a major safety concern because it could require educators to unknowingly out their students and create unsafe reactions at home. I always tell my students that my job is to keep them safe and the passing of AB103 would keep me from being able to uphold that promise. When the adults at home are safe people for their children, the children rarely have a problem sharing who they really are with their adults. Schools should not have to be put in the position to break trust with the kids who need us most. Quite frankly, it is concerning that we are so focused on regulating the name a child can be called at school when many adults have seamlessly transitioned from calling the Gulf of Mexico to calling it the Gulf of America and they did so without permission from that body of water.

The passage of Assembly Bills 100 and 103 will only harm our students. I strongly oppose the possibility of putting students at risk for serious harm by outing them through practices that include identifying a child solely on their sex assigned at birth or requiring guardian permission to use certain names or pronouns in a school setting. Our job is to protect all students, and all means all.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee on education members,

I am appalled at the introduction of these two bills that will only hurt children. I strongly oppose assembly bill 100 and assembly bill 103 and believe that everyone deserves the right to participate in sports and be themselves at school. These pieces of legislation would prevent trans youth from doing so on the basis of their gender.

thank you,

Tamsin Ford (she/her)
Madison, WI.53704

Dear the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Izak Messany and I live in Baraboo, WI 53913.

I am completing this written testimony to protest three anti-trans bills introduced by Republican state assembly representatives. AB 100 known as the Anti-Trans Sports bill (K-12), AB 102 known as the Anti-Trans Sports bill (College), and AB 103 known as Denying Preferred Names and Pronouns in School are all deeply rooted in transphobic inaccurate rhetoric that when set in motion will not only harm trans children, but cis children as well.

Speaking of AB 100, how will this law be enforced at school districts? How will schools know if certain children are trans? If trans children are no longer allowed to play sports, then certain districts will take it upon themselves to enforce this law in an inappropriate manner that will traumatize the very children they are "trying" to protect.

Children just want to have fun and enjoy life. Shouldn't they be allowed the same childhood as other kids? They should be able to play sports with their friends and they should be treated with respect if they feel their pronouns or name do not match who they really are. It really doesn't take a lot of effort to believe children and respect their wishes. The goal should be to protect this minority population of children, not drive them towards mental health crises.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Izak Messany
Baraboo, WI 53913

Dear Representatives,

My name is Shauna Fowler, I am a constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting March 6th.

AB100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of rampant anti-trans legislation proposals across the US that do nothing but further alienate trans kids and stokes modern day Mccarthyism.

As your constituent I implore you to vote against all of these proposed bills. AB 100 and 103 don't keep kids safer, they just make it more likely that trans kids will commit suicide. These bills are so clearly part of a right wing cultural smear campaign against queer people and are designed to target and otherize anyone who doesn't fit into conservative American optics.

At best they are a complete waste of legislative effort, and at worst they are actively putting kids in danger all for the sake of a cheap shot at "owning the libs". Trans people always have existed and always will. Don't waste your time with this nonsense, and show your *entire* community that you won't let kids be bullied by bigots and fearmongers.

Sincerely,
Shauna

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am a pediatrician in training in Wisconsin. I see children of many different shapes, sizes, and identities, and the patients I care for have a healthier and happier quality of life when pronouns that are consistent with their gender identity are used at home and at school. I most recently saw a teenager in our transgender health clinic who stated that they felt more at peace at school when using their preferred pronouns that matched with their gender identity, rather than the sex that was assigned at birth.

It should be the children's and families' decisions regarding which pronouns should be in school, as that is a personal matter that is very important for their health, wellbeing, and overall quality of life. I am submitting this written testimony today to make it known that I **OPPOSE** the harmful AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns, bills due to their detrimental impact on the wellbeing of children.

Avani B., Madison, 53704

My name is Dr Katt Cochran and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee, WI. I am writing today to share my strong opposition to Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103 being proposed in the meeting on March 6.

As a resident of Wisconsin, community member, licensed psychologist, and constituent, I am urging you to vote against these proposed bills. All community members, including children, deserve to be treated with love, support, inclusion, and respect. These bills are in direct opposition to the research we have on what builds resilient, strong, and healthy children by restricting their access to team- and skill-building sports, and allowing them to be treated with respect and dignity in choosing how they are addressed. These restrictions are violent and discriminatory and will harm Wisconsinites and put our children behind.

I hope you will vote for the trans constituents you represent and in support of values of dignity, respect, and community for ALL of Wisconsin's residents and VOTE NO.

Katt Cochran
they/she

To the members of the Assembly Committee

My name is Meg, I live in Madison, zip code 53703. I strongly oppose bills AB100 and AB103. Excluding trans students from participating in sports teams that align with their gender identity and requiring all Wisconsin school boards to adopt policies regarding a student's legal name and pronouns in official school records is discriminatory and pernicious to students' learning environments.

These bills violate students' privacy and create unsafe learning environments. Requiring written authorization from a student's parent/guardian to refer to a student by their preferred pronouns and requiring notice of a name or pronoun change request be provided to a student's parent/guardian violates trans students' privacy. No child should be required to answer invasive questions or undergo physical inspections of private parts by adult strangers.

I am not trans, but I have people in my life who are. They deserve to have childhoods just like any other. School should be a safe space for *ALL* students, including trans students. Trans children are not a threat and deserve to be protected and included as any other child. Trans people have always existed and always will. Being trans is not a choice or an ideology. Passing AB100 and AB103 is a blatant attempt to make trans youths' lives more difficult, to make them feel excluded and unsafe at school.

I ask that you please, do *NOT* support these bills.

Thank you

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing in opposition to AB100 and AB103, bills seeking to restrict the rights of transgender youth in Wisconsin.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 30 years and am speaking for myself as a private citizen.

I have had the opportunity over the past 6 years to see first hand the positive impact that an affirming school environment can have on a transgender student, as well as the unfortunate consequences that can result from the failure of others to show respect for a student's gender identity, even when done without ill will.

To be able to learn and thrive, students need to feel that they are in a safe environment where they are able to focus on their education and social growth, not be constantly reminded that their body doesn't match their gender identity.

Picture yourself as a student again and think of something that you were uncomfortable with about yourself- maybe you were taller or shorter than others, maybe you were heavier or spoke differently than others. Would you have been able to focus on learning if your teacher called attention to it every time they called on you in class? Gender dysphoria is more complex than many of us can personally relate to, but you don't have to fully understand it to stand against harassment.

Transgender kids are just kids. They want to make friends, learn about themselves and the world around them, and dream about their futures. It is our job to support all Wisconsin youth and give them opportunities for growth. This includes allowing them to participate in sports in an environment they feel comfortable in, and showing them respect by referring to them by the name and pronouns they relate to.

I strongly oppose these bills that discriminate against transgender youth and I ask that you reject these policies that would do real harm to transgender students and their families.

Sincerely,
Jordan Kostlevy
Stoughton, WI 53589

To the Committee on Education,

My name is Mica, and I am a concerned Madison resident writing to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bills AB100 and AB103. These bills are plainly discriminatory against transgender youth and represent a significant step backward in the fight for civil rights. We should be supporting and protecting our trans youth, especially in such a hostile political climate. Research consistently shows that transgender youth are at a higher risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide, with lack of community support being a significant contributing factor. Addressing students by their chosen name and pronouns and allowing them to participate in sports is a basic, yet crucial, way to affirm their place in our community.

I want to share my personal experience to highlight the critical importance of community support. I was born in Stoughton but moved to Madison in middle school. From a young age, I felt an internal conflict over my gender. I have diary entries from as early as third grade lamenting that I wasn't allowed to sing with the other girls or join my sister in her dance classes. This was long before I even knew that trans people existed or had ever been taught about gender identity. My first exposure to other trans people was online. In digital spaces, I could be my authentic self, whereas in school, I often felt withdrawn and alienated.

At 14, I finally decided to come out as trans to some online friends. Unfortunately, I was outed to my broader community without my consent. The backlash was devastating—I received harassing and inappropriate messages from strangers, while people I knew mocked me and distanced themselves. I felt ashamed, dehumanized, and sexualized in ways that were deeply painful. The treatment I received led me to believe that I was the problem, and I attempted to suppress my identity in order to make others more comfortable. In doing so, I suffered greatly. I became depressed, irritable, and constantly anxious.

By my senior year of high school, pretending to be someone I wasn't became unbearable. I began skipping school, which led to conflicts with my parents. By that time, I had already attempted suicide once and felt trapped between another attempt or finally coming out to my parents. I chose the latter. Fortunately, they were supportive and advocated for me with the school, allowing me to graduate despite my attendance issues.

College was a turning point. Meeting other queer and trans people alleviated my isolation, and though I still struggled with my mental health, I finally felt like my life was improving. I joined a campus support group for gender-diverse students and, for the first time in years, experienced genuine happiness. Then COVID hit, and I, like many others, felt isolated again. Since that period, I have worked to rebuild my sense of community connection slowly.

Recently, I started a new job as an advocate for sexual assault survivors. Though the work is challenging, it is also deeply rewarding. In the future, I plan to return to school to

study mental health care and pursue a career in the field. I want to support those who are struggling and feel alone because I understand firsthand how much of a difference compassion and affirmation can make. I myself am profoundly grateful to be here today, to have experienced so much joy that I never thought possible, and to have a loving partner, family, and friends who have supported me through my journey. Their kindness and advocacy saved my life.

It is crucial and life-saving to affirm and support transgender and non-binary youth in their gender expression. I urge our state to take a stand against discrimination and ensure that all students, regardless of gender identity, are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve by opposing these bills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived in Wisconsin for 45 years, am a mother of two high school aged children, and am an alder on the Verona City Council. I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen, but these experiences have shaped my resolve for supporting in all ways possible transgender children and youth.

The trans youth that I know just want to be able to attend school and be given the same respect and dignity as given to cisgender students. These youth have shared with me how painful it is to be in spaces where they are not treated as equals and frankly, we have seen first hand in Verona the risk this puts on their lives; one of our trans high school students completed suicide several years ago and that has a lasting affect on our community. Research shows this is absolutely the reality for too many youth when their communities are unsupportive.

There is no good that comes out of these bans and restrictions. Our legislature should be working on the million other ways we can actually improve life for Wisconsinites.

Sincerely,

Mara Helmke
Verona, 53593

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived and worked in Wisconsin for most of my life. I'm writing on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, caring education free from harassment and discrimination. A dear family friend is a transgender high school athlete.

Thank you for considering my written comments.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Olajos
668 Harvest Lane
Verona, Wisconsin 53593

Dear Representatives,

My name is Gina Cornejo, I am a Wisconsin constituent and a resident of the Milwaukee Wisconsin community. I am writing to submit a written testimony **against** Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the assembly committee on education meeting on March 6, 2025.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of **unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US** and **do nothing** but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation. As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. There is much harm that is happening with these bills if they were to be passed. I have incredible friends in this state and in others who are trans and who are raising spectacular kids. Family, community, togetherness and the safe space to be truly oneself is what we need to be advocating for - NOT the alienation of the transgender community, especially the young children. It is absolutely abhorrent and I urge you vote against these proposed bills 100 and 103.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Gina Cornejo

Standing in support of:
TRANS LIBERATION MILWAUKEE

To the members of the Assembly Education Committee regarding AB100 and AB103:

I would like to register my opposition to bills AB100 and AB103.

I am not transgender. But I am a man of science, and of common sense, and with a passion for high school sports. And both science, common sense, and support for school sports stand in opposition to this bill. The science is that designating sex by birth the way this bill does is incredibly presumptive, ignoring the realities of individuals with both male and female chromosomes, genitalia, and a host of other conditions that fall under the intersex umbrella. The fact is that in more cases than you want to admit, when the physician designates a biological sex at the time of birth, sometimes they're guessing, and sometimes they guess wrong. This law ignores that reality in favor of an imaginary binary.

Common sense is that if boys pretending to be transgender in order to dominate girls' sports or get into girls' locker rooms was a genuine problem in need of legislation, it would actually be happening. Incidents of legitimately transgender girls finding athletic success in Wisconsin are scarce if not non-existent, transgender girls share locker rooms with other girls peacefully every day, and if someone is determined to be a creep in a girls-only space, no law is going to stop them, but they will be rooted out and dealt with quickly.

And let's not forget the reason school sports exist in the first place: to give kids the opportunity to play sports. Arguments pretending to care about scholarship opportunities and competitive imbalance--none of which are truly impacted by transgender athletes--fail to acknowledge that those take a backseat to letting kids play sports. Barring academic ineligibility or misconduct, we should always err on the side of letting kids play sports. There is no harm done by allowing transgender athletes to play sports, but there is much harm in denying them that chance.

Please vote in support of science, common sense, and school sports, and reject AB100.

Regarding AB103, my opposition to requiring parents to control how their children are referred to is simple: if adults can choose their own pronouns in identifying themselves as Mr., Miss, or Mrs. and allow students to refer to them as something other than their legal last name, we should afford students the right to be called what they want. This bill is an unnecessary breach of freedom and local control. Supporting this bill means opposing freedom.

Adam Pulver
Columbus, Wisc. 53925

To the members of the Assembly,

My name is Jamie Christensen, I am a resident of De Pere, WI 54115.

I have lived in Wisconsin my whole life. I grew up on my grandpa's dairy farm. And I know how great Wisconsin can be. How helpful Wisconsinites can be to each other. I am asking you to be a helpful Wisconsinite.

I am not able to be at the Capitol in person today, but I am submitting my written testimony to implore you to vote "no" on assembly bill 100 and Assembly bill 103.

From what I understand of reading Assembly Bill 100 and other information about it I believe that if this bill is passed it will hurt many student athletes. I believe that students should be allowed to be in whatever sport they choose to participate in. If a girl would like to play football or wrestle, I believe she should be able to. If a boy would like to play volleyball I believe he should be able to. I think that children should be able to explore different opportunities and interests to figure out what they enjoy doing and who they truly are. The only way that is possible is to allow children to participate in whatever activity interests them. In addition, I do not believe letting trans or non binary children participate in sports, on sports teams that fit the gender they have transitioned to/identify with is harmful to anyone.

Transgender and nonbinary children just want to be able to be who they are and feel safe and comfortable in their body. They are NOT trying to pull a fast one on anyone to win medals or championships. Or to hurt anyone. They just want a happy, healthy, normal life like everyone else. They don't want to be othered by anyone and they don't want to be made unsafe.

My understanding of assembly bill 103 is that it will make it harder for kids to be called by a chosen name or nickname and gender in school. I do not understand why this is something that would need to be a law.

Schools are supposed to be safe places for kids. Some kids, it is the ONLY safe place that they have. Passing a law that would only allow kids to be called by a chosen name or nickname and gender in school if their parents approve will be devastating to many children.

There are many kids who do not have parents that understand them. I do have friends who have kids that are nonbinary. These children are lucky because their parents love them, are understanding and want them to be who they are. But, not all parents are like that. Some parents will not understand their kids or even try to. Some parents only love their children if they do EXACTLY what they want and act EXACTLY as the parent wants. There are many parents who are abusive.

Not allowing children to be called what they would like to be called at school, without parents permission or having the school call parents about it and out children to their parents will be very dangerous. If a kid doesn't feel safe with their parent they will ask for these things at school where they may feel safer. This bill will take away that safety and any trusted adult. And that is heartbreaking.

All children deserve to have at least one adult they can trust and turn to when they need help. Passing this bill will force teachers to not be a safe adult to kids ever again. That will have severe consequences for all students. Not just trans and nonbinary students.

When I was young I didn't like my name, so I decided not to answer to it. My mom had to call me a different name for me to answer her. What if there is a student that has a similar experience to me and because of this bill they can't be called the name they want? I am not transgender and that had nothing to do with me not answering to my name. As a matter of fact, I thought my given name was a "boy's name" and I'm a girl, so I made my mom call be a "girl's name" before I'd answer her. Now, as an adult I like my name. But, as a little kid I was trying to fit in and figure out who I was. Shouldn't all kids be able to do that freely?

I fear that having changes like this is targeting children who are vulnerable and are already in more danger than their peers. Transgender and nonbinary youth have a more than four times greater rates of suicide attempts than their cisgender peers. Also, laws that are anti-transgender cause a 72% increase in suicide attempts in transgender and nonbinary youth. Those statistics are shocking and terrifying. We should all be able to agree that children being put in situations where they think suicide is better than the situations they are forced into is bad. We should all want to prevent that from happening. Please keep these children safe. Please prevent children's deaths.

Please vote no on these assembly bills. Please keep all kids safe, especially the truly vulnerable ones who get put in more danger when bills like this are passed.

Thank you for your time.

Jamie Christensen
De Pere, WI 54115

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I write to you as a lifelong Wisconsinite, a careerlong educator, school social worker, parent of elementary aged children, and advocate for LGBTQIA+ youth. I am emphatically opposed to AB 100 and AB 103 and what they stand for. Upon reading the text of these bills, I was disgusted that grown adults would spend so much time and energy demonizing children who are just trying to survive. To imply that transgender children would attempt to change their name and pronouns to gain access to female gendered spaces (i.e. locker rooms and restrooms) for nefarious reasons is beyond mean-spirited, it is textbook fear-mongering. Evidence supports that transgender children are far more likely to be victims of these behaviors than perpetrators, and I can only assume that by implying otherwise the authors and sponsors of this bill are intentionally attempting to scapegoat these already vulnerable children and youth.

I genuinely question the motives behind these bills that purport to uphold parental rights when the language in AB 103 itself seeks to limit the rights of parents to support their children in using a different name unless they have gone through the process of a legal name change. Many of the families I work with who are supportive of their transgender children do not seek legal name changes for a number of reasons, including the process itself being a financial barrier. However, I can only assume that the bill was designed this way intentionally to limit the rights of these children and their parents.

I welcome any further discussion on this topic. Please feel free to reach me at the contact information listed below.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wetzel Gracyalny
Green Bay, WI 54303
(608) 931-0139

Dear representatives,

My name is Liz Koetting, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee, WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. Bills such as these have been known to increase instances of self harm and suicide among children, and if the actual goal is safety that these bills are clearly against purpose.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence against trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people that you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Liz Koetting

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

- Representative Kitchens (Chair)
- Representative Goeben (Vice-Chair)
- Representative Mursau
- Representative Duchow
- Representative Snyder
- Representative Dittrich
- Representative Penterman
- Representative Melotik
- Representative Brill
- Representative Hong
- Representative Cruz
- Representative Phelps
- Representative Sheehan

As a Wisconsin born 69 year old grandmother of a very dear, intelligent, creative, caring, and joyful Nonbinary grandchild and as a cousin to two transgender adults and one nonbinary child, I feel strongly that a person deserves to be identified as they identify themselves. It is respectful and affirming to them as the person they are. Taking away that respect and affirmation makes the person feel dehumanized. It makes them question their worth as a human being. It can cause mental anguish and even suicide.

I am also a registered nurse for the past 45 years and spent 28 of those years as a School District nurse. I have worked with many youth who identify in the LGBTQ+ community and some are transgender/nonbinary. Gender is not about external genitalia. It is about the biological influences within one's body. Hormones and genetics play major parts in a person's identification. People who do not understand and do not accept this and prevent people from being who they are, are being very discriminatory and very cruel. There are many biological influences for gender identification. I know personally how important it is for a person to use the bathroom and locker room in which they feel comfortable using. I also know how very, very important pronouns are to people in their self identification.

The mental health and well being of many people are in your hands. You have no idea the pain and fear transgender and nonbinary people feel and experience. The bullying of our transgender and nonbinary youth can be very cruel. Our representatives and senators are to do right by all. Please stop the fear mongering. Be kind. Be caring. Stop AB100 and AB103.

Terri Mael, BSN, RN
364 Sacramento St.
Berlin, WI 54923

To the Assembly Committee on Education:

I am writing to oppose the proposed bills AB100 (a proposed trans athlete ban) and AB103 (a bill restricting the rights of transgender students to use their correct names and pronouns).

I am a physician and a scientist. I spent 4 years in medical school, 6 years completing my Master's and Ph.D., and 3 years in residency to train for my work as a primary care provider and educator. I use the strongest evidence and guidelines-based care to help me support my patients' health goals. It is distressing to see proposed bills go against biological facts, scientific evidence, and medical guidelines. I urge you to reject these anti-science, anti-medical, and ultimately anti-child bills, which will put transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming children at risk. Schools and sports are supposed to be safe spaces for children, and these bills would make them less safe.

Re: AB103: this bill goes against gender affirming actions for gender diverse children as affirmed and recommended by The American Academy of Pediatrics(1), American Psychiatric Association (2), and American Psychological Association (3).

Re: AB101: this bill is not rational in terms of how gender identity vs sex assigned at birth affects athletic performance. It ostracizes a group of students without bringing benefit to others. See below for a recent and thorough reference analyzing current data on sex assigned at birth vs. athletic performance by Dr. DJ Oberlin of Lehmann College. His conclusion: "...an individual's sex does not determine their success or failure at any athletic event despite the high level of competition."

I hope you will make the right decision to reject these bills and keep some of our most vulnerable children safe from discrimination and isolation from their peers.

Sincerely,
Dr. Siobhan Wilson, MD, PhD
Middleton, WI

Dear Representatives Kitchens, Goeben and fellow committee members,

To those of us who have known parents and grandparents of transgender children...children who are cherished and celebrated for who they are as precious, never-to-be-repeated humans...these two bills before you in committee today seem very cruel! Why were these bills even written in the first place? Isn't it sad that the very lives, mental health, and well being of our transgender young people are now at your mercy? They ought not be singled out! If one is a transgender, it's not because he or she volunteered for such a journey. Gender identity is an innate, deeply felt psychological identification as male or female which may or may not correspond to the gender assigned at birth. For lawmakers to think that they can or even have the right to legislate...to REQUIRE...the choices and decisions of our transgender students and/or athletes in our colleges and high schools is so misguided and so insensitive.

Please, for the well-being and freedoms of our few transgenders in Wisconsin's schools and colleges and for the well-being of their loved ones, VOTE NO on AB100 and AB103.

Sincerely,

Roger and Sandra Churness
13046 42nd Avenue
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
715-944-5337

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a trans athlete ban and AB103, restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 47 years, have served our community as a healthcare worker, foster parent and community volunteer, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all students, have the right to a supportive, caring, equal education free from harassment and discrimination.

Targeting children—who are just learning about themselves—is unethical—and teaches all children that their community in Wisconsin does not support its children for who they are. Trans and non-binary youth have a very high suicide rate (Four-times increased risk compared to cisgendered youth)—and trans youth of color are even more at risk (upwards of 33% increased risk). We need to do all we can to help all children survive their childhood and thrive—and limiting them from sports and using the correct names/pronouns is only going to hurt them. Using the correct names/pronouns and allowing them to participate in sports that align with their gender identity does not harm anyone and is life-saving for trans and non-binary youth. It is time to stand up and oppose these harmful bills. Please do the right things and save lives!

Sincerely,

Sara Janowski
Verona, WI 53593

Tomissa Freisleben

Regarding AB100 and AB103

My name is Tomissa Freisleben and I am a concerned mother of two and resident of Monona, Wisconsin. I am testifying on the abhorrent legislation in AB100 and AB103 to not allow trans children in the State of Wisconsin to participate in sports or use the pronouns of their preference.

Both of my children will attend public schools in Wisconsin in the coming years and since their birth, they have known, loved, and respected trans members within our community. By disallowing trans children from being called their preferred pronouns or participating in the sport that fits their gender identity will other those children and create an atmosphere that will be harmful for those individuals and create an unsafe environment for learning.

I am compelled to testify on this issue as trans children who are not given support and care within their educational communities are more likely to commit suicide, and as a parent, I cannot allow that to happen to my children, my children's classmates, or any child in Wisconsin.

I implore the Wisconsin State Assembly to vote against both AB 100 and AB 103 for the safety and welfare for Wisconsin students.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and thank you for reading my testimony.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the State Assembly Education Committee. My name is Maggie Meador and I reside in Viroqua 54665. I oppose AB 100. I've been a female athlete my entire life including receiving a scholarship to be a member of a division one college sports team. I always welcome the competition and never feel concern or a desire to question my fellow competitor's biological sex. (Not to mention that I regularly win when I compete against people of the opposite biological sex!) My gender non-conforming child has my athletic abilities and competitive nature and this bill will hinder their ability to participate in sports. It breaks my heart to think that my child will not have the same opportunities that I had. How do I explain this to them? All children deserve to play sports and reap the benefits that team athletics provides, without fear of an adult checking their genitalia to make sure they are on the "right" team. The news has already reported this disgusting scenario happening and we cannot allow situations like this in our state of Wisconsin.

I also oppose AB 103. This will affect many children in my local community who deserve the safe space at school to explore their gender identity. This bill will create situations in which children may be outed and will lead to increased bullying and violence. Suicide rates for these targeted children are staggeringly high. Choose to save children's lives and oppose this bill.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Elizabeth Male, and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Oregon, WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. This kind of legislation does nothing but alienate children and create a climate of fear rather than community.

Trans people of all ages are beloved, contributing members of our families and our communities across the state of Wisconsin. Instead of regressing to the stances and policies of the past, our state must continue Forward. As one of your constituents, I urge you to vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Male

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 11 years, have served our community as a dental hygienist, as a Girl Scout Troop leader for 7 years, as a parent to two teenagers, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, dignity-affirming, equal education free from harassment and discrimination.

Trans girls ARE girls. Trans boys ARE boys. Those who do not identify as either gender are human beings. They all deserve dignity, respect, and should have the right to participate in sports and live their lives in full view, and in full truth. Our job as parents and educators are to help them achieve this. Help us teach them that they don't have to hide. Help us teach them that it is always better to live, and live as yourself. Help us teach them that they belong.

Sincerely,
Gina Witt
Madison, WI 53717

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of The Assembly and Senate Committee,

I oppose the bills AB 100 and AB 103.

I am writing today, not to change minds of those who refuse to listen to Doctors and Scientists. I am here for the young boy afraid to share his pronouns or join football. I am here for the child who whispers their name only when they are alone because that is the only time it's safe. I am here for the teen girl who is terrified to try on a dress and wear it proudly to her prom. I am here for every child who does not receive the unconditional love and protection they deserve. My hope is that one Trans Child or Youth hears the support and love today, and stays on this earth to live safely and celebrate their joy in safety. I am here because love is greater than hate or fear.

To Ron Johnson, I hope the hell and god you believe in are in fact real, and on your judgement day he condemns every single act of hate you have initiated, inflicted or supported in your lifetime. You are a coward. If you want to protect kids, focus on gun laws. You want kids to be kids? Let them play sports. You deserve no mercy from your god. "Good people do not spend their time harassing marginalized communities."

Protect Trans Youth, this mom loves you.

Rachelle Balge
Middleton, WI 53562
She/Her/Hers

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the State of Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

I oppose the proposed bills assembly bills 100 and 103 regarding athletic sports and the sex of participants and changing a pupil's legal name and pronouns. I personally know a transgender girl who is just now entering the Madison public school system and it saddens me to know that the authors of these bills seem to deny her very existence and attempt to limit her future ability to participate in essential activities like school sports and use her preferred pronouns.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, advocacy and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. Transgender athletes have for many years been beneficial parts of teams throughout Wisconsin.

Transgender and nonbinary youth athletes play sports for the exact same reasons as other students their age: Staying healthy, being part of a team, and fostering friendships—all lifelong benefits of playing a sport.

There is no scientific root in the assertion that individuals should be referred to by pronouns tied to their biological sex. The research predominately shows that denying the a child's self-identified gender has negative outcomes later in life, including a higher risk of suicide. Intersex people, despite clearly not conforming, biologically, to either binary sex, are not accounted for by these pronouns. Legally defining gendered pronouns as being tied to biological sex, then, since not based in science, must be based in arbitrary values. I do not believe these are the values of community, and I believe are informed by the fringe religious beliefs of a vocal minority, which have no place in our laws and schools.

Thank you,
Zackary Brewer
Resident and Voter
Madison, Wisconsin

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee,

I write to voice firm opposition to Assembly Bill 100, and Assembly Bill 103, which I understand will be discussed in hearing on 6 March 2025 at the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Fundamentally, these bills reduce the human experience to one's sex determined at birth, as if we have no capacity to experience the world and grow into individuals thereafter.

Denying people the agency to live their truth - be it using the name they want to be called, or the gender they embody - flies in the face of the fundamental unalienable right to Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness described in the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence. Moreover, composing and debating over these bills sends a hateful and cruel message to a targeted group of people, at a vulnerable age, with potentially deadly consequences.

Further, these bills place an unfair burden - to police a student's birth certificate, body and identity - on educators and administrators. Surely this is NOT a good use of educators' time and energy.

I hope that compassion for Wisconsin children and educators will prevail in your discussions tomorrow.

name: Lyric Bartholomay
city: Madison
zipcode: 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Catherine Maxwell. I am a resident of Amherst WI (54406) and the concerned mother of four Wisconsin students, one of whom is a member of the LGBTQ community. While I am unable to attend this hearing in person, I want to express that I strongly oppose AB100 and AB103, which unfairly target transgender students in Wisconsin. Trans youth make up a small fraction of the student population, yet these bills single them out for exclusion and discrimination. Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and included at school. Denying trans students the ability to participate in sports and be addressed by their preferred name and pronouns does nothing to solve real issues in education—it only creates more harm. Schools should be a place of learning and growth, not political attacks on vulnerable kids. I urge legislators to reject these harmful bills and support policies that foster acceptance and equality for all students.

Please reject AB100 and AB103 and focus on policies that truly support Wisconsin students by improving educational outcomes and creating a more inclusive learning environment.

Respectfully,
Catherine Maxwell

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Alex Erickson, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. As a trans adult, I am scared. I am scared for the future and I am scared for all the young trans kids figuring out who they are. School was a safe space for me, it still is. School can be and IS a safe space for so many young trans kids who don't receive support at home.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Alex Erickson

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly on 03/06/2025, at the Wisconsin state capital,

My name is Brendan Miller. I live in Kenosha WI, 53142, and I oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

I am a transgender man, 32 years old, and blessed to have made it this far. I've lived in Wisconsin my whole life, and in the rural town of Clinton, WI where I grew up, I'd never heard of transgender people and simply thought I was broken. I went to therapy and inpatient hospitals for my crippling anxiety and depression, not understanding why I felt the way I did. Eventually I attempted to take my own life. I am now out as a transgender man and I am happy and at peace at last. I know in my heart that if I had the language that kids today have, and was accepted for who I was back then with the support of my teachers and classmates, I wouldn't have felt so hopeless and alone. By taking this support and these safe spaces to have fun with their friends from these kids, you are effectively isolating them, especially if school is their only means of finding that support. The suicide rate in trans youth is so high because of these kinds of bills that you are pushing. Taking away our autonomy and safety won't make us go away. We have always existed and will continue to exist. I simply hope we can protect our youth from going through this alone without support, trans lives matter and their loss is a tragedy we should all want to prevent.

Thank you for your time,
Brendan Miller

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

I am Daniel Michael from Mount Horeb, zip code 53572, and I oppose bills AB 103 and AB 100.

For AB 103, giving parents or guardians power to prevent their children from using their desired name and pronouns at school is putting salt in the wound. While it may seem a reasonable bill on paper, these children are not always safe in their homes. This bill would extend the control of transphobic parents and guardians beyond the home, robbing these children of the freedom of being themselves.

For AB 100, this bill is massively unfair and discriminatory to both transgender and cisgender athletes. Trans athletes are simply trying to gain the same sense of belonging as their cisgender peers. This bill alienates them from that belonging in numerous ways, including spiteful reports from their own peers. It would also create privacy concerns for cisgender people by requiring invasive questions and body inspection for all athletes.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

My name is Molecula Hopkins-Sheets. I live within the city limits of Madison, WI and I am writing into this hearing to oppose Bills AB100 and AB103. If I could be there in person, I would.

First, I would like to address the proposed ban on allowing youth trans athletes to participate in the sport under their gender. This is the wrong move to make for the youth of Wisconsin. I am a woman. I was biologically born a woman, and I identify as a woman. I grew up playing on both girls and boys soccer teams until I was 18. I can honestly say the gender of the participants of each team I played on made no difference to how I played and to the rank I held while I played. I was a starting player on both the girls and boys teams in this state. You can claim biological differences, but for youth why should that matter? Why should we not let them play sports? Why should we ban them from having the experiences that they seek to have? From allowing them to grow through sports and learn lessons of resilience and strength from these sports? From allowing them to live in this world as themselves?

Second, I want to address the restriction of pronouns and names used by transgender youth. I am outraged that this is a proposed bill in our state. To take away a transgender person's ability to use the pronouns that belong to them and ability to use their chosen name is to take away their identity. It is an attack on personal freedoms and an attack on free expression. This bill is proposing to censor the very identity of kids. Do not attack their personal freedom. For a nation who loudly shouts about the right to free expression, this is an egregious attack on that very concept.

Would you take away these rights for your own kids, trans or not? Could you look your kids in the eyes and say that the state is no longer allowing them to go by the name they chose? That until the proper paperwork is filed, their teachers will be calling them by their old name, by the wrong gender? Could you look at your child, watching their eyes gather tears as they are told they can no longer participate with their team because of a law made by the state they live in? Could you look at your child as they give up the sport they love because they refuse to play under a gender that is not theirs?

I oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

Thank you,
Molecula Hopkins-Sheets

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

While I'm unable to be there in person today, my wife and I have both testified in the past against similar bills that were proposed. I have lived in Wisconsin for 27 years and am writing on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an education free from harassment and discrimination. Trans youth are a vulnerable community of people who are deserving of our protection and support, and the respect of the school systems that serve the public good.

Passage of these bills would cause direct harm to the physical, mental, and emotional health of my daughter and to the many other young people who are a part of this community.

My appeal is simple: from one parent to another, I ask that you please vote against Assembly Bill 100 & 103.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ashley Green
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee of Education:

I urgently ask you to oppose Bill AB100 and Bill AB103.

Regarding Bill AB100:

Education-based athletics is founded on a commitment to equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all students. All students, including transgender students, deserve the chance to participate in activities like sports, which offer valuable lessons in teamwork, leadership, self-discipline, and contribute to both physical and mental well-being. This right is protected by Title IX.

Furthermore, as cited in *Gender Explained: A New Understanding of Identity in a Gender Creative World* by Diane Ehrensaft, PhD and Michelle Jurkiewicz, PsyD, research shows:

- Transgender and gender-diverse youth have a lower risk of suicide, greater feelings of safety, are less likely to experience victimization or harassment, and are less likely to skip class due to safety concerns when they attend schools with inclusive policies, whether or not they play sports.¹
- Cisgender girls' participation in school sports either remained the same or increased after instating inclusive policies, such as in California, where cisgender girls' participation rose by approximately 14 percent in the six years following the enactment of gender-inclusive sports policies in 2014 (as opposed to a decrease in cisgender girls' sports participation in states with gender exclusive policies).²
- Transgender students in states with fully inclusive athletic policies were 14 percent less likely to have considered suicide than students in non-inclusive states.³

Not only do inclusive policies not harm cisgender girls, but inclusive policies help protect transgender girls, an already vulnerable student population.

Oppose Bill AB100 and let all our children play.

Regarding Bill AB103:

We expect our schools to be safe environments for our children to learn and grow. A lot is expected from students each day—they need to stay focused, do their work, and put in their best effort. However, if they are continuously called a name and/or pronoun that does not align with their identity, it will not only be distracting but also painful. Using the correct name and pronoun is the most effective way to say, “I see you.” That builds trust and safety.

If a cisgender person was constantly referred to by a name or pronoun different than what they identified with, it would be seen as harassment. It would have the same negative impact on their education and mental health. Transgender students deserve the same consideration as cisgender students—to be called by the name and pronoun with which they self-identify.

Bill AB103 makes it a requirement of schools to out children to their parents before the children are ready. If a child wants to try out a new name and pronoun at school before coming out to their parents, it hurts no one. It is no different than trying out a nickname. A variation on a birthname is allowed, so why not a chosen name? Using a child-chosen name is respectful to the child. Moreover, forcing a child to out themselves to a family that may not be supportive of them could endanger their safety.

I advocate for the rights of trans and non-binary kids because they matter. They exist. They are just as valid as cisgender kids and deserve the same respect to be called by the name and pronoun with which they identify.

As a resident of Wisconsin for nearly 35 years, I am proud of the times in our state's history when we prove to live by our motto, "Forward." I'm proud that in 1982, Governor Lee Dreyfus signed into law a bill that made it illegal for state or private businesses to discriminate based on sexual orientation in employment and housing, nine years before any other state granted that same protection. Let's not go backward. Let's live by our motto and support and protect ALL children.

Oppose Bill AB100 and Bill AB103.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kate McKinney

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Citations:

1. Joseph G. Kosciw et al., "The 2021 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of LGBTQ+ Youth in Our Nation's Schools," GLSEN, 2022, glsen.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/NSCS-2021-Full-Report.pdf.
2. Shoshana K. Goldberg. "Fair Play: The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth," American Progress, February 2021, americanprogress.org/article/fair-play.
3. "YRBSS Data & Documentation," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last updated August 18, 2023, cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/data.htm.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Assembly Committee on Education,

As a Wisconsin resident and LGBTQIA ally, I ask that bills 100 and 103 are not allowed to pass. These will not only cause harm to the youth they affect, but will also clear the way for more detrimental bills in the future. Please protect these marginalized and vulnerable youth.

Thank you for your time,
Shannon Huston
Wausau, WI 54402

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Aaron Larson, Cottage Grove, WI. 53527

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding my opposition of AB100 and AB103. My name is Aaron Larson, and I am writing to strongly oppose any legislation that targets transgender youth by restricting their participation in school sports or denying them the right to be addressed by their chosen names and pronouns. These measures are not only harmful but are also an affront to the values of fairness, dignity, and respect that we should uphold for all young people.

Transgender youth, like all students, deserve the opportunity to participate fully in school life, including athletics. Sports provide essential benefits—physical health, social connection, self-discipline, and confidence. Excluding transgender youth from these experiences isolates them and fosters a culture of discrimination and exclusion, rather than the inclusion and teamwork that school sports are meant to promote.

Similarly, denying students the ability to use their correct names and pronouns sends a clear and damaging message: that their identities are not valid and that they are not worthy of respect. Every major medical and psychological association, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association, recognizes that affirming a young person's gender identity leads to better mental health outcomes and a greater sense of well-being. Conversely, rejection and invalidation significantly increase the risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide.

These policies are not just ethically wrong; they are legally questionable. Courts across the country have ruled in favor of transgender students' rights under Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Schools that implement discriminatory policies may face costly litigation, drawing critical resources away from education and student support services.

At the heart of this debate are real children with real dreams, just like any other student. They want to learn, play, and grow in an environment that sees them for who they are. Instead of singling them out for exclusion, we should be working to ensure that all young people—regardless of gender identity—have the opportunity to thrive in safe, supportive school environments.

I urge this committee to reject legislation that marginalizes transgender youth and instead focus on policies that foster inclusion, fairness, and respect for all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear committee,

I'm writing to oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

My name is Madeleine Niebauer and I've resided in Middleton WI for 15 years. I am a business owner and active community member, volunteering for our schools and several nonprofits.

It is deeply disturbing to see the continued attacks on trans people, especially trans youth. I am lucky enough to have several trans kids and teens in my life. It is beautiful to see them live their true identities. I've seen them grow and thrive as they have transitioned and been supported by their families and communities who accept their new names and pronouns. I've seen them thrive in sports and activities where they participate in alignment with their gender identity.

I've also seen trans youth who have not been supported in these ways and have seen the toll it takes on their mental health. I have known families who have suffered through their kid's suicide attempts.

These bills have the potential to cause deep damage to the mental health of these young people, and I urge you to vote against them.

Sincerely,
Madeleine Niebauer

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

As an ELCA pastor for over twenty years, and the founding chapter leader of PFLAG Washburn in the Chequamegon Bay area in northern Wisconsin (started in 2009), I am writing with strong opposition to AB 100 and AB 103.

These bills seek to strip the rights from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools.

As a pastor and PFLAG leader, I have met many transgender and gender fluid adults and youth. It is clear to me that they are being scapegoated by these bills. All people deserve to be their authentic selves. If bills like these become law, my personal friends will be devastated and have to move from the state of Wisconsin. These are families with professional parents who contribute so positively to our community.

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

PFLAG's membership of LGBTQ people, families and allies have united in love, embracing each other and people whose communities are often marginalized, erased or ignored. Unity and inclusion and a shared commitment to human dignity of all people are critical to fight discrimination and bigotry in any form so that all families can live free of fear. Now, more than ever, PFLAG's vision and mission are essential in this country.

Please vote for the dignity of all people and against AB 100 and AB 103.

Sincerely,

Rev. Nancy Hanson

Washburn, WI 54891

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

I whole-heartedly ask that you reject Assembly Bills 100 and 103. I work in secondary education and have seen first-hand that implementing affirming language and policies can save lives.

The Trevor Project reports that over 41% of LGBTQ+ young people have seriously contemplated or attempted suicide, including half of trans and nonbinary young people. My daughter was part of this statistic and we were thankfully able to save her. Two of my friends were not so lucky.

One of my LGBTQ+ students lost their life to suicide at 15 and another at 19. While these students were lucky enough to have supportive homes, they were not affirmed in their churches or with many peers. Every time someone is called by the wrong name or pronoun, it does damage.

If I were to force a member of this committee to go by a different pronoun and name every single day, they would not hold their head as high.

If I refuse to call Representative Dittrich by her name and instead refer to her as whatever I feel is best (Mr. Barnaby Dittrich, maybe), I guarantee she would not feel respected or valued.

If I refused to allow Senator Jacque to join a sports team based on his levels (or lack of) testosterone, questioning his gender-affirming beard and asking for physical proof of his masculinity, he might feel unsupported and question his worth.

It is a matter of life or death to allow kids to grow and figure out who they are. While they are growing, it is our utmost responsibility to support and respect students as people. They have lives that are worth saving.

Vote against these bills. They affect no one besides marginalized kids who need adults to protect and support them. What difference does it actually make to YOU to be respectful. Be brave and do the right thing.

Very sincerely and hopefully.

Jessica Rausch
Sun Prairie, WI
53590

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hi,

I am opposing bills AB 103 and 100 because of their negative impact on trans kids. I figured out that I was queer in my late 20s and that journey of self-discovery was difficult. I was worried people would judge me. I was sad that I didn't know about this part of myself sooner.

We can and should do better for our trans kids. We should listen to them, believe them and connect them to gender affirming care (if that's what they want). These bills are a giant leap backwards and are part of the wave of hate that LGBT communities face. I hope these bills fail and that many people speak out against them.

Thanks for your consideration,

Ben Ehler from Milwaukee

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am vehemently opposed to both Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. The only purpose I can see for either bills is to marginalize, punish and shame trans youth. The bills do not improve the educational environment or the health or wellbeing of children.

Competition in scholastic sports at the k-12 level should focus on fun, skill development and sportsmanship. Bill 100 advances none of those principles. Rather than discourage students from participating in sports that fit their perception of themselves and their interests, you should be encouraging them to grow and reach their potential. Medical studies do not support the misconception that any student will be damaged by the participation of trans youth on a sport team that does not align with their gender at birth. Athletes come in all shapes, sizes and abilities regardless of their gender.

I fail to see the harm in recognizing a child's identity by using the pronouns they prefer. Will you also pass a bill that demands teachers call students by their proper first name rather than a nickname or middle name? A teacher who reinforces a child's sense of self will increase that child's self-esteem and confidence, and therefore increase that child's chance of academic success.

If you are interested in increasing a child's self esteem and academic success, veto both Assembly bills.

Sincerely,
Barbara Jill Thomas
Madison, WI
53719

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Alicia McQuade, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed amendments to AB100 and AB103. These amendments, which target transgender students by seeking to restrict their participation in school sports and limit the use of their correct names and pronouns, are harmful, unnecessary, and not supported by research or best practices.

Data clearly shows the harm that discriminatory policies inflict on transgender youth. According to The Trevor Project's 2023 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, over 50% of transgender and nonbinary youth seriously considered suicide in the past year. Importantly, trans youth who have their pronouns respected attempt suicide at half the rate of those who do not. Policies that invalidate students' identities—such as forcing staff to misgender them—put lives at risk.

Additionally, participation in school sports has well-documented benefits for all students, including improved mental health, increased school engagement, and social connection. The American Academy of Pediatrics has found no evidence that inclusive sports policies harm cisgender athletes, while excluding transgender students contributes to poor health outcomes, stigma, and social isolation.

Leading authorities in medicine and education—including the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, and National Education Association—oppose legislation that restricts the rights and dignity of transgender youth. The amendments to AB100 and AB103 are out of step with these expert recommendations and with the values of fairness, safety, and inclusion in our schools.

The proposed amendments are not protecting students; they are actively endangering some of our most vulnerable young people. I urge you to reject these amendments and stand in support of trans students who deserve to learn, grow, and participate in school without fear of discrimination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alicia McQuade

Milwaukee, WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing, as a mom and an educator, to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, as I believe these proposed measures would harm Wisconsin students and undermine the inclusive and supportive environment our schools should foster.

Regarding AB 100:

This bill, which seeks to exclude transgender students from participating in sports teams consistent with their gender identity, is discriminatory and unfair. Transgender students, like all students, deserve the opportunity to participate in school sports to build teamwork, confidence, and a sense of belonging. Excluding them not only isolates these students but also sets a harmful precedent of inequality in our schools.

Regarding AB 103:

This bill, which would require parental consent for students to use preferred names and pronouns, disregards the importance of respecting students' identities. Schools should be a safe space where all students feel valued and accepted. Forcing students to obtain parental approval for something as personal as their name or pronouns could put vulnerable students at risk, particularly those who may not have supportive home environments.

Both of these bills fail to prioritize the well-being and dignity of Wisconsin's students. Instead of enacting policies that marginalize certain groups, we should focus on fostering inclusivity and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

I urge you to reject AB 100 and AB 103 and to advocate for policies that support all students, regardless of their gender identity or personal circumstances.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Katrina Daly Thompson
Madison WI 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear representative,

My name is Emanuel Camacho, I am a constituent and resident of Oak Creek. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alternate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. America should not take pride in excluding and alienating others- these proposed bills do exactly that.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Emanuel Camacho

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello, I'd like to submit a comment towards both AB100 and AB103 which are being heard tomorrow 03/06/25.

The comment is as follows:

I am registering my opposition to this bill, which proposes a damaging invasion of privacy into all children's lives. This bill serves only to increase surveillance and perpetuate stigma for private matters that real-life data and plenty of anecdotal evidence shows is not a problem for communities. There are already laws against actual crimes. We don't need this bill against kids who are just existing and minding their own business.

/End comment

Thanks!

Monica Strathman
Madison, WI 53716

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103.

I strongly believe that trans children should be included in school sports and athletics and they should be able to participate with whatever group or gender grouping they feel most comfortable playing with. AB100 will result in transgender and intersex children being excluded from school activities that would allow them to build friendships, developed social skills and learn about how to take exercise. I play a sport with at allows trans women. This inclusion has only positively contributed to my experience and that of my team and league.

Similarly children should have agency to determine what name they want to use and what pronouns they feel most comfortable with. AB103 will make children less safe and is a step backwards. Research shows that gender diverse youth experience best outcomes when parents, families, and communities use pronouns that align with a child's gender identity. Letting children use the pronouns and names that align with how they see themselves is an easy way to make kids safer.

Claire Heuckeroth
Middleton, WI, 53562

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Natalie Pelkey. I am a Wisconsin constituent of Kimberly. I am writing to encourage you to vote "no" on AB100 and AB103.

Enough is enough. The attacks on our trans kids and athletes is overwhelming and sickening. As a teacher, I am doing all I can to make my students feel safe and welcomed - and I'm asking you to do the same. Please vote against AB100 and AB103. Support our students, all of them. There are so many more pressing issues that should be attended to that can actually help your constituents, instead of these alienating tactics against our kids.

All the best,
Natalie Pelkey

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Testimony Opposing Bills AB100 & AB103

My name is Kaycie Peck, from Stevens Point, WI 54481, and I'm writing to you under two hats. The first hat I wear is of a parent of two confident children, one of which is a transgender 7-year-old. The second is as a high school and middle school GSA advisor in rural Wisconsin.

As a parent of a trans child, I oppose both bills AB100 and AB103. We have been following our child's guidance on their gender journey since they were 3 or 4 years old. This is consistent with the American Pediatric Association's information that a child often solidifies their understanding of gender around 4 years old. It was then that our child started saying sometimes they felt like a girl, sometimes they felt like both, and sometimes they felt like neither. In 4K, when the school photographer asked the class to line up in a boys line and girls like, my child fell to the floor crying not knowing which line to go in. Every teacher my child has had has been incredibly supportive, loving, and respectful of my child's identity. They teach age-appropriate discussions of gender, that there are no boy or girl books, toys, jobs, etc. All the public school teachers my child has respect their pronouns, often check in on them and the family to ensure they are doing all right. My child also has a physical disability, Spina Bifida. Despite two very "othering" qualities of their identity, my child is confident, thriving, and proud of all of who they are. Why? Because they are surrounded by people in their life who support and love them for who they are. They are surrounded by love at school, where they are 8 hours a day.

If the bill passes and my child's teachers are stifled from supporting my child, what will happen? The data has shown that trans students who don't have a supportive adult at school have a higher likelihood of depression and suicide. These bills would harm children like my child. My child would no longer have the opportunity to benefit from youth sports. Youth sports teams are not about the competition and the winning. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA)'s mission statement is to organize an athletic program that will "maximize opportunities for member schools' participation" in interscholastic athletics, as well as "cultivate high ideals of citizenship and sportsmanship". How is a law that forces exclusion from sports supporting cooperation, teamwork, collaboration, common vision, and goal setting that youth sports in schools provide?

If I want my child to be a successful human in this world, these laws are setting them up to struggle if not fail. These laws will not give them the support they need to work within the school structures these laws are tearing down. These laws will also go against my parental wishes and parental rights, which they seem to be claiming to protect.

Under my second hat, I write to you opposing these bills as a GSA advisor to middle and high school students in a rural community outside Stevens Point for almost 10 years now. I have witnessed the struggles that trans and LGBTQ+ students face when they are finding themselves, expressing themselves, or just existing. I have witnessed their struggles, but I have also witnessed their bravery at advocating for what they need in a community that is not always supportive. These bills will close doors to students that work very hard to even reach those opportunities. As my role in education, our goal is NOT to hide things from families. Our goal is to work WITH families. All these laws will do will harm students who already have so many hurdles to jump to succeed.

Please, be on the side of supporting all students, including all students, not harming or excluding students. Do not pass bills AB100 & AB103.

Thank you for your time,

kp.
Kaycie Peck

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2023/>

www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Publications/WIAA-WhoWeAre22.pdf?ver=_htZQfi3Z4HHkhe8_1YvKQ%3d%3d

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives -

My name is Camille Camacho. I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Oak Creek. I am submitting a written testimony AGAINST the Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education, which is meeting on March 6, 2025.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti trans legislation proposals across the US. These bans also don't do anything but alienate, belittle, and exclude transgender kids. Lastly, the bans create a climate of fear rather than inclusion.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote AGAINST these proposed bills because I want a safe community for my students. I am a high school teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools and I have trans students. My trans students are extremely brilliant, kind, hilarious, hard working, and the world is a better place because of their presence. They deserve to live in a state (and world) that accepts them for who they are and respects their identities. They deserve to have a high school experience where they can participate in sports. My students feel heard and seen when I utilize the pronouns they tell me to use rather than the pronouns given to them at birth. True recognition of their real identity increases their motivation in school, sense of belief in themselves, and their overall classroom performance. Not only will their lives be better when people stop being transphobic and when lawmakers stop making transphobic laws, but our world will be better because of the actions my students will take to change the world once they graduate high school.

Trans people exist. Trans people are beautiful. They will continue to exist and be beautiful at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent. I ask that you, in good conscience, vote AGAINST AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Camille Camacho

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 40 years, have served our community as a substitute teacher, legal secretary, member of the Middleton Commission on Aging, and community volunteer. I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an educational environment free from harassment and discrimination, where they feel safe to take the risks involved in learning, where they feel valued as a community member and able to explore their future roles in society, where they feel able to contribute to the community as themselves.

In my time working with students, changing pronouns was not a distraction to anyone's education. Participating in any group activity, like sports, when adults model the self respect and respect for others that we all require to live in community has not made anyone feel unsafe. But trans kids have felt unsafe and unseen every day when they use the restrooms in public, people ignore their respectful requests to be addressed as requested, and adults model the language and behaviors that give children in the room tacit permission to ignore, bully, or harass another student.

Sincerely,
Stacy Austin-Li
Middleton, WI 53562

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Testimony Regarding Assembly Bill 100 & Assembly Bill 103:

To the Assembly Committee on Education,

The vilification of trans youth is abhorrent and does not belong in the Wisconsin legislature.

Transgender people comprise 1.6% of the human population. Of that fraction, even less play sports. Only 34 trans athletes have openly competed in U.S. college sports to date and fewer make it to the professional level. The largest disparities in sports fairness come from the socioeconomic disadvantage of marginalized populations, not trans participation. Proximity to privilege predicts success in sports, not testosterone levels or biological markers. Meanwhile, disparities faced by the trans community begin at a young age and impact all facets of life including sports access. Trans youth are 9 times more likely to experience homelessness than their cisgender peers, and 68% experience bullying in middle school and high school. 22% of trans women surveyed in 2015 reported that they were bullied so badly in school that they dropped out. Many trans students worry about where they will use the bathroom at school, never mind which locker room to use. Without supportive services to help them navigate these additional challenges, it's tougher for them than their peers to make it through classes, let alone onto a soccer field. (Thank you to ACLU for the use of their stats and statistics)

These bills are only fueling anti-trans rhetoric that trans women have an unfair advantage in sports, despite a lack of consistent research to suggest this. As a woman, please do not speak for me to say that this bill is protecting mine or my daughter's rights, when in truth it is only limiting the rights of small group of individuals who should be receiving care, support, and affirmation instead of hate.

Nicole Kester
Madison, WI 53714

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Emily Erler, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee, WI. I am writing this testimony against AB 100 and 103.

As an educator in this state, I have seen the extreme mental duress that LGBTQ+ youth navigate as they explore and discover who they are, who their families want them to be, and at times, have to navigate the deeply traumatic times when those two futures are in direct opposition. Adding the government's involvement in limiting extracurricular choice and name usage!? The purposes of AB 100 and 103 are clear: To encourage discrimination against trans kids. To alienate youth and stoke a climate of fear amongst children. Students cannot learn if they do not feel safe.

Why in the world is our government wasting time on policing what name a kid goes by? The club they want to join? Why are we spending time limiting the future of our youth and silencing the young voices of Wisconsin?

I'm not sure why our representatives feel the need to engage in viral, hate and outrage-based political theatre when Wisconsinites are struggling under the weight of so much already.

Trans people, at any age, exist and will continue to exist. Vote against AB 100 and 103.

Forward -

Emily Erler
HS English Teacher
Milwaukee WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee of Education,

I could not be there in person, but wanted to write to share my concern over the bills regarding student athletes and pronouns in schools (AB100/AB103). I fiercely advocate to make this world a safer place for transgender and non-binary children.

Parents of transgender and non-binary children have become all-too-familiar with the danger that can come if a child is unable to express their gender identity. Research shows that transgender and non-binary children are at great risk of emotional harm, showing that 82% had contemplated suicide over the last year and 40% have attempted suicide [1].

Please think about that for a moment - over two-third of all kids who are transgender come to the conclusion, at some point in their young lives, that they would be better off committing suicide than live in a world that believes they are not welcome. I ask you to take time to speak with families of trans children. You will find story after story about trans children whose "choice" literally came down to being their true self or dying.

It causes harm when we deny or reject a child's gender identity. It is irresponsible and shameful for you, or any other elected official, to pass two anti-LGBTQ bills that further stigmatize these children and call into question their judgment.

I'm asking you to think about the way children in the LGBTQIA+ community are treated. This is a difficult, scary and beautiful mountain for them to climb, and we need to be there for them. I'm asking that you provide support and acceptance. Please do not propose a trans-athlete ban and a bill restricting pronouns and names used by transgender kids.

Thank you,

Brooke Dykema

Mequon, Wisconsin

Cited by:

[1] Suicidality Among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the Role of Interpersonal Risk Factors, National Library of Medicine, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>

March 5th, 2025

To: Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

From: Soren Shivy, Madison WI 53704

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

I wish to express my opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

I believe trans kids have the right to exist in our society. Period. All this extra attention persecuting trans people, particularly kids, is very unproductive to the general public and is rather harmful to trans kids.

Regarding Assembly Bill 103, the government should not concern itself with names and pronouns at school, other than to support kids being themselves. People use nicknames and such all of the time. Let's stop pretending you are protecting parents' rights. You are only looking to out a child or suppress their authentic selves. We need our government to work on actual issues that affect people every day, not persecuting a small group of people. This bill is a dog whistle.

Regarding Assembly Bill 100, trans kids do not transition to dominate girls sports. Trans kids who want to participate in sports should be allowed to do so. This bill is also a dog whistle.

Your exhausting and relentless attacks against a small population are ridiculous. Do actual work that improves lives rather than working to exclude trans people.

Sincerely,

Soren Shivy, concerned Constituent and supporter of trans kids and people

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Lori Vavrus, a concerned parent/grandparent from Washburn, WI 54891. This is my written testimony for opposing bills AB 100 and AB 103 Both bills are aimed at stripping the rights and dignity of transgender students.

These students have the right to compete in sports and to be called by their name and pronouns of choice. These students, like all of our students, have the right to feel included, supported and welcomed. School sports provide opportunities for staying healthy, working as part of a team and creating friendships - all lifelong benefits.

Being called by their name and pronouns of choice are especially important. Studies show that transgender youth suffer mental distress when referred to with the incorrect name and pronouns. This show of support is especially important if they are not receiving that respect in their own home. They need somewhere to feel validated. Everyone deserves to be heard.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 67 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, dignity-affirming, equal, inclusive, caring education free from harassment and discrimination with the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ramona Keyes
Madison, WI 53705

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Good evening.

My birth name is Anna Claire Stamper, and though it is not the name I currently use, I expect it will get me farther here. I live under the 54703 zip code in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and I am a senior in high school.

I am sending this message in the hopes The Assembly Committee on Education in the Wisconsin State Legislature will listen to it. The assembly bills number 100 and 103 are being discussed, and I would like my voice to be heard. Though I cannot attend this meeting, as I will be in school, I am sending a message. These bills directly impact my education. Though I am a senior, and moving into secondary education, I am heavily impacted to the precedents that these bills send. It is about more than the silencing of children, which means to erase the ideas of trans children across the state. It is about the politicians and people that have been trying to erase our histories from the moment they began. Being transgender is not a new idea. It has been around since the Egyptians, and will continue to exist no matter how hard legislation tries to stamp out our voices. Once we declare that these children cannot express their first amendment right of free speech by referring to themselves as their chosen genders and names, we step into territory we cannot step back from. This isolation of transgender students from sports, from saying their names, is all intentional. They want us isolated so that no one may remember us. Already they have tried to erase our history, saying that this "new wave" of transgenders happens out of nowhere, forgetting the people they met in high school that were trans. They forget these people not because they never knew them--in fact most had probably encountered trans people in their schooling. The difference, is that the legislation kept those trans kids scared. It kept them quiet. In the same way that these bills are trying to keep trans people quiet. Once they silence our children, they will move on to the next thing they can accomplish. It will start with the trans kids, and then anyone in the LGBTQ+ community. These types of bills are the beginning of the end. Once we silence one group of people, the precedent is set, and they will move on to the next group. How many times wist me repeat the mistakes of our ancestors. The Nazis did not stop at Jews. They did not stop at the disabled, the elderly, the gay, the trans, the disordered. We are watching history repeat itself, and I plead that if you listen to anything in my message that you listen to this. They will not stop with trans kids. This hatred is the kind that cannot be satisfied with one group of people. So I ask you, how long do you think it will take to reach you? Already DEI programs are affecting more than just the disabled, and the POC. When you sign this bill you are signing away more than the rights of our transgender children, you're signing the beginning of the end for yourself. This will not stop here, no matter what--and we will not go down without a fight.

Thank you for your time,

K. Stamper
(They/them)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
I am writing in strong opposition to bills AB 100 and AB 103.

I am the parent of a non-binary middle school scholar and athlete. As a parent, it is heartbreaking to see these bills come forward. My child deserves to thrive as much as any other child. These bills make them feel as if they don't belong, as if they can't pursue the sports and activities that other children can, and that their name and pronouns are wrong. There is nothing wrong with my child. They are who they are and they deserve the same as every other child, boy, girl, or however they identify. Their preferred name and pronouns are essential to their sense of self and ensure their mental well-being.

As a lifelong female athlete, I can say with confidence that this call to ban trans girls and women from sports is ridiculous and only intended to do harm. I have been fortunate to count as teammates and opponents trans women, and I stand in strong support of their right to access the sports I have found so empowering and enriching. Their use of locker rooms that fit their agenda ensures their safety and security and does not threaten mine.

I urge you as a parent, a woman, and an athlete to oppose these bills.

Sincerely,
Amy Washbush
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Assembly Committee on Education

Re: AB100 and AB103

I cannot testify in person before your committee tomorrow as my husband will be having a hip replacement, but I wanted to share my thoughts with you. I come from a family of teachers. My father was a teacher and coach in the Madison School District for 45 years. My sister taught in the same district and then in higher education all across the country, as her husband did.

I know how important it is for young people to be part of a culture in their schools that allows them to be true to themselves while doing no harm to others. The use of pronouns to identify one's gender is not a harmful action against anyone. Much like preferring a nickname to one's given name at birth it is the identity that the young person knows reflects them the best rather than what their parents gave them a birth.

As a parent of a non-binary identifying adult child and grandparent of an 11-year-old non-binary grandchild I have seen that their ability to use pronouns that best reflect who they find themselves to be is vitally important to their well-being. And it brings absolutely no harm to any other person who chooses to use pronouns that reflect their gender identity at birth.

As a daughter of a coach, I have been an avid supporter of sports as well. And while I can understand there are some concerns about transgender youth performing in sports under the gender that identify they now feel to be accurate versus the one assigned at birth, I feel that this too can be handled in thoughtful ways. And I believe blanket legislation is not the answer.

However, at minimum, I would hope that the State in which I have spent my 77 years will not legislate in harmful ways against the use of chosen pronouns for trans and non-binary students, and give thoughtful consideration to all ways in which the small percentage of young folks so impacted are far more harmed by proposed legislation that reflects on their differences versus their many similarities.

Sincerely,
Betty Harris Custer
Madison, WI 53717

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

Please make note of my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

Having lived in WI for nearly 50 years, and having known several trans people in my life, both these bills would be harmful to children that I personally know and love.

Furthermore, I strongly believe it is inappropriate for the state legislature to tell local school boards what they can and can't do in this area. Please leave it up to local elected school boards to set policy in this matter.

Thank you,

--

Mary E. Myers
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

Please accept this as my testimony on Assembly Bill 100 (K-12 trans athlete ban) and Assembly Bill 103 (denying preferred names & pronouns). I'm unable to attend tomorrow's hearings in Madison.

Prohibiting trans students from playing on sports teams and using locker rooms consistent with their authentic gender identity, as well as taking away the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with at school, is extremely disrespectful to those students, and it's completely wrong. Students participating in sports and being themselves at school facilitates strong, mentally healthy kids who grow up to be strong, mentally healthy adults! Creating these unfair limitations would undoubtedly encourage more dangerous "othering" and shaming towards these students.

A 2022 survey found that 85% of trans and nonbinary youth report that facing ongoing political attacks has been detrimental to their mental health, according to the Trevor Project. Even introducing these bills would increase stress levels and mental health problems among many students, not just trans and nonbinary students. I oppose both of these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my voice heard and included in the official record.

Live and let live,

Jill Mitchler
Egg Harbor, WI 54209

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Tanner Schultz and I live in Madison. My zip code is 53714.

A friend of mine, who I met in high school and have known for 25 years, transitioned only a few years ago. Through them I have witnessed the transformative power of finally being able to express, and be accepted for, the gender they have always known themselves to be. They are today a much healthier and happier person than they were when I met them, many years ago, during a time when their parents and society were still telling them that what they knew in their heart was wrong, and trying to force them to conform to a gender they knew they were not.

I am not alone in this recognition, as many prominent and respected medical organizations, such as the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the American Medical Association, have also concluded the same.

I strongly encourage you to reject Assembly Bills 100 and 103, as well as any legislation that seeks to oppress our trans youth and deny them their right to exist as they are and be recognized for who they are. Such legislation is counter to the science of mental health, our rights, and basic human decency.

Sincerely,
Tanner Schultz

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 5 years, serving our community as a certified arborist, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, equitable, and caring education free from harassment and discrimination. Life is hard enough and if we care about the health of our community we will honor and respect the diversity of human existence and the dignity of all people.

Please vote no to bills AB100 and AB103.

Sincerely,
Ellen Sims
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am a resident, homeowner, and small business owner in Bayfield County. I'm writing to oppose Bills AB103 (use of pronouns & restrictions) and AB100 (k-12 athlete ban).

I think it's time to stop making kids the disempowered and disenfranchised subjects of these ongoing culture wars. Middle school and high school are incredibly difficult times in life. Let's not make it more difficult by entangling kids (who are most vulnerable) in the republican party's ongoing incursion into the private lives of individuals and families.

Erik Gruber
Bayfield, WI 54184

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

I wish to express my opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

I believe trans kids have the right to exist in our society. Period. All this extra attention persecuting trans people, particularly kids, is very unproductive to the general public and is rather harmful to trans kids.

Regarding Assembly Bill 103, the government should not concern itself with names and pronouns at school, other than to support kids being themselves. People use nicknames and such all of the time. Let's stop pretending you are protecting parents' rights. You are only looking to out a child or suppress their authentic selves. We need our government to work on actual issues that affect people every day, not persecuting a small group of people. This bill is a dog whistle.

Regarding Assembly Bill 100, trans kids do not transition to dominate girls sports. Trans kids who want to participate in sports should be allowed to do so. This bill is also a dog whistle.

Your exhausting and relentless attacks against a small population are ridiculous. Do actual work that improves lives rather than working to exclude trans people.

Sincerely,

Shane Gurno, concerned Constituent and supporter of trans kids and people

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To WI Assembly Committee on Education:

I'm writing in opposition to Assembly Bills 100 & 103. Trans kids deserve the same opportunities and dignity as anyone else. They're not hurting anyone. We shouldn't be punching down at an already vulnerable group of kids. It's wrong, it's causing unnecessary harm, and these cruel bills need to stop.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alex Habriga
Lifelong WI Resident
Veteran of US Armed Forces
Proud Transgender Wisconsinite

2133 S Fish Hatchery Rd
Fitchburg, WI 53575

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Hannah Rebernick, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. We should all be doing our best to support ALL of the children in our communities. Bills like this punish trans children for merely existing and create environments that become hostile and unsafe for all children. By refusing to treat trans children the same as you would any other child you deny them their childhood. There is a 29% decrease in suicidal ideation and a 56% decrease in suicidal behavior for youth when their chosen name is used (The Trevor Project). Respecting, name changes, pronouns and protecting trans children in school is life saving and doing anything less is a blatant disregard for the safety and wellbeing of Wisconsin's children.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Hannah Rebernick

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

For Assembly bill 100 and 103:

I am a physician who takes care of kids and I have seen many children who have been so much happier and healthier after starting to use pronouns consistent with their gender at home and school. It should be up to children and families to decide what pronouns they want to use and this choice must be supported in schools. I strongly oppose these bills due to the negative impacts they will pose to children's physical and mental health.

Julia, Madison WI 53715

Dear Members of the Assembly,

My name is Sam Eifert, and I am a lifelong resident of Stoughton, Wisconsin. I have spent 34 years in this state, and I am proud to call it home. I am a Realtor, a business owner, a board member of a local non-profit, and a member of a professional Realtor council. Growing up, I was involved in sports from a young age, playing baseball and basketball throughout my childhood and high school years.

I am writing today to strongly urge you to vote **NO** on Assembly Bills AB 100 and AB 103. These bills are not only harmful to our transgender youth but also fundamentally undermine the values of inclusion and equality that we hold dear in Wisconsin.

Transgender students already face immense challenges, including discrimination, bullying, and a higher risk of mental health struggles. To strip them of the right to play sports aligned with their gender identity and to deny them the ability to be recognized for who they truly are—by using their name and pronouns—would only worsen their struggles. It would send a message to these young people that they do not belong, that they do not have a right to exist as their authentic selves.

The conversation about "fairness" in sports has been manipulated and exaggerated. The reality is that transgender students simply want the same opportunities as their peers to participate, learn, and grow. The idea that they pose a competitive advantage is a distraction from the real issues. Should we apply the same logic to athletes like Michael Phelps, whose physical characteristics were exceptional and not "standard" compared to other swimmers? Sports are about more than just competition—they are about building resilience, fostering teamwork, and teaching life lessons. Transgender students deserve that opportunity too.

It is disheartening that, in a time when there are so many critical issues facing our state and our nation, we are focused on further dividing and harming vulnerable members of our community. The harm these bills would cause to transgender youth is far-reaching, and the focus on sports and pronouns is a dangerous distraction from the real challenges we should be addressing.

Please, take a moment to think about the well-being of our children. Do not pass AB 100 and AB 103. Stand with equality, dignity, and inclusion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sam Eifert
Stoughton, WI 53589

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives

My name is Will Manley. As a resident of the state of Wisconsin and city of Milwaukee, I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103, proposed on March 6th to the Assembly Committee on Education.

Both of these bills are crafted to target the tiny percentage of transgender students and children in the state of Wisconsin. Both through athletic bans for the approximately 0.002% of trans athletes in Wisconsin student athletics, and by allowing the creation of a hostile atmosphere for trans students, regardless of whether they are at school, camp, daycare, or home. These bills are not meant to do anything but disrupt and distract from the real problems facing Wisconsin residents.

Through my experience as a teacher, both in the state of Wisconsin and beyond, in the classroom and out of it, I can tell you these bills help no one and hurt everyone. They are invasive, shameful, and blatantly bigoted. These bills do nothing but bully and alienate trans children and create a climate of fear where there is none! Children do not hate each other by nature, they are confident and curious and should be lifted up and celebrated for this, not driven to division.

Trans people will continue to exist, at all ages, at all stages, and to allow these bills to come to pass is to allow violence to fall on these children. As representatives I urge you to acknowledge and empathize with the pain these bills will cause, and vote against these bills.

Sincerely,
Will Manley

March 5, 2024

To:
Assembly Committee on Education

From:
Susan Hersh
102 N. Water St. #206
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Committee Members:

Regardless of your politics or religious beliefs, Wisconsin children will be harmed by Bill 100 and 103. Students deserve to be able to be their authentic selves at school, and these bills block that right. Do not contribute to the alarming suicide rate of our children. Do not deny our youth peace of mind and acceptance. Please stop Bill 100 & 103 to protect the children of Wisconsin from self-harm and harm from others. ALL students deserve to belong in our schools.

Sincerely,
Susan Hersh

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members of Bills AB100 and AB103,

I implore you to think about the children who will be adversely impacted if these bills pass. Being transgender is NOT a choice. Very young transgender children already KNOW that their gender should be other than that assigned to them at birth, and express this fervently to their parents. How many transgender children have you actually talked to? How many parents of transgender children? Are you educated about this enough to make a decision that could ruin a child's life? Please vote NO to bills AB100 and AB103. Transgender children are human beings who deserve to be loved and believed. YOU hold their happiness in your hands.

I appreciate your time and hope you will consider my beliefs.

Lisa Carey
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Assembly Committee on Education

I am writing to let you know I am opposed to Bill 100 and Bill 103.

All students deserve the right to participate in sports and be recognized by their preferred gender pronouns . As a retired educator I support the mental health of all students.

Please vote NO.

Robin Kimbrough-Dibble
Gordon, WI 54838

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

As a registered nurse and a parent of an amazing nonbinary child, I am writing in opposition to AB100 and AB103, and asking legislators to stop going after transgender children and work to address one of the numerous actual problems facing Wisconsinites.

My child has been bullied in school by classmates who have targeted them for their gender identity, despite the fact that my child using they/them pronouns and identifying as nonbinary has zero effect on anyone else. Thankfully, their school administrators took it seriously and facilitated a conversation between all of the kids involved about treating each other with respect, and the bullying stopped. This outcome happened because the school is committed to fostering a culture of mutual respect and supporting children's identities. These bills would interfere with our school's ability to support children like mine.

These bills do not protect children, period. They make my child and other transgender and nonbinary children LESS safe. The sports bill is unscientific, as studies show no difference in athletic ability between cisgender girls and transgender girls who have not gone through a male puberty, and the regulations on schools will make it harder for gender-nonconforming children to find support. It's shameful that politicians have decided to make a small, vulnerable population of citizens a scapegoat to whip up public fear and anger in this moral panic. It's causing real harm to children and adults who only want to live honestly and be themselves. Historically speaking, targeting minority groups has never reflected well on those in power. This will be no exception, and I encourage you all to vote with this in mind.

Thank you,
Lori Cannon
Washburn WI 54891

3/5/2025

Assembly Committee on Education

Subject: Opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103. As a substitute teacher at my children's public school, I see firsthand the impact that inclusive policies have on all students. These bills target a very small number of students, yet they cause very real harm to a vulnerable minority group.

Legislation should be focused on supporting all students and ensuring that our schools remain places of learning, growth, and acceptance. Instead, these bills create unnecessary division and distraction. Furthermore, they represent a misuse of taxpayer dollars, as they seek to address a problem that does not exist while ignoring more pressing educational needs.

I urge you to vote against AB 100 and AB 103. Our schools should prioritize the well-being and success of all students, not target specific groups for political reasons.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Cochran

1891 90th Street

New Richmond, WI 54017

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly or Senate Committee on Education:

As a Wisconsin educator and resident since 2016, I write in opposition to AB103 and AB100. The proposed bills contradict best pedagogical practices for effective instruction, promote intolerance, and have no place in our schools.

Sincerely,

Kyle Bladow

Ashland, 54806

3/5/2025

Assembly Committee on Education

Subject: Opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103. As a substitute teacher at my children's public school, I see firsthand the impact that inclusive policies have on all students. These bills target a very small number of students, yet they cause very real harm to a vulnerable minority group.

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I urge you to vote against AB 100 and AB 103. Our schools should prioritize the well-being and success of all students, not target specific groups for political reasons.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Cochran

1891 90th Street

New Richmond, WI 54017

Amber Anderson
Regarding Assembly Committee on Education
03/05/2025

My name is Amber Anderson, BSN RN and I am a nurse at a local child/adolescent psychiatry unit. I am writing in regard to Assembly Bill 100 and 103. For the past four years, I have worked on an acute-stay child and adolescent psychiatric unit in the Madison area serving patients ranging from six to eighteen years old. The majority of patients I work with are admitted after a suicide attempt and/or after disclosing suicidal ideation. Throughout my years working with this population, I have had the privilege to meet kind, clever, empathetic and resilient kids in our community. Many of these patients identify as either trans or nonbinary. More often than not, the stressor resulting in suicidality is a lack of recognition and acceptance of their preferred name and pronouns. Further supporting this fact, according to the Trevor Project, anti-transgender laws cause up to a 72% increase in suicide attempts amongst transgender and nonbinary youth.

The reason I am writing to advocate for this community is simply this: I have seen the ramifications of not accepting a child who identifies as trans or nonbinary, and fear for our youth if these bills were to pass. I implore you that, based on proven statistics, allowing this bill to pass would essentially be signing a death sentence for many of Wisconsin's trans and nonbinary youth.

In summary, as a medical professional who works with this specific population on a daily basis and understands the negative effects these bills would have on youth in Wisconsin, I believe you should not allow Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103 to move forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amber Anderson, BSN RN

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

As a registered nurse and a parent of an amazing nonbinary child, I am writing in opposition to AB100 and AB103, and asking legislators to stop going after transgender children and work to address one of the numerous actual problems facing Wisconsinites.

My child has been bullied in school by classmates who have targeted them for their gender identity, despite the fact that my child using they/them pronouns and identifying as nonbinary has zero effect on anyone else. Thankfully, their school administrators took it seriously and facilitated a conversation between all of the kids involved about treating each other with respect, and the bullying stopped. This outcome happened because the school is committed to fostering a culture of mutual respect and supporting children's identities. These bills would interfere with our school's ability to support children like mine.

These bills do not protect children, period. They make my child and other transgender and nonbinary children LESS safe. The sports bill is unscientific, as studies show no difference in athletic ability between cisgender girls and transgender girls who have not gone through a male puberty, and the regulations on schools will make it harder for gender-nonconforming children to find support. It's shameful that politicians have decided to make a small, vulnerable population of citizens a scapegoat to whip up public fear and anger in this moral panic. It's causing real harm to children and adults who only want to live honestly and be themselves. Historically speaking, targeting minority groups has never reflected well on those in power. This will be no exception, and I encourage you all to vote with this in mind.

Thank you,
Lori Cannon
Washburn WI 54891

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Assembly Committee on Education

I am writing to let you know I am opposed to Bill 100 and Bill 103.

All students deserve the right to participate in sports and be recognized by their preferred gender pronouns . As a retired educator I support the mental health of all students.

Please vote NO.

Robin Kimbrough-Dibble
Gordon, WI 54838

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members of Bills AB100 and AB103,

I implore you to think about the children who will be adversely impacted if these bills pass. Being transgender is NOT a choice. Very young transgender children already KNOW that their gender should be other than that assigned to them at birth, and express this fervently to their parents. How many transgender children have you actually talked to? How many parents of transgender children? Are you educated about this enough to make a decision that could ruin a child's life? Please vote NO to bills AB100 and AB103. Transgender children are human beings who deserve to be loved and believed. YOU hold their happiness in your hands.

I appreciate your time and hope you will consider my beliefs.

Lisa Carey
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

March 5, 2024

To:
Assembly Committee on Education

From:
Susan Hersh
102 N. Water St. #206
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Committee Members:

Regardless of your politics or religious beliefs, Wisconsin children will be harmed by Bill 100 and 103. Students deserve to be able to be their authentic selves at school, and these bills block that right. Do not contribute to the alarming suicide rate of our children. Do not deny our youth peace of mind and acceptance. Please stop Bill 100 & 103 to protect the children of Wisconsin from self-harm and harm from others. ALL students deserve to belong in our schools.

Sincerely,
Susan Hersh

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives

My name is Will Manley. As a resident of the state of Wisconsin and city of Milwaukee, I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103, proposed on March 6th to the Assembly Committee on Education.

Both of these bills are crafted to target the tiny percentage of transgender students and children in the state of Wisconsin. Both through athletic bans for the approximately 0.002% of trans athletes in Wisconsin student athletics, and by allowing the creation of a hostile atmosphere for trans students, regardless of whether they are at school, camp, daycare, or home. These bills are not meant to do anything but disrupt and distract from the real problems facing Wisconsin residents.

Through my experience as a teacher, both in the state of Wisconsin and beyond, in the classroom and out of it, I can tell you these bills help no one and hurt everyone. They are invasive, shameful, and blatantly bigoted. These bills do nothing but bully and alienate trans children and create a climate of fear where there is none! Children do not hate each other by nature, they are confident and curious and should be lifted up and celebrated for this, not driven to division.

Trans people will continue to exist, at all ages, at all stages, and to allow these bills to come to pass is to allow violence to fall on these children. As representatives I urge you to acknowledge and empathize with the pain these bills will cause, and vote against these bills.

Sincerely,
Will Manley

Dear Members of the Assembly,

My name is Sam Eifert, and I am a lifelong resident of Stoughton, Wisconsin. I have spent 34 years in this state, and I am proud to call it home. I am a Realtor, a business owner, a board member of a local non-profit, and a member of a professional Realtor council. Growing up, I was involved in sports from a young age, playing baseball and basketball throughout my childhood and high school years.

I am writing today to strongly urge you to vote **NO** on Assembly Bills AB 100 and AB 103. These bills are not only harmful to our transgender youth but also fundamentally undermine the values of inclusion and equality that we hold dear in Wisconsin.

Transgender students already face immense challenges, including discrimination, bullying, and a higher risk of mental health struggles. To strip them of the right to play sports aligned with their gender identity and to deny them the ability to be recognized for who they truly are—by using their name and pronouns—would only worsen their struggles. It would send a message to these young people that they do not belong, that they do not have a right to exist as their authentic selves.

The conversation about "fairness" in sports has been manipulated and exaggerated. The reality is that transgender students simply want the same opportunities as their peers to participate, learn, and grow. The idea that they pose a competitive advantage is a distraction from the real issues. Should we apply the same logic to athletes like Michael Phelps, whose physical characteristics were exceptional and not "standard" compared to other swimmers? Sports are about more than just competition—they are about building resilience, fostering teamwork, and teaching life lessons. Transgender students deserve that opportunity too.

It is disheartening that, in a time when there are so many critical issues facing our state and our nation, we are focused on further dividing and harming vulnerable members of our community. The harm these bills would cause to transgender youth is far-reaching, and the focus on sports and pronouns is a dangerous distraction from the real challenges we should be addressing.

Please, take a moment to think about the well-being of our children. Do not pass AB 100 and AB 103. Stand with equality, dignity, and inclusion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sam Eifert
Stoughton, WI 53589

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Christopher Tammes, I am a constituent and resident of Milwaukee (53212) where I work two jobs, have hit multiple milestones in my own transition, and have found a vibrant and compassionate community of other trans people and allies.

I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear and hate rather than cultivating connection, understanding, and mutual respect.

As one of your constituents, I implore you to vote strongly against these proposed bills. Being one of the only out transgender students in my high school left me the choice to give up on being the most honest, true, and happiest version of myself or be the version that would let me continue to compete within my passions. No kid should have the entirety of a State government becoming the bullies that I faced when trying to just be myself. If a child figuring out who they are and how they want to live in this world is the biggest threat that you face, I truly envy how little struggles you have to actually face in your life.

I hope all the representatives continue to uphold the separation of church and state, continue to show that Wisconsin is a state that represents compassion, and know that trans people will continue to exist at every age; as we always have.

To enact these bills is to enact violence on the trans youth of your own communities, as Representatives of Wisconsin I hope you acknowledge all the trans people you represent from all corners of the state; and in good conscience vote against AB100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Christopher Tammes

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Greetings to the whole WI legislative committee considering bills AB 100 and AB 103. I hear there may be a hearing and comments are welcome, Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Although I'm not able to be there in person, I'm writing today against these bills which would place limits on the rights of trans kids to participate in school athletics programs.

Kids come in such different varieties of height, weight, hormones...and as long as they are willing to show up for practice and do their best in whatever sport it is - SO BE IT!

As the proud grandmother of someone who calls themself 'they' - I'm showing up for our trans kids and friends of my grandkid - and their right to live, play, and exist as their authentic selves everywhere.

Judy Miner
Madison WI 53704

March 5, 2025

3/5 10:00am - AB 100 & AB 103 - Committee on Education – Room 412E

Re: In opposition of AB 100 & AB 103

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Reiko Ramos and I am a resident of Appleton, WI. I have over a decade of experience working with the LGBTQ community, most of which time has been dedicated to supporting queer and Trans youth. I currently serve as Statewide Director of LGBTQ Anti-Violence Programs at Diverse & Resilient. I am providing this written testimony in opposition to AB100 & AB 103 because of the harmful impact it will have on Trans youth.

According to the Trevor Project's 2024 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People, 90% of LGBTQ+ young people said their well-being was negatively impacted due to recent politics. Additionally, transgender and non-binary young people reported lower rates of attempting suicide when their affirmed name and pronouns were respected.

Our organization serves hundreds of LGBTQ+ people across the state of Wisconsin each year. When elected officials at any level say harmful things about the Trans community or introduce legislation that will impact their rights, our program sees an increase in Trans people and their loved ones reaching out to us for support. So far in 2025, we have received more crisis calls related to anti-trans legislation and executive orders than ever. We know through experience that the data from Trevor Project is accurate: legislation like this has a serious negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of Trans people in our state.

Transgender youth deserve to have their affirmed name and pronouns used and should have access to the same benefits of participation afforded to all youth in sports, such as belonging to a team, building relationships & camaraderie, and physical activity. These are all things that are linked to improved health and mental health outcomes regardless of age or gender identity, but are particularly relevant, as national data also tells us that acceptance and belonging are powerful protective factors for LGBTQ+ youth.

Please support the wellbeing of young Trans people across Wisconsin; do NOT move forward with AB 100 & AB 103.

Respectfully,



Reiko Ramos
400 N Richmond St, Suite B Appleton,
WI 54911

Chloe Keefe

Regarding: Assembly bills 100 and 103

City: Madison, WI

Zip: 53719

March 5th, 2025

To the Assembly Committee of Education,

My name is Chloe Keefe and I'm a concerned healthcare worker of 3 years. I directly oppose assembly bills 100 and 103. Not only do I have a trans sister, trans cousins, and trans friends, but I also have trans patients who come to our endocrinology clinic for gender affirming care. I've witnessed firsthand how gender affirming care saves lives.

As someone who grew up alongside trans youth who still remain friends of mine to this day, I saw directly how harmful misgendering these individuals can be. A trans friend of mine once reached out to me, desperate for help as they were suicidal from being called the incorrect pronouns every single day. Assembly bills 100 and 103 will put trans youth in direct danger. These are children we are talking about, children deserve to feel safe and secure at school. I urge you all to vote against assembly bills 100 and 103 as they are outright dangerous for these children.

Sincerely,

Chloe Keefe, CMA (AAMA)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103.

As a parent, I am concerned that AB100 could incentivize schools to perform unscientific, invasive physical exams on children who wish to join a girls' sports team. Teaching young girls that it is okay for teachers to ask them to expose their genitals for any reason sets a dangerous precedent. It is also sexist on its face in many ways, not least because the rules around sex determination appear to apply only to girls. I have lived in Wisconsin for over twenty years, and this is the first time I have been afraid at the prospect of my daughter choosing to play on a sports team in high school.

My concerns about AB103 go beyond gender. It is not reasonable or proportionate to expect school administrators to check the names that children ask to be called in class against their birth certificates. I have known many people over the years who go by nicknames not directly related to their first or middle name, whether for cultural reasons (like Chinese immigrants adopting Western nicknames) or personal ones. The extra paperwork that this bill would require for extremely mundane situations like these is potentially humiliating to families and wastes teachers' time.

All of this leaves untouched the issue of civil rights. Transgender people are a small and vulnerable minority. Legislative acts that make them feel unsafe in their gender identity do not protect me -- they make me feel vulnerable, too. I feel afraid that legislating around gender expression will not stop at trans exclusion, but will encroach on the way that I embody femininity, or don't. I cannot be free to be who I am, as a cis woman, when trans people are not. And I want and expect this freedom for my daughter, too.

Sincerely,

Erin Jonaitis
604 Rogers Street
Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am a resident, homeowner, and small business owner in Bayfield County. I'm writing to oppose Bills AB103 (use of pronouns & restrictions) and AB100 (k-12 athlete ban).

I think it's time to stop making kids the disempowered and disenfranchised subjects of these ongoing culture wars. Middle school and high school are incredibly difficult times in life. Let's not make it more difficult by entangling kids (who are most vulnerable) in the republican party's ongoing incursion into the private lives of individuals and families.

Erik Gruber
Bayfield, WI 54184

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

I wish to express my opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

I believe trans kids have the right to exist in our society. Period. All this extra attention persecuting trans people, particularly kids, is very unproductive to the general public and is rather harmful to trans kids.

Regarding Assembly Bill 103, the government should not concern itself with names and pronouns at school, other than to support kids being themselves. People use nicknames and such all of the time. Let's stop pretending you are protecting parents' rights. You are only looking to out a child or suppress their authentic selves. We need our government to work on actual issues that affect people every day, not persecuting a small group of people. This bill is a dog whistle.

Regarding Assembly Bill 100, trans kids do not transition to dominate girls sports. Trans kids who want to participate in sports should be allowed to do so. This bill is also a dog whistle.

Your exhausting and relentless attacks against a small population are ridiculous. Do actual work that improves lives rather than working to exclude trans people.

Sincerely,

Shane Gurno, concerned Constituent and supporter of trans kids and people

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To WI Assembly Committee on Education:

I'm writing in opposition to Assembly Bills 100 & 103. Trans kids deserve the same opportunities and dignity as anyone else. They're not hurting anyone. We shouldn't be punching down at an already vulnerable group of kids. It's wrong, it's causing unnecessary harm, and these cruel bills need to stop.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alex Habriga
Lifelong WI Resident
Veteran of US Armed Forces
Proud Transgender Wisconsinite

2133 S Fish Hatchery Rd
Fitchburg, WI 53575

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Hannah Rebernick, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. We should all be doing our best to support ALL of the children in our communities. Bills like this punish trans children for merely existing and create environments that become hostile and unsafe for all children. By refusing to treat trans children the same as you would any other child you deny them their childhood. There is a 29% decrease in suicidal ideation and a 56% decrease in suicidal behavior for youth when their chosen name is used (The Trevor Project). Respecting, name changes, pronouns and protecting trans children in school is life saving and doing anything less is a blatant disregard for the safety and wellbeing of Wisconsin's children.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Hannah Rebernick

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

For Assembly bill 100 and 103:

I am a physician who takes care of kids and I have seen many children who have been so much happier and healthier after starting to use pronouns consistent with their gender at home and school. It should be up to children and families to decide what pronouns they want to use and this choice must be supported in schools. I strongly oppose these bills due to the negative impacts they will pose to children's physical and mental health.

Julia, Madison WI 53715

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

I am writing to urge each of you to oppose AB100 and AB103. As members of the Committee on Education, I can only assume that each of you care very much about Wisconsin's youth and about ensuring that every young person gets both a solid education and a healthy foundation on which to develop into the adults of the future. Neither of these are possible for youth who are subjected to exclusion, disrespect, and demonization. AB100 and AB103 do nothing but exclude, disrespect and demonize youth who are transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming.

Being inclusive and respectful of trans youth does no harm to anyone other than those seeking to use trans youth as scapegoats. I assume no one on this committee would seek to do that.

Sincerely,

Jolin Mitchel
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

We are writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of students to use their preferred names and pronouns.

We have lived in Wisconsin for our entire life, and are speaking on our own behalf as private citizens.

We have personally witnessed the pain of a loved one struggling with suicidal depression stemming from gender dysphoria. Coming out as transgender was a life-changing moment for her for the better, in large part because the people she trusted at home and at school have been supportive and affirming. Being able to use her own preferred name and pronouns has been critical to her emotional health and well-being: she missed most of 8th grade from psychological distress, but is now scoring top marks on schoolwork in 9th grade. The difference has been night and day.

Imagine if her parents had not been supportive. If AB103 were law, staff at her school would have been legally barred from using her preferred name and pronouns. She would have had no support in the two most central environments of her life, leading to more crippling depression, delinquency, running away from home, even possible suicide. Maybe you scoff at the idea that AB103 could result in such outcomes for our children -- but imagine living day after day being called a name that doesn't feel like yours, with it being illegal for others to call you by one that works for you. It is a basic principle of dignity and respect that we refer to others how they want to be called. This is not "woke" but rather common decency.

Trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an equal and inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,
Curtis T Rueden
Anna L Rueden
Verona, WI 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education -

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to proposed bills AB100 and AB103.

I am a long-time member of the Village of Shorewood, hold a PhD in Child Clinical Psychology, and have worked in the nonprofit sector of Milwaukee for over 30 years. I am also the mother of a young adult trans woman.

If passed, these bills would have a devastating impact on the health, well-being, and safety of Wisconsin's trans and non-binary youth and adults. The detrimental effects of these kinds of bills are clear from more than a decade of scientific research and from the positions of all the relevant professional organizations (e.g., American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, etc.).

I truly can't imagine my daughter being barred from playing sports, unable to use the locker room or rest room that is consistent with her gender, and being prohibited from using her name or correct pronouns. In all spheres of her life, she lives and moves through the world as a woman. She, along with other trans youth and adults, have the right to live, play, and exist as their authentic selves.

Please join me in opposing and defeating these two damaging bills.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Larson
Shorewood, WI 53211

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

My name is Molecula Hopkins-Sheets. I live within the city limits of Madison, WI and I am writing into this hearing to oppose Bills AB100 and AB103. If I could be there in person, I would.

First, I would like to address the proposed ban on allowing youth trans athletes to participate in the sport under their gender. This is the wrong move to make for the youth of Wisconsin. I am a woman. I was biologically born a woman, and I identify as a woman. I grew up playing on both girls and boys soccer teams until I was 18. I can honestly say the gender of the participants of each team I played on made no difference to how I played and to the rank I held while I played. I was a starting player on both the girls and boys teams in this state. You can claim biological differences, but for youth why should that matter? Why should we not let them play sports? Why should we ban them from having the experiences that they seek to have? From allowing them to grow through sports and learn lessons of resilience and strength from these sports? From allowing them to live in this world as themselves?

Second, I want to address the restriction of pronouns and names used by transgender youth. I am outraged that this is a proposed bill in our state. To take away a transgender person's ability to use the pronouns that belong to them and ability to use their chosen name is to take away their identity. It is an attack on personal freedoms and an attack on free expression. This bill is proposing to censor the very identity of kids. Do not attack their personal freedom. For a nation who loudly shouts about the right to free expression, this is an egregious attack on that very concept.

Would you take away these rights for your own kids, trans or not? Could you look your kids in the eyes and say that the state is no longer allowing them to go by the name they chose? That until the proper paperwork is filed, their teachers will be calling them by their old name, by the wrong gender? Could you look at your child, watching their eyes gather tears as they are told they can no longer participate with their team because of a law made by the state they live in? Could you look at your child as they give up the sport they love because they refuse to play under a gender that is not theirs?

I oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

Thank you,
Molecula Hopkins-Sheets

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

While I'm unable to be there in person today, my wife and I have both testified in the past against similar bills that were proposed. I have lived in Wisconsin for 27 years and am writing on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an education free from harassment and discrimination. Trans youth are a vulnerable community of people who are deserving of our protection and support, and the respect of the school systems that serve the public good.

Passage of these bills would cause direct harm to the physical, mental, and emotional health of my daughter and to the many other young people who are a part of this community.

My appeal is simple: from one parent to another, I ask that you please vote against Assembly Bill 100 & 103.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ashley Green
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is MaryClaire Burkhardt, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee, WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are both very obviously written this way in order to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids. These bills are emerging during a time when hateful and unprecedented anti-trans legislation and policy proposals are rampant across the US. These bills do nothing but alienate and endanger CHILDREN and stoke a climate of hate and fear. Trans children are still children, and you have an obligation to support them thrive. The endless examples of suicide and harm done to trans folks, and especially trans children, should immediately stop these types of bills from coming out. However, there are many who are soulless and seem to forget that people are people and trans people are just people.

As one of your constituents, I urge you all to vote against these bills. I am a trans adult, I grew up in a time where I witnessed the trans kids in my schools who were brave enough to come out be bullied and harassed. The fact that there are politicians who are nothing more than rich bullies is pathetic, and you must not stand with them. It's just embarrassing. Why do people care so much about children's genitals? That to me is a million times more creepy than anything anti-trans people make up to fear monger.

It's also absolutely horrifying that these bills are happening at a time when the people, your constituents, are struggling to make ends meet. I work in a hospital, and the amount of people who have to cancel life-saving appointments, medications, and treatments due to the mess our health care system is is horrifying. And here we are talking about banning children from being themselves. What an absolute waste of time.

We trans people have always existed, and will always exist, at every single age. The violence against trans people is just a clear example of the spin into fascism we have entered. Focus on the things that actually matter, like stopping Musk from taking over our entire country (a sentence I never thought I'd have to write.), maybe feeding, housing, clothing, and providing health care to your constituents.

Trans people will exist and be loved no matter what. These harmful laws will do nothing to end our existence. Nothing can, because we are exactly who we're meant to be, and we will always exist.

As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge and stand by all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

-MaryClaire Burkhardt (they/them)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

As a Wisconsin citizen and educator, I strongly oppose the adoption of Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. These bills target a small and vulnerable population of young transgender persons in our public schools who deserve our support, care, and commitment rather than public policy that demeans them and keeps them from being called by the names and pronouns that match their identities. As a teacher of writing, I know the harm that words can cause; as a researcher and educator, I know the mental health crises common among our queer, questioning, and transgender youth. These bills will exacerbate the alienation and discrimination felt by young people in schools, a place where they should be safe from the violence and hatred they so often encounter in public spaces. My classrooms and communities must be spaces where individuals can express themselves freely, and that expression can only emerge when students are called by their names, respectfully spoken of by others, and allowed to participate in the life of the school -- including sports -- the same as all other students. This is an issue of access, civil rights, and the continued existence of beloved young people who deserve to feel safe and seen. I repeat, I strongly oppose both Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103; they should never be made into law in Wisconsin or anywhere else that values freedom, justice, and the rights of its most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you,
Dr. Sara Kelm
Madison, WI (53705)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposed bills AB100 and AB103. These bills make me afraid for children in Wisconsin schools. Now more than ever, schools are taking on enormous responsibilities in terms of mental health support for children. Both of these bills put teachers in a position of saying and acting that they don't believe children. It would be inappropriate and negligent for a teacher to say, "No, I don't believe Mandy hit you, I didn't see it." or "I don't think you're hungry, I'm sure you have food at home."

It is also inappropriate for schools to mandate that a child be called by a name that they don't feel is theirs or to be banned from a team or activity because their genitalia does not match their brain. Laws of these types have been shown to negatively impact the mental health of transgender and nonbinary youth. Gender identity is a fundamental part of human experience and should be protected by law.

I have lived in Madison for nearly 30 years, I know children who are transgender who have thrived here because teachers and schools worked to protect and nurture these children. These two proposed bills would bring irreparable harm to children. Please do not let these two bills move forward.

Thank you,

Jen Lynch
Madison, WI 53715

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

I am writing regarding AB 100 and AB 103. I am writing to encourage you to oppose these bills. I oppose these bills because there is data that indicates that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>

States that passed anti-transgender laws aimed at minors saw suicide attempts by transgender and gender nonconforming teenagers increase by as much as 72% in the following years

<https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2024/09/25/nx-s1-5127347/more-trans-teens-attempted-suicide-after-states-passed-anti-trans-laws-a-study-shows>

I have lived in WI all of my life. I urge you to oppose these bills that will do harm to other humans.

Sincerely,

Christine Carini
2823 South 85th Street
West Allis, WI 53227

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee of Education:

I urgently ask you to oppose Bill AB100 and Bill AB103.

Regarding Bill AB100:

Education-based athletics is founded on a commitment to equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all students. All students, including transgender students, deserve the chance to participate in activities like sports, which offer valuable lessons in teamwork, leadership, self-discipline, and contribute to both physical and mental well-being. This right is protected by Title IX.

Furthermore, as cited in *Gender Explained: A New Understanding of Identity in a Gender Creative World* by Diane Ehrensaft, PhD and Michelle Jurkiewicz, PsyD, research shows:

- Transgender and gender-diverse youth have a lower risk of suicide, greater feelings of safety, are less likely to experience victimization or harassment, and are less likely to skip class due to safety concerns when they attend schools with inclusive policies, whether or not they play sports.¹
- Cisgender girls' participation in school sports either remained the same or increased after instating inclusive policies, such as in California, where cisgender girls' participation rose by approximately 14 percent in the six years following the enactment of gender-inclusive sports policies in 2014 (as opposed to a decrease in cisgender girls' sports participation in states with gender exclusive policies).²
- Transgender students in states with fully inclusive athletic policies were 14 percent less likely to have considered suicide than students in non-inclusive states.³

Not only do inclusive policies not harm cisgender girls, but inclusive policies help protect transgender girls, an already vulnerable student population.

Oppose Bill AB100 and let all our children play.

Regarding Bill AB103:

We expect our schools to be safe environments for our children to learn and grow. A lot is expected from students each day—they need to stay focused, do their work, and put in their best effort. However, if they are continuously called a name and/or pronoun that does not align with their identity, it will not only be distracting but also painful. Using the correct name and pronoun is the most effective way to say, “I see you.” That builds trust and safety.

If a cisgender person was constantly referred to by a name or pronoun different than what they identified with, it would be seen as harassment. It would have the same negative impact on their education and mental health. Transgender students deserve the same consideration as cisgender students—to be called by the name and pronoun with which they self-identify.

Bill AB103 makes it a requirement of schools to out children to their parents before the children are ready. If a child wants to try out a new name and pronoun at school before coming out to their parents, it hurts no one. It is no different than trying out a nickname. A variation on a birthname is allowed, so why not a chosen name? Using a child-chosen name is respectful to the child. Moreover, forcing a child to out themselves to a family that may not be supportive of them could endanger their safety.

I advocate for the rights of trans and non-binary kids because they matter. They exist. They are just as valid as cisgender kids and deserve the same respect to be called by the name and pronoun with which they identify.

As a resident of Wisconsin for nearly 35 years, I am proud of the times in our state's history when we prove to live by our motto, "Forward." I'm proud that in 1982, Governor Lee Dreyfus signed into law a bill that made it illegal for state or private businesses to discriminate based on sexual orientation in employment and housing, nine years before any other state granted that same protection. Let's not go backward. Let's live by our motto and support and protect ALL children.

Oppose Bill AB100 and Bill AB103.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kate McKinney

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Citations:

1. Joseph G. Kosciw et al., "The 2021 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of LGBTQ+ Youth in Our Nation's Schools," GLSEN, 2022, glsen.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/NSCS-2021-Full-Report.pdf.
2. Shoshana K. Goldberg. "Fair Play: The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth," American Progress, February 2021, americanprogress.org/article/fair-play.
3. "YRBSS Data & Documentation," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last updated August 18, 2023, cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/data.htm.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Assembly Committee on Education,

As a Wisconsin resident and LGBTQIA ally, I ask that bills 100 and 103 are not allowed to pass. These will not only cause harm to the youth they affect, but will also clear the way for more detrimental bills in the future. Please protect these marginalized and vulnerable youth.

Thank you for your time,
Shannon Huston
Wausau, WI 54402

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Aaron Larson, Cottage Grove, WI. 53527

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding my opposition of AB100 and AB103. My name is Aaron Larson, and I am writing to strongly oppose any legislation that targets transgender youth by restricting their participation in school sports or denying them the right to be addressed by their chosen names and pronouns. These measures are not only harmful but are also an affront to the values of fairness, dignity, and respect that we should uphold for all young people.

Transgender youth, like all students, deserve the opportunity to participate fully in school life, including athletics. Sports provide essential benefits—physical health, social connection, self-discipline, and confidence. Excluding transgender youth from these experiences isolates them and fosters a culture of discrimination and exclusion, rather than the inclusion and teamwork that school sports are meant to promote.

Similarly, denying students the ability to use their correct names and pronouns sends a clear and damaging message: that their identities are not valid and that they are not worthy of respect. Every major medical and psychological association, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association, recognizes that affirming a young person's gender identity leads to better mental health outcomes and a greater sense of well-being. Conversely, rejection and invalidation significantly increase the risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide.

These policies are not just ethically wrong; they are legally questionable. Courts across the country have ruled in favor of transgender students' rights under Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Schools that implement discriminatory policies may face costly litigation, drawing critical resources away from education and student support services.

At the heart of this debate are real children with real dreams, just like any other student. They want to learn, play, and grow in an environment that sees them for who they are. Instead of singling them out for exclusion, we should be working to ensure that all young people—regardless of gender identity—have the opportunity to thrive in safe, supportive school environments.

I urge this committee to reject legislation that marginalizes transgender youth and instead focus on policies that foster inclusion, fairness, and respect for all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear committee,

I'm writing to oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

My name is Madeleine Niebauer and I've resided in Middleton WI for 15 years. I am a business owner and active community member, volunteering for our schools and several nonprofits.

It is deeply disturbing to see the continued attacks on trans people, especially trans youth. I am lucky enough to have several trans kids and teens in my life. It is beautiful to see them live their true identities. I've seen them grow and thrive as they have transitioned and been supported by their families and communities who accept their new names and pronouns. I've seen them thrive in sports and activities where they participate in alignment with their gender identity.

I've also seen trans youth who have not been supported in these ways and have seen the toll it takes on their mental health. I have known families who have suffered through their kid's suicide attempts.

These bills have the potential to cause deep damage to the mental health of these young people, and I urge you to vote against them.

Sincerely,
Madeleine Niebauer

Aria Xavier Trucios
8430 Market St. Apt. 203
Middleton, WI 53562
In Opposition

RE: AB100 and AB103

To the members of the 2025 Assembly Committee on Education:

Wisconsin Assembly Bills 100 and 103 are yet another installment in the latest wave of legislation aimed at destroying the rights and freedoms of transgender individuals -- this time, attacking our children. These bills will prevent transgender students from participating in the school sports that align with their gender identity and also forcibly out transgender students if they in any way request staff to recognize their authentic selves. They are not just unnecessary wastes of Wisconsin taxpayer dollars; they are actively harmful.

Supporters of AB100 argue that the bill protects fairness in women's sports. These claims, however, are based on misleading political narratives and reject widely respected scientific evidence. Countless major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as the American Medical Association, recognize and confirm that transgender athletes do not inherently have an unfair advantage over cisgender athletes, and sports governing organizations such as the International Olympic Committee already have policies ensuring fair competition regardless of gender. AB100 is really just a solution in search of a problem, and in the process of trying to fabricate a crisis, it singles out and excludes transgender youth, sending a message that these children are not welcome.

AB103 is another attempt to marginalize transgender students -- this time by restricting how schools recognize and respect their identities. This bill would prevent schools from using a student's chosen name and preferred pronouns unless they align with a legal name change and are formally requested by a parent. If any parent or legal guardian makes such a request, ALL guardians will be given the opportunity to intervene. I know several people whose parents divorced or separated due to deep disagreement over whether their child should receive lifesaving care. Had AB103 been law they would have been subjected to the whims of their anti-trans parent, whether or not they were involved in their daily lives. Such policies disregard the lived experiences of transgender and nonbinary youth and will force their guardians to weigh whether to risk outing their children to unsupportive family members, who themselves will have the power to override a supportive parent. Or likewise, if they will risk the scrutiny of potentially unsupportive or even bigoted school administrators, personnel who may not even know the child in question. These barriers to simply existing at school are only in place for students the author deem unworthy of identity; students who request a name or similar accommodation who are not transgender are not burdened by AB103. Respecting a student's chosen name and preferred pronouns should not be a matter of politics; it is a matter of dignity, mental health, and safety. AB103 is not about parental rights or educational integrity; it is about policing identity and forcing schools, teachers, and staff to participate in discrimination against transgender youth.

Wisconsin's AB100 and AB103 are not about fairness or protection -- they are about discrimination and control. The bills target an already vulnerable population, ignoring general scientific consensus and the voices of transgender people themselves. If these bills become law, they will cause real harm, not only by worsening stigma and mental health, but also the likelihood of self-harm among transgender youth.

A study published in the Journal Nature¹ September of 2024 assessed 19 states where anti-trans legislation passed from 2018 to 2022 and found an up to 72% increase in past-year suicide attempts by transgender and nonbinary youth, with a causal relationship by those states' anti-trans legislation.

Children's suicide rates increased across all states where anti-trans bills had been passed, and specifically as a result of those bans being enacted by their state legislatures.

These bills kill children born the same way as I was – created by God to find and live as our authentic selves. At best, they are intended to penalize and subjugate children who themselves are unknown by this bill's authors or the members of this committee. But in effect, this body will be setting policy that certain children are unwelcome in our schools, and unwelcome in our society more broadly. How many children must die before their lives are considered by this body?

I firmly believe what my church teaches: that all children, transgender nonbinary or otherwise, are created by God to find and embody our authentic selves and live out our lives as any other child of God. These bills attack that purpose, and with it our dignity and humanity. Would this body cosign the hatred, verbal and physical attacks transgender Children of God will be forced to endure by their peers, teachers, administrators, extended family and community? Will this body shield itself from the reality that children will be subjected to conditions which guarantee they will be told they are unwelcome in our society? This was a reality I was forced to live through for many many years, and as a result I regularly considered ending my own life beginning at the age of 13. I know many others like me who considered the ultimate sin, and I can only wonder how many more people would be alive today had they not experienced the same. I pray this body looks beyond themselves to see the humanity they will be snuffing out by putting their political careers over the lives and safety of fellow Children of God.

“If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!”

-Jesus, via Matthew 18:6-7

Respectfully,

Aria Xavier Trucios
(they/them)

1 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Trans youth deserve to learn and participate by playing on sports teams and using locker rooms that match their authentic gender. They also deserve to use the name and pronouns they identify with at school. Every person has the right to be and to belong. This is what schools and school sports are for. Learning to appreciate each other's differences and how they contribute to the whole (as well as make us stronger). By not allowing students to be themselves, we are contributing to their mental health problems which is detrimental to not just them but other students and society at large. Please consider sending a message that we are here to love one another and unite in the acceptance of trans youth. They deserve to belong as themselves in schools and extracurricular activities.

Thank you,

Shawn Brown
Stoughton, WI 53589

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 30 years. I came as a teen from California and could never leave because I felt more at home in Madison than I have ever felt. But lately I've found myself questioning if this is where I can stay. If Wisconsin is where I want my children to go to high school and college? Why would they stay in this place if we pass bills that restrict the rights of others who are doing nothing more than asking to live as their authentic selves?

As you consider your vote today, I'm asking you to think about the children of today and tomorrow who these bills truly affects. What do you have to lose? What do you have to gain?

I personally have loved ones who, in the past few years, have been able to be their authentic selves, to go to school and use the pronouns that reflect who they truly are. Passing this bill would take away their comfort, their safety, their ability to live as who they truly are meant to be. I have gained the honor of knowing Trans youth who make our community a better place.

But, if these bills pass, I have so much to lose. I lose knowing the people I love as they authentically are. I lose seeing the people I love who can live safely and who feel comfortable living their lives in our community, this community, where they were born and raised and want to be able to stay. These bills are nothing more than a way of telling someone they don't belong. That's not the Wisconsin way. That's not who we are. Please consider the people who would truly be affected by these bills and support their rights to be who they are.

Trans youth deserve the right to participate in sports, and to use the pronouns that reflect who they are. Please vote in a way that supports the inclusive community we know and can be proud to be a part of.

Thank you for your support,
Ellen Weismer
Madison, 53717

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Aislinn Hutchinson and I am a concerned resident of the city of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for five years and have called Madison home for all of them. I am a business owner, spouse, and active member of my community. I am also trans. I am testifying on bill AB100 and AB103. I am testifying both about allowing trans youth to participate in sports according to their identified gender as well as their ability to use their chosen name and pronouns in school.

I am testifying about this because I myself just came out as non-binary this year. I am also a former college D1 athlete, and sports were and are my entire life. I recently had to find a new league to play hockey in because all of this hate that is being spread towards trans people is becoming a problem everywhere. My league tried to ban all trans players, including non-binary players. This significantly impacted my mental health as hockey is the place I go to play, have fun with my friends, decompress, and get physical activity. There was absolutely no scientific reason for banning athletes like myself from participating in sport, and the same thing is happening to youth if this bill is passed.

I wanted to share my story because I believe all PEOPLE should have the right and access to sport, as well as to use the pronouns of their choosing. Sports, and feeling safe in a dressing room are so important. This is a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. We are just people, wanting to respectfully be shown respect and honor like any human person deserves. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for it in my community. Madison is a welcoming community for all trans and queer people and I have never felt safer to be myself in a community. Passing these bills will create an environment where others can openly hate and fear monger them when all they want is to be accepted for who they are. Just believe them. How does it affect you? Do you know a trans person? Have you loved a trans person? I do, and I have, and they are the most caring people who know themselves deeply, and just want to exist with the same human rights and decency that cis people get. Please, just leave the trans kids alone.

I wish I had access to language like non-binary or trans when I was a kid this age, I would have known myself a lot better then. It took me 29 years to come out. I have never been happier, or thriving more than I am today. I have never felt safer in sport when others use my pronouns and allow me in their locker rooms. Please don't let youth have to deal with hatred from this young of an age. I barely made it to 29 years old, and a lot of these kids will not survive passing a bill like this. Suicide rates dramatically decrease when we allow kids to be themselves, and to be recognized by others as themselves. My solution is to allow kids to use the

pronouns of their choosing, because why does it affect you to respect what someone wants to be called? Let trans kids play sports with their gender, because there is no real difference in athletic ability at these ages, and we all just want to play.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story, and I urge you to think about these kids as people, trying to figure themselves out, instead of as some scary group of people that the media and leaders of this country have decided are bad and wrong. Thank you for your consideration of these matters and solutions, it is very much appreciated.

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly or Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Sloan Greenheck and I oppose bills AB100 and bill AB103.

All children deserve safe and supportive environments. Encouraging knowledge, learning, and self exploration is the purpose of education. By restricting a child's access to education and acceptance of gender expression, irreparable harm WILL be caused.

I am nonbinary. I am scared. I can only imagine how horrifying it is to live as a child in this political climate. Please do not make children feel less safe.

Thank you.
Sloan
Waterloo, WI

Representatives,

My name is Ani Miskowski. I am a resident of Milwaukee. While I believe that there is plenty of evidence detailing the harm Assembly Bills 100 and 103 will cause, part of me fears that those points do not matter to you. I fear that hearings like these have become an easily dismissible formality where the physical presence of a committee is meant to placate us. I hope I'm wrong. I cannot force you to open your hearts, and I would not want to. All I have is my hope that you will let yourself hear me.

I was born into a God-fearing family. We went to church every week. We communed with people who shared our faith and our values. But despite all of the faith that my parents claimed to have, they were afraid every day, afraid of making even one misstep, afraid of others, afraid of themselves, afraid of God, and afraid of punishment. That fear destroyed our relationship. I was not brave enough to ask them then, so I ask you now, those of you with open hearts who truly believe trans children are hurting themselves and genuinely want to protect them:

What if you're wrong? What if God's priority isn't the names or pronouns of these children but whether they are accepted and loved? What if trans children are not perverting their bodies but are transcending them, embracing a divine energy inspired by God?

I can't answer for you. I understand it might be scary to grapple with these questions regardless of what faith you may or may not hold. Your mind might conjure memories of shame or even physical punishment, times where you were deemed not masculine or feminine enough. Or perhaps you witnessed others receiving similar treatment and vowed to avoid it. Your instinct might be to defend these corrections, to insist they were acts of love, but *you know what it feels like to be loved*. Love is incompatible with the rejection of mental and physical autonomy. Do you know how it feels to find joy in who you are only for someone else to insist "You are who I say you are." If you know how that feels, if you remember that confusion and frustration, how can you carry that pain forward? How can you give it to *children*?

I feel sorry for you. Because I see the joy in these children. I see the love and transformation they bring to their families. Why don't you trust their joy? What messaging have you received that taught you their truth is in opposition to yours?

The only people you are protecting with these laws are yourselves, and, while you might feel like you've done something good (despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary), you are also holding yourself back. You are running away from your cognitive dissonance because you are afraid of what will happen if you're honest. As long as you avoid honesty, you will never know true peace. I do not want you to be trans if you're not trans. I do not want you to change your name unless you'd like to. I want you to have the freedom to celebrate differences in others and in yourself without fear of punishment. I want these children to lead long, happy, and fulfilled lives.

I beg you to use this moment and your power to show trans children love and acceptance. You have the ability to reject these bills and their rhetoric, and, furthermore, you have a moral responsibility to do so. All it takes is one moment to choose to embrace change. Aren't you tired of being afraid?

Compassionately,

Ani

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB100 and AB103. These proposed bills are deeply harmful and would actively contribute to an unsafe and hostile environment for queer and transgender students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

AB100 and AB103 are not about fairness or protection—they are transphobic measures that seek to erase and marginalize transgender youth. Trans students, like all students, deserve to be affirmed, supported, and safe in their schools. Denying them the ability to participate in sports or forcing them to be misgendered undermines their dignity, mental health, and overall well-being. These bills would fuel a climate of discrimination, making schools even more unsafe for queer and trans youth.

I have lived in Wisconsin for over 20 years and I am a full-time therapist. Many of the clients that I support are queer or trans, or have loved ones who are queer/trans. In my work, I see firsthand the destructive psychological and emotional impacts that legislation such as these proposed bills have on queer individuals and the queer community. Particularly under this new administration, trans folks are being targeted, scapegoated and persecuted. Trans people are under attack, and bills like this are nothing more than state-sanctioned discrimination.

Trans people exist. Trans people are not a threat. Trans folks are simply asking for the basic human right to be themselves without fear of persecution.

These proposed bills do nothing but put trans students at greater risk of bullying, isolation, and harm. If the goal of this committee is to protect and support students, then the focus should not be on banning pronouns or excluding children from sports—it should be on addressing the real dangers facing our schools, such as gun violence. Gun violence is the leading cause of death among young people in this country. Instead of wasting precious time and resources targeting one of our most vulnerable student populations, I urge you to prioritize real solutions that will protect all students.

I strongly urge you to reject AB100 and AB103. These bills do not protect students; they only harm them. Schools should be places of learning, growth, and acceptance—not sites of state-sanctioned discrimination.

Sincerely,
Tiffani Amber Sebastian

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

Vote No on AB100. Sports and locker rooms should be available to all students. Sports are an essential foundation for many students' participation in extracurricular activities in public schools. As a high school student at West High School, I played on the soccer team and still have friendships with my teammates today.

You must oppose this bill because it attacks the freedom of all kids to play sports in Wisconsin. It creates an environment where it is ok to sideline kids rather than include them in the sports they love. We ought to do everything we can to support the rights of all kids to play sports in Wisconsin.

A vote yes for these bills is a vote yes to take away the right of all kids to enjoy sports with their friends. Make sure you vote no to protect kids' rights to play sports.

Vote No on AB103. The government has no business getting into our personal lives and telling us how to live our lives. Vote No on AB103 to keep the government out of all our kids' lives and let all kids be themselves.

Vote No on AB100 and AB103!

All the best,
Eli Tsarovsky
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Sarah Forzley, and I am a Madison resident. I've lived here since 2012, and my husband and I settled here to be near his family, just like all his siblings. I say this to emphasize that even while pursuing a masters, a doctorate, and a corporate career, I continue to prioritize family values. Additionally, I am a former instructor at the University of Wisconsin, a former high school teacher, and a former elementary school teacher. Given that I live according to my family values, and that I spent over twenty cumulative years teaching young people and participating in girls' and women's sports myself, I care deeply about safety and equity in school and in sport.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100 and 103. These bills do not increase safety or equity in schools or sports. Trans girls and trans women do not threaten the success of individual women or of women's sports in general. I have seen this myself as both an athlete and a teacher. Instead, they reveal a fundamental misunderstanding of sex assigned at birth, of the actual threats that girls and women face every day, and of athletic competition. Sex assigned at birth is not a perfect way to identify a person's sex. I have had students with different medical conditions whose sex assigned at birth did not take into account their chromosomal makeup because the doctor simply visually assessed the baby's features. I also have had students who felt that they belonged nowhere because they did not "fit in" with the boys or girls at their school. I would have loved to see those students find belonging, purpose, and friendship through sports. These bills instead teach our students to fear and discriminate against their peers. These bills teach our students that the definition of "girl" or "woman" is ever narrower. These bills threaten to drag us back into a time when the United States was more sexist, when women had even fewer opportunities in sport.

After my master's degree, I taught at a university in Paris and ran for a team there. I was just a run-of-the-mill varsity athlete in college, but in France I quickly climbed the national rankings. Why? Because France has less gender equality than the United States. I know that sometimes, conservative folks fear that liberal folks are not proud of the United States. I can say without hesitation that I am proud of the United States for how far we have come in girls' and women's sports since my mother's time. In France, I faced more sexual and physical harassment, more restrictive expectations for my gender, and more inequality in sport than I face here. Though it meant giving up my excellent ranking in France, I was relieved to return to the competition scene in the United States because, frankly, I love how many women in the United States are faster than I am – women's sports here have thrived under Title IX to the benefit of all, including mediocre athletes like myself. We are carried along in the wave of those who run faster than we do. It is in our interest to compete against as diverse a group of women as possible so as to improve our training and overall times.

Perhaps, if you feel that discussing nonbinary genders is polarizing, you can remember a time in your life when you did not fit in. Remember how uncomfortable that was, how isolating, how sad you felt. Trans students do not choose to be trans; nobody chooses to have a more difficult life in this way. Allowing trans students to participate in sports, allowing trans students to use the bathroom most comfortable for them, tells them that they belong. Nobody would undergo so

much social stigma just to cause harm to others. Trans students are not trying to harm anyone, and they certainly don't threaten our sports. Do you know what does threaten girls and women in school and sport? Sexual harassment by male students, teachers, administrators, and clergymen. Bias from adults who do not believe girls or women have what it takes to lift weights, to succeed in STEM, to obtain advanced degrees. Let's focus on real problems instead of an imagined one.

Sincerely,
Sarah Forzley
Madison, 53704

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Amy Basel and have been a resident of Madison since 1995, with a home now in the 53714 zip code, and I'm writing to oppose the Bill AB100 and AB103. As a person with the same initials (AB) as these bills, I do not want to be even closely associated (no matter how random) with something so horrible. Please vote NO to both Bill AB100 and AB103!

I'm not proud of my state representatives taking the time to even introduce these bills in the year 2025. You all should be spending time fighting back against the takeover we are seeing and cuts to important supports and supporting our education system instead of trying to criminalize gender identity and tell kids that they don't belong. We should be trying to work toward sports teams that are open to all pupils. Why must we continue to separate folks by their gender that people want to maintain is binary when it is not. You should be ashamed of yourself for wasting the time it takes to write and get these before the committee. These bills seek to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools. There is not any need to further provide laws against a small and marginalized group of kids. This is blatant discrimination instead of working with kids, schools and parents.

There are so many other things that our schools and kids (pupils) attending them need instead of these hateful and discriminatory Bills. Please start spending your time on those and not trying to vilify trans youth.

I'm not trans, but I know several people who are and I've taken the time to listen and learn from them. There is a specific friend of mine that was born a female and grew up a girl and always was referred to as a tomboy. This friend of mine who is now an adult had qualified to participate in the CrossFit games and has been an athletic trainer and athlete themselves. They even started a fitness company and helped the roller derby league I was a part of with some training. Within the last few years, they have transitioned to using he/they pronouns and getting gender affirming surgery. He identifies as a non-binary trans male and is now living life as their authentic self. This friend of mine recently took themselves out of the CrossFit games and was disappointed to see this organization comply with an executive order based on fear and without any scientific evidence behind it. How can anyone think this is better for all kids, instead of appeasing the instances of a few people who "think" that they were discriminated against.

Ironically, Bill AB100 would not have applied to my friend as a pupil or athlete in school had they decided to transition sooner, since they are a female at birth and therefore would be able to qualify for male sports since the bill just refers to male at birth folks not able to qualify for female sports participation. Doesn't that just scream for a lawsuit of discrimination? Why would you just making it one gender and not include trans folks that identify as male not be able to participate in female sports?

More importantly, I've worked with skaters in a sport, and students in college who have clearly expressed the fact that they have gender identities that are not easily put into binaries of male and female. Whether or not you think that gender exists within that spectrum - the fact remains that people identify along that and are not changing their gender assigned at birth or going by different names or pronouns to win on a female sports team or impersonate anyone. They are trying to live their lives as themselves, and you and I don't need to understand or agree with that to know that it is harmful to force people to put themselves in one group or the other. Sports teams and Schools should be where we are helping kids to build identities, friendships and teamwork skills as well as getting to know one another.

I feel that both these bills AB100 and AB103 would only be creating more fear, hate and discrimination and I strongly urge you to vote NO.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Basel (she/her)

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Cedar Worth, and I am a constituent from Middleton, Wisconsin. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, which are scheduled for discussion in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly designed to ban transgender athletes and restrict name and pronoun changes for transgender youth. These bans, amidst an unprecedented wave of anti-trans legislation across the US, will only serve to alienate and harm transgender children, fostering a climate of fear rather than support.

As your constituent, I urge you to vote against these proposed bills. Transgender people exist and will continue to exist at every age. Enacting these bills would not only harm the transgender people you represent but also the broader transgender community by enabling hate, creating further division, and cultivating a climate of fear.

I ask that you, as representatives in Wisconsin, acknowledge all of the trans people you represent and vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Cedar Worth

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing to vehemently oppose bills AB100 and AB103. These are bills that attack LGBTQ+ rights, especially for transgender youth. The Wisconsin Legislature has continued to advance bills that target transgender people. LGBTQ people have the right to participate in sports activities, to live in safety, to thrive, to be addressed by the name and pronoun they choose, and treated with dignity. These bills will cause harm to LGBTQ youth.

I ask that you reconsider your support of these bills.

Sincerely,
Barbara Mottl
Dousman, WI 53118

March 5th, 2025d

To: the Assembly Committee on Education in the Wisconsin State Legislature

From: Lane Pierce, Milwaukee, WI 53217

I would like to express my opposition to the Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Every person deserves to use restrooms that match their gender identity, participate on teams that match their gender identity, and particularly feel safe enough to be authentic in their schools by referring to themselves with pronouns that match their gender identity. We have to support and protect our trans kids. They belong just as they are.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly,

I am writing in opposition to the bills AB100 and AB103, which seek to restrict Athlete's and Children's Transgender rights in Wisconsin.

I am born and raised in Wisconsin for nearly four decades, and this bill will adversely affect our state and communities within in untold ways. To put it plainly, these bills are the Republican party seeking to do legally harm a minority community, for no apparent reason other than the goal of causing harm. To borrow a phrase levied at then Senator McCarthy decades ago, 'Have you no decency?'

Of all the goals you could be focused on at this moment, you are choosing malice and pain towards students over quite literally any other form of support this state currently needs. Workers Rights, equitable tax distribution, equitable tax contributions, caring for the environment, to name but a few goals for the common good. Rather than take on any of that, well, here we are.

I will close by asking what other minority groups you would seek to hide from public view again because you feel irked by their existence? Why can we not just let our kids grow up and thrive?

In Opposition to AB100 and AB103 on March 6, 2025,

Bob Grabow
Madison, WI 53718

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 47 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive education free from harassment and discrimination.

I have 4 minor children of my own, all of whom have trans friends. The thing about these friends is they're only referred to as "trans friends" by adults. Kids at school simply call them friends, or teammates, or classmates. Kids in the neighborhood call them by the name they introduced themselves with and aren't bothered by using their friends' preferred pronouns. If our children can accept people just as they are, our government leaders should too. Please oppose these bills.

Sincerely,
Sara Milhans
Verona, WI 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education -

I am writing to oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 30 years overall. As a child, I attended public school in Stevens Point, and now my children are attending Madison Public Schools. While I am an active Quaker and Board member for the Tenant Resource Center, I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills. Trans children are not a danger to my children, and in fact have improved their educational experiences. Varied gender expression has made more space for my own kids to be who they are, and they know themselves better as they have grown up in an inclusive environment.

As I'm sure you'll hear in the hours of testimony before you, kids need to be able to live as their honest gender expression (including pronouns at school, and full participation in sports), or else face crushing depression and suicidality. The trans youth I have known - community members, friends of my kids - have gone through a period of suicidal ideation before stepping into themselves and living their lives fully. When I have seen these types of bills come before this committee in the past, I get the sense that legislators do not seem to care if these youth live or die. I do. I want them to live. I want Wisconsin law to tell them that they are free to be themselves.

It is astonishing to me that people believe that trans girls in sports endanger other girls. In fact, this is not the case. Because of gender dysmorphia, trans girls are the ones who least want to expose their unaltered bodies to other girls, and often hide or change separately. If this committee wishes to protect girls or youth generally in sports contexts, I suggest: stop asking about kids' genitals. Banning trans youth from any context makes it much more likely that adults will feel compelled to check children's genitals, which is a breathtaking safety risk for all children. In fact, children are much more likely to be sexually assaulted by a coach than by another athlete, trans or no. The NIH has a number of studies that speak to this, but one says, "that 0.5% of adolescents experienced sexual abuse involving a coach," and "When considering all adolescents who experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime (10.2%), it appears that 5.3% of them were victims of sexual abuse by a coach."

In truth, the schools have very little way to verify who is transgendered and who is cisgendered amongst the children that attend our schools, aside from self identification. Legislation such as this has little enforceable impact, and only serves to tell trans youth that they do not belong. I inherently oppose this stance.

If we are to protect both cisgendered and transgendered youth, the clear path forward is to oppose these bills. I ask this committee to show the youth across the state that they are safe from harassment and discrimination, and oppose these bills.

Sincerely,
Laura Dixson-Kruijf
Madison, WI 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived in Wisconsin for most of my adult life and work with children as a swim instructor. I'm writing on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, caring education free from harassment and discrimination. A dear family friend is a transgender high school athlete.

Thank you for considering my written comments.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Olajos
668 Harvest Lane
Verona, Wisconsin 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin all my life and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen and a parent.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, respectful education free from harassment and discrimination. They also have the right to participate in sports -- to stay healthy, be part of a team, and build confidence and self-esteem.

I have many transgender children in my circles, and they are the loveliest human beings. I can assure you that they do not pose a threat to anyone. They are silly and kind, funny and talented, imaginative and smart. They also struggle in similar ways to other kids -- worrying about friends and fitting in, how to achieve success, and make themselves and their parents proud. They are kids, just like any other kid -- just like the kids in your life, even.

Trans kids are struggling to get by, just like the rest of us, and they deserve a fair chance. Please give them that chance and oppose both of these bills.

Sincerely,
Maggie Fitzsimmons
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a trans athlete ban and AB103, restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 47 years, have served our community as a healthcare worker, foster parent and community volunteer, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all students, have the right to a supportive, caring, equal education free from harassment and discrimination.

Targeting children—who are just learning about themselves—is unethical—and teaches all children that their community in Wisconsin does not support its children for who they are. Trans and non-binary youth have a very high suicide rate (Four-times increased risk compared to cisgendered youth)—and trans youth of color are even more at risk (upwards of 33% increased risk). We need to do all we can to help all children survive their childhood and thrive—and limiting them from sports and using the correct names/pronouns is only going to hurt them. Using the correct names/pronouns and allowing them to participate in sports that align with their gender identity does not harm anyone and is life-saving for trans and non-binary youth. It is time to stand up and oppose these harmful bills. Please do the right things and save lives!

Sincerely,

Sara Janowski
Verona, WI 53593

Tomissa Freisleben

Regarding AB100 and AB103

My name is Tomissa Freisleben and I am a concerned mother of two and resident of Monona, Wisconsin. I am testifying on the abhorrent legislation in AB100 and AB103 to not allow trans children in the State of Wisconsin to participate in sports or use the pronouns of their preference.

Both of my children will attend public schools in Wisconsin in the coming years and since their birth, they have known, loved, and respected trans members within our community. By disallowing trans children from being called their preferred pronouns or participating in the sport that fits their gender identity will other those children and create an atmosphere that will be harmful for those individuals and create an unsafe environment for learning.

I am compelled to testify on this issue as trans children who are not given support and care within their educational communities are more likely to commit suicide, and as a parent, I cannot allow that to happen to my children, my children's classmates, or any child in Wisconsin.

I implore the Wisconsin State Assembly to vote against both AB 100 and AB 103 for the safety and welfare for Wisconsin students.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and thank you for reading my testimony.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the State Assembly Education Committee. My name is Maggie Meador and I reside in Viroqua 54665. I oppose AB 100. I've been a female athlete my entire life including receiving a scholarship to be a member of a division one college sports team. I always welcome the competition and never feel concern or a desire to question my fellow competitor's biological sex. (Not to mention that I regularly win when I compete against people of the opposite biological sex!) My gender non-conforming child has my athletic abilities and competitive nature and this bill will hinder their ability to participate in sports. It breaks my heart to think that my child will not have the same opportunities that I had. How do I explain this to them? All children deserve to play sports and reap the benefits that team athletics provides, without fear of an adult checking their genitalia to make sure they are on the "right" team. The news has already reported this disgusting scenario happening and we cannot allow situations like this in our state of Wisconsin.

I also oppose AB 103. This will affect many children in my local community who deserve the safe space at school to explore their gender identity. This bill will create situations in which children may be outed and will lead to increased bullying and violence. Suicide rates for these targeted children are staggeringly high. Choose to save children's lives and oppose this bill.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Elizabeth Male, and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Oregon, WI. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. This kind of legislation does nothing but alienate children and create a climate of fear rather than community.

Trans people of all ages are beloved, contributing members of our families and our communities across the state of Wisconsin. Instead of regressing to the stances and policies of the past, our state must continue Forward. As one of your constituents, I urge you to vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Male

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 11 years, have served our community as a dental hygienist, as a Girl Scout Troop leader for 7 years, as a parent to two teenagers, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, dignity-affirming, equal education free from harassment and discrimination.

Trans girls ARE girls. Trans boys ARE boys. Those who do not identify as either gender are human beings. They all deserve dignity, respect, and should have the right to participate in sports and live their lives in full view, and in full truth. Our job as parents and educators are to help them achieve this. Help us teach them that they don't have to hide. Help us teach them that it is always better to live, and live as yourself. Help us teach them that they belong.

Sincerely,
Gina Witt
Madison, WI 53717

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of The Assembly and Senate Committee,

I oppose the bills AB 100 and AB 103.

I am writing today, not to change minds of those who refuse to listen to Doctors and Scientists. I am here for the young boy afraid to share his pronouns or join football. I am here for the child who whispers their name only when they are alone because that is the only time it's safe. I am here for the teen girl who is terrified to try on a dress and wear it proudly to her prom. I am here for every child who does not receive the unconditional love and protection they deserve. My hope is that one Trans Child or Youth hears the support and love today, and stays on this earth to live safely and celebrate their joy in safety. I am here because love is greater than hate or fear.

To Ron Johnson, I hope the hell and god you believe in are in fact real, and on your judgement day he condemns every single act of hate you have initiated, inflicted or supported in your lifetime. You are a coward. If you want to protect kids, focus on gun laws. You want kids to be kids? Let them play sports. You deserve no mercy from your god. "Good people do not spend their time harassing marginalized communities."

Protect Trans Youth, this mom loves you.

Rachelle Balge
Middleton, WI 53562
She/Her/Hers

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

I am Brooke Walsh, a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. I am from Medford, Wisconsin, spent almost a decade in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and a year in Madison, Wisconsin. I've generally been a proud resident and Wisconsinite, however I am concerned about some bills targeting the transgender community that, quite frankly, are embarrassing. There are so many issues my fellow Wisconsinites are facing that would be a better use of your time and energy.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. I am a teacher and have been an athletic coach, and, again, there are many many issues that need your time and attention in education and athletics, but this is not one of them. All kids, trans kids included, deserve equitable opportunity, safety, and acceptance by all. These bills do not support that.

As one of your constituents, I urge you to vote against these proposed bills and to remain committed to moving Wisconsin "Forward" and not backwards.

Sincerely,

Brooke Walsh

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education -

I am writing to oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 30 years overall. As a child, I attended public school in Stevens Point, and now my children are attending Madison Public Schools. While I am an active Quaker and Board member for the Tenant Resource Center, I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills. Trans children are not a danger to my children, and in fact have improved their educational experiences. Varied gender expression has made more space for my own kids to be who they are, and they know themselves better as they have grown up in an inclusive environment.

As I'm sure you'll hear in the hours of testimony before you, kids need to be able to live as their honest gender expression (including pronouns at school, and full participation in sports), or else face crushing depression and suicidality. The trans youth I have known - community members, friends of my kids - have gone through a period of suicidal ideation before stepping into themselves and living their lives fully. When I have seen these types of bills come before this committee in the past, I get the sense that legislators do not seem to care if these youth live or die. I do. I want them to live. I want Wisconsin law to tell them that they are free to be themselves.

It is astonishing to me that people believe that trans girls in sports endanger other girls. In fact, this is not the case. Because of gender dysmorphia, trans girls are the ones who least want to expose their unaltered bodies to other girls, and often hide or change separately. If this committee wishes to protect girls or youth generally in sports contexts, I suggest: stop asking about kids' genitals. Banning trans youth from any context makes it much more likely that adults will feel compelled to check children's genitals, which is a breathtaking safety risk for all children. In fact, children are much more likely to be sexually assaulted by a coach than by another athlete, trans or no. The NIH has a number of studies that speak to this, but one says, "that 0.5% of adolescents experienced sexual abuse involving a coach," and "When considering all adolescents who experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime (10.2%), it appears that 5.3% of them were victims of sexual abuse by a coach."

In truth, the schools have very little way to verify who is transgendered and who is cisgendered amongst the children that attend our schools, aside from self identification. Legislation such as this has little enforceable impact, and only serves to tell trans youth that they do not belong. I inherently oppose this stance.

If we are to protect both cisgendered and transgendered youth, the clear path forward is to oppose these bills. I ask this committee to show the youth across the state that they are safe from harassment and discrimination, and oppose these bills.

Sincerely,
Laura Dixson-Kruijf
Madison, WI 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived in Wisconsin for most of my adult life and work with children as a swim instructor. I'm writing on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, caring education free from harassment and discrimination. A dear family friend is a transgender high school athlete.

Thank you for considering my written comments.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Olajos
668 Harvest Lane
Verona, Wisconsin 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

As a citizen of Wisconsin, a woman, and a mother, I oppose Assembly Bill 100 (K-12 trans athlete ban) and Assembly Bill 103 (denying preferred names & pronouns). Transgender youth deserve the same privacy and rights as cisgender youth. There are no grounds for claiming the trans community is a threat from which society needs protection. Bills restricting their activities and denying the use of their chosen names/pronouns are unwarranted, cruel, and unjust. They only cause harm. Do not pass these bills. Stop these attacks on the trans community. Let them live with the dignity and freedom every person deserves.

Lynn Matzke
Cudahy, WI 53110

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hi,

I am a Wisconsin parent of two boys. When I was a kid, I tried desperately to fit in. Sometimes I wanted to be cool, sometimes I just didn't want to get made fun of, and sometimes I just wanted to blend in. I was like a lot of kids.

My parents loved me. They supported me and gave me lots of opportunities. Even with that love, I didn't always feel comfortable telling them everything, at least not at first (like when I knew I was doing poorly in a class at school, when I crashed my car, when I started dating someone new, etc). But, eventually I would share most of these things with them, because I knew they loved me. I just needed time to figure out how I was feeling about it first and how I wanted to bring it up. I think lots of kids go through this.

If we want kids to be open with parents and heed our advice, we can't legislate the procedures by which these uncomfortable topics must be shared. As a parent, being patient often allows me to hear the most honest story from my own kids and creates a space where they are most open to my opinions.

I think AB100 and AB103 will ultimately make these difficult situations harder for parents to navigate. Kids will be less likely to share how they are feeling with their parents and will be less likely to hear and follow their parents' wisdom.

Please support Wisconsin families and Wisconsin parents and Vote NO.

Em Stocke

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

As a Wisconsin resident and mother of two, I am strongly opposed to AB 100 and AB 103. These bills are not about fairness or good governance—they are political attempts to control and shame children.

AB 100 targets transgender youth by banning them from participating in school sports in a way that aligns with their identity. It isolates kids, strips them of opportunities for belonging, and increases the risk of mental health struggles. No child should be told they don't belong simply because of who they are.

AB 103 puts students at risk by forcing schools to disclose personal information about a child's gender identity—regardless of whether it places them in danger at home. This kind of forced outing has real-world consequences, potentially pushing children into unsafe environments and cutting them off from support systems they trust.

Putting aside the ethical implications, Wisconsin legislators should be focused on ensuring that all children feel safe, supported, and able to thrive in school—rather than imposing uniform policies that undermine local educators and administrators, who are best equipped to address the unique needs of their students and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Grace Bernier
9616 W Montana Ave.
West Allis, WI 53227

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee on Education

I am Rev. Dr. Julia Burkey of Madison, Wisconsin and I oppose AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns). My Christian values teach me that youth and children having the support to flourish in body and spirit is essential for a life well lived. Banning trans children from K-12 sports is death-dealing discrimination and I ask that you prayerfully consider pushing against this moment of discrimination and supporting trans youth in playing sports, as well as using proper pronouns and names to reflect the truth of each individual.

Targeting Trans kids is the awful fad of the moment- a hateful way of targeting such a small population of vulnerable young people who are just trying to live their lives. From a faith based perspective, every human being, no matter their gender (race, ethnicity, economic status, sexuality) deserves fairness and an opportunity to thrive. Every human being is made in the image of God- even and especially trans youth. Even if you don't agree with their choices, it is still our duty in Wisconsin to create opportunities for all people to thrive. Executive orders are not laws and the banning trans kids from playing sports is a very sad and unfair thing to do. I prayerfully ask that you reconsider your choice and use this moment to go against the grain to support all people, including trans kids.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed anti-transgender legislation AB100/AB103 currently under consideration in Wisconsin. As a former school social worker who served our youth, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges and struggles that transgender and non-binary students face in our schools and communities.

The impact of this legislation on the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in Wisconsin cannot be overstated. In my role, I have seen how critical it is for students to feel accepted and supported in their identities. Anti-trans legislation sends a damaging message that these students are not valued and that their experiences are invalid. This can lead to increased feelings of isolation, anxiety, and depression among young people who are already vulnerable and disproportionately affected by mental health issues.

Moreover, restricting access to necessary supports, such as gender-affirming healthcare and inclusive educational environments, threatens not only the well-being of transgender youth but also their academic success. When students do not feel safe or accepted at school, their ability to learn and thrive is significantly compromised. It has been well-documented that supportive environments lead to better mental health outcomes, higher academic achievement, and overall improved quality of life for LGBTQ+ youth.

Legislation that seeks to undermine the rights of transgender individuals does not reflect the values of inclusivity and respect that we should uphold as a society. Instead of further marginalizing these young people, I urge you to consider policies that promote understanding, acceptance, and equality.

As a committed advocate for the well-being of all students, I implore you to reject any anti-trans legislation and to support measures that foster a safe and supportive environment for every child in Wisconsin, regardless of their gender identity.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I hope you will stand with the youth of our state and support their right to exist authentically and with dignity.

Sincerely,

Margaret Danielson
Wausau, WI 54403

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Senate Committee on March 6th 10am,

I implore you to not pass bills AB100 and AB103. I oppose both of these bills as this will impact students and their sense of self.

Regarding bill AB103, Students allowing to choose their pronouns and preferred name is no different than allowing students with formal names going by a nickname. A chosen name and/or pronouns allows students to have a better sense of self and identity in the classroom. This should not be prohibitive to what the parents allow. Parents may provide a given name, a birth name, but nicknames and other names come organically. School is hard enough as it is, why would you make a child go by their birth name if they don't want to?

Regarding bill AB100, let the students play! Trans women and girls hinder no other cis women and girls from playing a sport. When I went to Oak Creek High School, I played tennis. The only thing I cared about at that time was enjoying playing the game and was competitive about it. I would have played with anyone who would have played with me. Many school sports are team sports. Let's foster community and let trans women and girls play sports if they do choose. Let's let students play for the love of the game.

Cayla Dobbertin
Greenfield, WI 53221

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Greetings,

I would like to voice my opposition to two anti-trans bills here in Wisconsin. The bills are AB100 and AB103.

Several years ago, I started to notice that people were using their preferred pronouns. As someone born female who presents as a stereotypical female, I did not understand it. I thought it was obvious that I would be a she or a her. But then I educated myself. I started to understand that gender wasn't always about how you look on the outside, but how you feel about yourself on the inside.

I also educated myself on why I should share my preferred pronouns with others. It means that I'm a safe person who respects others. It says to someone, "I support who you are and you matter as a human being." by sharing that I prefer she/her as my pronouns.

Research shows that LGBTQ+ youth are at much higher risk of suicide and self-harm than heterosexual youth, and that is particularly true for trans kids. We should be doing all that we can to make them feel loved and safe. Kids just want to be accepted by those around them — this includes trans kids.

Any bill designed to single them out creates more harm for these kids and puts them in danger. Why are we creating bills that only serve to harm vulnerable people when we could be using that energy to create something that helps others?

Please register my opposition to these anti-trans bills.

Stephanie Beirne
Verona, WI 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am a retired teacher, commenting on Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. It is a basic human right to be able to participate in sports, and it is a basic human courtesy to call people by the name they choose to be called. I find it shameful that adults would pass bills to deny these rights and courtesies to trans youth for their own political gain. Please don't do that!

--

Donna Rosinski
Fitchburg, 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the assembly,

I urge you to oppose bill AB100/ AB103. By restricting trans youth from participating in sports and using chosen pronouns in schools you are only helping further discrimination against trans people. This bill is harmful, degrading, and unethical. As a trans wisconsinite myself, I need you to understand that if this bill passes we come that much closer to fascism, genocide, and suffering on a global scale. These are children. They deserve to have a safe place to grow and be themselves. They deserve to play sports with their friends. Trans kids deserve to become trans adults. I have been a resident of Wisconsin for 10 years now and I love this state. I love our Midwestern hospitality and friendly natures. I want this state to stay vibrant, safe, and welcoming for everyone. Trans people most of all. Leave the kids alone. Do not comply in advance to the horrid decrees Trump is trying to force. Protect the people that live here - all of us. You have the choice of being on the right side of history. Protect trans kids. Protect trans adults. We deserve so much better.

Best,

Ori O'Malley

Milwaukee

53202

(They/ Them/ Theirs)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Jade Potter, of Madison, WI 53704, and I oppose both bills AB100 and AB103. Wisconsin students all deserve to participate, and are all deserving of respect of their personhood. I am grateful that the community I have lived in for 20 years (some of those years as a student) has respected mine as a trans person.

Thank you.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee on Education, my name is Susan Zimbric and I live in the Village of Rib Mountain. I am writing to express my opposition to AB 100 and AB 103. As a mother of 2 daughters, a xc skier and fan of soccer and family physician, I am well aware of the myriad benefits available to participants in organized youth sports. If these bills were to pass there is a high likelihood that girls would most often be the ones that would lose the opportunity to play.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

I am writing in opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103. I am a nurse practitioner and certified nurse-midwife and have worked with many transgender patients and provided education and training to staff on transgender healthcare throughout my career. Additionally, I count a number of transgender individuals as dear friends.

It is well established among major medical organizations that gender affirming care is life saving care. Often one of the first steps a transgender individual takes towards gender affirmation is using pronouns and/or a name that aligns with their gender. Perhaps you have never known a transgender individual, perhaps you have never seen the joy and relief when their most basic request about their bodily autonomy is respected and honored. Perhaps also, you have never seen the harm it can do to be denied this respect. I ask you to consider how it would feel for you to be called by a name or pronoun that does not align with your personal sense of who you are - it is no different for transgender folks.

In a perfect world all transgender youth would find love and support from their parents, sadly this is not the world we live in and by requiring educators to deny the identity of their students without explicit parental consent, this bill creates an unnecessary barrier to teacher student trust, student learning and has the potential to cause even greater harm. School may be the only safe place for a student to be out as transgender. Are you aware that transgender youth have higher rates of suicidality than their cisgender peers? Are you also aware that this difference in rates drops dramatically when they are able to live in alignment with their gender?

For all of the reasons listed above I also oppose the restriction of transgender youth from participating in sports that align with their gender. Passing a bill to ban a very small percentage of students from enjoying the experience and opportunities that school sports provide seems unnecessarily cruel. Furthermore, determining the students eligibility for sports based upon "biological sex" bases the law on the false premise that biological sex is easily defined and falls into a binary.

It is my contention that our state legislature could be spending their valuable time and energy addressing issues that support and strengthen the youth of Wisconsin, rather than singling out and stigmatizing a small, already marginalized subset with these bills.

I urge you to side with respect, with bodily autonomy, with safety, and with joy by opposing the passage of Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

Thank You,
Cate Guggino
Madison, WI 53704

Molly Vande Slunt

Regarding Assembly Committee on Education and proposed bills AB100 and AB103

March 5th, 2025

My name is Molly Vande Slunt and I'm a concerned resident of Wisconsin.

I am testifying against the proposed bills limiting children's identity and participation in school and sports. I'm not a parent myself, but I care deeply for the children within my family and social circles and in general.

These bills are not only a waste of the legislature's time, but extremely harmful to children and their development. There are no proven risks of letting children who identify as trans or gender nonconforming playing in sports that don't match their assigned gender at birth, nor letting them have control over their name and pronouns in a school setting. There are however, plenty of documented risks in preventing these children from living their authentic lives. Roughly 1% of children in the state identify as transgender or gender nonconforming, while rates of suicide are exponential among trans youth with roughly 44% seriously considering and/or attempting suicide.

To claim that transgender youth pose a serious risk to other children is an absolute farce, proven within the language of the bills themselves. For example AB100 only references children assigned male at birth being prohibited from competing with girls or entering a girls locker room. There's no mention of children assigned female at birth entering male sports or locker rooms and no acknowledgement of gender nonconformity or nonbinary children. These bills are written with extreme ignorance, bigotry, and lack of understanding of the actual children it targets.

These bills are ambiguous and are unenforceable. They open up children, whether cis or trans to harassment from adults and put an undue strain on already limited teacher and administrative resources. Instead of this faux moral outrage, I would prefer the law makers, whose salary is funded by my tax dollars, focus on real proven issues facing school children. Roughly 16% of our children face food insecurity which is proven to impact development. 59% of high school students in Wisconsin report facing at least one major mental health challenge over a 12 month period, with another 18% seriously considering suicide. Wisconsin has a huge teacher retention problem, with 4 out of 10 first year teachers leaving the state or profession altogether within 6 years. Quality teachers and teacher/student ratios are another proven metric contributing to the health and well-being of our children. Wisconsin school children face many challenges. Their transgender friends and peers are not one of them.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am submitting my testimony today as a Milwaukee resident and constituent of Wisconsin. I have lived here for 31 years of my life and during this time, I have been proud to recognize our great state as a safe and affirming place for many queer and transgender individuals to live. I also work in both research ethics and give much of my free time advocating for women's reproductive rights. I am submitting my written testimony against Assembly Bills 100 & 103 that was proposed during the Assembly Committee Meeting on March 6th.

I strongly oppose both AB 100 & 103 that seek to limit trans girls from school sports and require adult "permission" to use different names and pronouns within the school setting, respectively.

AB100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your non-transgender constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. I stand in solidarity with these members of my community and vehemently oppose these bills that are meant to deny their rights as human beings. I have known many kind, gracious, and generous trans individuals in my lifetime and consider them friends, my family, and my chosen family. They have been there for me through some of the most painful moments of my life, and it would behoove me to not stand for them now as they have for me in the past.

Many of these bills have been submitted to the courts under the guise of "protecting women and girls", AB 100 is no exception. I do not, nor have ever, felt at risk due to the presence of a transgender individual in any restroom, locker room, public space, or sports team. If men, or any individual who wishes to harm students, will do so as they have historically: as themselves and because they believe they have the right to violate someone else's privacy and autonomy. Trans girls (who these bills unjustly target) are not the problem, adult predators concerned about the supposed genitalia of a child are.

These are all the same fear mongering tactics utilized in the early aughts regarding gay and lesbian access to locker rooms and bathrooms. We've done this before, do we really need to do this moral panic again? If we give an inch regarding transgender children, national movements to limit gender affirming care, marriage rights, adoption, and even public life will be made. This will affect not just trans people but LGBTQ+ community as a whole and we will be systematically legislated out of existence under the guise of "protecting women".

If you so desperately want to protect women, propose stronger sentences for sexual assault and rape. If you want to protect women, promote complete and scientifically-based sexual education. If you want to protect women, do more to protect access to affordable healthcare for mothers and programs like WIC and SNAP programs that keep them fed. If you want to protect women, advocate for comprehensive, scientific reproductive healthcare and research- including access to abortion.

If you want to protect women, allow trans girls the safety and opportunity to become trans women.

AB 103 seeks to limit trans girls and children from making autonomous decisions about themselves and their identity and the most crucial time of their development. Legislation such as this will put more children at risk from abuse at home and exacerbate worse mental health outcomes, including suicide. A sense of belonging, that can be achieved by simple expressions of compassion like utilizing chosen names and pronouns, is one of the largest protective factors against trans youth suicide. Students deserve to learn in a place where they feel safe, accepted, heard, and seen for who they are and who they will become. Instead, these laws seek to further alienate them and legislate them out of existence.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist despite these efforts. Nothing will erase the beautiful variation of the human experience, especially that of trans people. To enact these bills is to enact violence on trans people. As representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Grace Robinson

ZIP: 53212

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill on restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived in Wisconsin for thirteen years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen. I strongly oppose these bills as trans children and youth, like all youth, have the right to a safe and inclusive education and learning space, free from harassment and discrimination.

I have personally witnessed the positive growth and changes in my best friend's child, who two and a half years ago advised they identify as non-binary with the pronouns they/ them. This child, within their own merit and direction, found their authentic self through expressing their preferred identifying pronouns. This child is fortunate enough to have the unwavering support of their parents and community. This child has blossomed into a confident individual filled with creativity, empathy, and love. All this child, and all non-binary/ transgender children and youth, deserve is the freedom and right to live as their authentic selves. Not all children and youth have this level of support, and it is bills such as AB100 and AB103 that stifle growth and the opportunity to learn and support this unique and beautiful community.

These bills are drafted from a place of fear and lack of education... The facts and statistics do not align with the gross mistruths being shared by the current administration. By implementing bills such as AB100 and AB103, (we) are opening the door for targeted discrimination, harassment, and the inequitable opportunity to exist in what should be a safe space as a child/ youth: educational facilities and community spaces.

Sincerely,
Katherine Jacobson Smith
Fish Creek, WI 54212

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill on restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived in Wisconsin for thirteen years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen. I strongly oppose these bills as trans children and youth, like all youth, have the right to a safe and inclusive education and learning space, free from harassment and discrimination.

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Sincerely,
Katherine Jacobson Smith
Fish Creek, WI 54212

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Rufus Jupiter, and I am a resident of Vernon County in Wisconsin. I was born in Wisconsin and have lived here for 35 years, in both urban and rural locales. I am writing you today in opposition of Bills AB100 and AB103.

I am a 43 year old, nonbinary transmasculine person. I identify neither as male nor as female, and I use they/them pronouns since that is the language that feels comfortable to me. As a young person growing up in the 1980s and 1990s, there was not widespread language to describe people whose gender was other than binary male or female. There were no visible, out LGBTQ+ individuals in my life and few in the public eye who I could look to for guidance. I lived a childhood feeling no true sense of who I was as a person (although I was told by others who I was all the time). By the time I was an adult, I was diagnosed with severe anxiety and depression; I felt lost and worthless, unseen, unknown to anyone, even myself.

It took until my mid- 30s for language to appear in the mainstream dialogue that accurately mirrored who I was. As transgender people and people on the gender spectrum became more visible in the public eye, I began to recognize myself. My anxiety and depression fell away as I finally began to understand and claim my identity.

Today, while visibility of LGBTQ+ folks has expanded greatly, we face a future of uncertainty and fear. How is it, in this country where individual liberties are a supposed right of all citizens, that members of my community still fight for the privilege of being accepted for who we are? AB100 and AB103 are deplorable bills that target a tiny, very vulnerable population of youth. These are bills that directly tell the youth in question that who they are, deep down in their core being, is fundamentally wrong. These are bills, made by grown adults, that purposefully and loudly shame, invalidate, and ridicule children. AB100 specifically singles out transgender youth (who likely are already misunderstood or bullied by peers) and prevents them from participating in healthy extracurricular activities on teams that match their true sense of self. AB103 encourages the shaming and outing of children in school, a setting that should be safe for all children. Research consistently shows a disproportionately high rate of suicide risk for queer and transgender youth. How will these cruel bills be reflected in those numbers, if they happen to move forward?

I am writing to implore you to vote NO on Bills AB100 and AB103. If passed, these bills will further anti- trans, anti- LGBTQ+ sentiment in this country. As someone who has lived a life that society has deemed again and again to be devoid of worth (until I decide to "be" someone I am not), I can tell you that every piece of legislation that advances these restrictive views will cost lives. At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin.

As grown adults, it is our responsibility to protect children by seeing them and caring for them as they are, as they truly know themselves to be, and for standing up for those brave children who are just trying to authentically express themselves in a society that tells them they shouldn't exist.

Sincerely,
Rufus Jupiter
Viroqua, WI 54665

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing to ask you to vote no on Assembly Bill 100. There are many options for meeting the needs of student athletes. I ask you to respectfully let each school district determine how those individual needs will be met within their own district and community. Let local school boards exercise discretion and do their jobs. It is not necessary for the State of Wisconsin to weigh in on this. Better that you look at ensuring food for hungry children than take time and space on this issue.

I am also asking you to unequivocally reject Assembly Bill 103 on the use of personal pronouns and names. You waste the precious time of school personnel and interfere with family and individual preferences by creating an unnecessary bill. School children have had nicknames since the creation of the first public school in America. A State bill is an unnecessary intrusion. Again, let local school boards and administrators do their jobs and be responsive to parents and community.

Thank you
Tamara Sharp
McFarland WI 53558

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Aleeh Schwoerer and I am a resident of Madison, WI 53704.

I am writing today to ask you to oppose Assembly Bill 100 and 103.

These bills directly harm trans students who are trying to do what any other child wants to do: be themselves, express themselves, and participate in sports.

Schools should not be a place where trans children are targeted because of their identity. It should be a place where they get to craft their identity just as any of their peers do.

These bills do not erase the identities of these students. It ostracizes them and prevents them from fully participating in what the school system is supposed to offer every student. Additionally, they are based in false information and myths about trans individuals.

Oppose these bills and protect trans students in Wisconsin.

Thank you,

Aleeh Schwoerer
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

I'm writing to express my opposition to AB100 and AB103 and to any bill that would prohibit people from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity, or any bill that would prohibit trans students from using the name and pronouns they identify with in schools.

As a high school teacher for 26 years, I have seen firsthand how transgender youth can flourish when they are able to embrace their full identity, as well as the damage done when youth are shamed for being themselves. Anyone interested in student well-being would oppose bills that target transgender youth for persecution.

AB100 and AB103 violate the right to privacy and the right to bodily autonomy, they are damaging to youth mental health, and I urge you to oppose them both.

Sincerely,
Ms. Brenda Morris
3149 Buena Vista St.
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 10 years, serve our community as a professor of human development and family studies and family medicine and community health, and I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive and caring education free from harassment and discrimination.

Research supports the importance of respecting the identity of children and youth and treating them with dignity. Our state has concerning levels of mental health challenges, which passing these bills would only worsen. Please invest in programs and policies that can support youth well-being instead of these bills that would take us in the wrong direction.

The discriminatory practices put forth in these bills ultimately will harm all of our children by teaching them to practice prejudice. Please vote 'no' on AB100 and AB103 to show ALL our community members they matter.

Sincerely,
Larissa Duncan,
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Rachel Zidon, and I am a middle level educator in Oregon, Wisconsin. I am writing to urge you to oppose any further advancement of Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. All my students, and all Wisconsin youth, deserve to be called what they want to be called. My trans students simply want to be themselves, and I know both from personal experience with students and from research, that introducing these bills causes psychological harm and increases risk of self-harm and suicidal ideation. Targeting vulnerable students does nothing to make our state better. I would urge you to use your time and political power to instead properly fund our schools rather than taking actions that will explicitly harm students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Zidon
Oregon, WI 53575

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the State of Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

I oppose the proposed bills assembly bills 100 and 103 regarding athletic sports and the sex of participants and changing a pupil's legal name and pronouns. I personally know a transgender girl who is just now entering the Madison public school system and it saddens me to know that the authors of these bills seem to deny her very existence and attempt to limit her future ability to participate in essential activities like school sports and use her preferred pronouns.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, advocacy and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. Transgender athletes have for many years been beneficial parts of teams throughout Wisconsin.

Transgender and nonbinary youth athletes play sports for the exact same reasons as other students their age: Staying healthy, being part of a team, and fostering friendships—all lifelong benefits of playing a sport.

There is no scientific root in the assertion that individuals should be referred to by pronouns tied to their biological sex. The research predominately shows that denying the a child's self-identified gender has negative outcomes later in life, including a higher risk of suicide. Intersex people, despite clearly not conforming, biologically, to either binary sex, are not accounted for by these pronouns. Legally defining gendered pronouns as being tied to biological sex, then, since not based in science, must be based in arbitrary values. I do not believe these are the values of community, and I believe are informed by the fringe religious beliefs of a vocal minority, which have no place in our laws and schools.

Thank you,
Zackary Brewer
Resident and Voter
Madison, Wisconsin

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee,

I write to voice firm opposition to Assembly Bill 100, and Assembly Bill 103, which I understand will be discussed in hearing on 6 March 2025 at the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Fundamentally, these bills reduce the human experience to one's sex determined at birth, as if we have no capacity to experience the world and grow into individuals thereafter.

Denying people the agency to live their truth - be it using the name they want to be called, or the gender they embody - flies in the face of the fundamental unalienable right to Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness described in the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence. Moreover, composing and debating over these bills sends a hateful and cruel message to a targeted group of people, at a vulnerable age, with potentially deadly consequences.

Further, these bills place an unfair burden - to police a student's birth certificate, body and identity - on educators and administrators. Surely this is NOT a good use of educators' time and energy.

I hope that compassion for Wisconsin children and educators will prevail in your discussions tomorrow.

name: Lyric Bartholomay
city: Madison
zipcode: 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Catherine Maxwell. I am a resident of Amherst WI (54406) and the concerned mother of four Wisconsin students, one of whom is a member of the LGBTQ community. While I am unable to attend this hearing in person, I want to express that I strongly oppose AB100 and AB103, which unfairly target transgender students in Wisconsin. Trans youth make up a small fraction of the student population, yet these bills single them out for exclusion and discrimination. Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and included at school. Denying trans students the ability to participate in sports and be addressed by their preferred name and pronouns does nothing to solve real issues in education—it only creates more harm. Schools should be a place of learning and growth, not political attacks on vulnerable kids. I urge legislators to reject these harmful bills and support policies that foster acceptance and equality for all students.

Please reject AB100 and AB103 and focus on policies that truly support Wisconsin students by improving educational outcomes and creating a more inclusive learning environment.

Respectfully,
Catherine Maxwell

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly on 03/06/2025, at the Wisconsin state capital,

My name is Brendan Miller. I live in Kenosha WI, 53142, and I oppose bills AB100 and AB103.

I am a transgender man, 32 years old, and blessed to have made it this far. I've lived in Wisconsin my whole life, and in the rural town of Clinton, WI where I grew up, I'd never heard of transgender people and simply thought I was broken. I went to therapy and inpatient hospitals for my crippling anxiety and depression, not understanding why I felt the way I did. Eventually I attempted to take my own life. I am now out as a transgender man and I am happy and at peace at last. I know in my heart that if I had the language that kids today have, and was accepted for who I was back then with the support of my teachers and classmates, I wouldn't have felt so hopeless and alone. By taking this support and these safe spaces to have fun with their friends from these kids, you are effectively isolating them, especially if school is their only means of finding that support. The suicide rate in trans youth is so high because of these kinds of bills that you are pushing. Taking away our autonomy and safety won't make us go away. We have always existed and will continue to exist. I simply hope we can protect our youth from going through this alone without support, trans lives matter and their loss is a tragedy we should all want to prevent.

Thank you for your time,
Brendan Miller

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Alex Erickson, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. As a trans adult, I am scared. I am scared for the future and I am scared for all the young trans kids figuring out who they are. School was a safe space for me, it still is. School can be and IS a safe space for so many young trans kids who don't receive support at home.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Alex Erickson

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

I am Daniel Michael from Mount Horeb, zip code 53572, and I oppose bills AB 103 and AB 100.

For AB 103, giving parents or guardians power to prevent their children from using their desired name and pronouns at school is putting salt in the wound. While it may seem a reasonable bill on paper, these children are not always safe in their homes. This bill would extend the control of transphobic parents and guardians beyond the home, robbing these children of the freedom of being themselves.

For AB 100, this bill is massively unfair and discriminatory to both transgender and cisgender athletes. Trans athletes are simply trying to gain the same sense of belonging as their cisgender peers. This bill alienates them from that belonging in numerous ways, including spiteful reports from their own peers. It would also create privacy concerns for cisgender people by requiring invasive questions and body inspection for all athletes.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Susie Seidelman, and I am writing from Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211. I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB 100 and AB 103. I have called Wisconsin my home for all of my 44 years, and as someone who cares deeply about the well-being of all Wisconsinites, I cannot stand by while legislation threatens the health, safety, and dignity of transgender and gender non-conforming members of our community.

I believe every person deserves respect and the opportunity to live an authentic life. These bills would harm transgender youth by denying them the basic right to participate in school sports, use locker rooms that align with their gender, and have their chosen names and pronouns recognized in educational settings. As a result, these students would be singled out, stigmatized, and exposed to increased discrimination.

On a personal level, I have witnessed how affirming my transgender family member's identity transforms their confidence and sense of belonging. Supporting young people's ability to live as their authentic selves not only fosters a safer environment for them but creates a more inclusive, understanding community for everyone. Denying them these rights sends the message that they do not deserve the same opportunities as their peers—which is simply not true and runs counter to our shared Wisconsin values.

Our state should be a place where fairness and equality guide our policies. According to numerous studies, transgender people, especially youth, already face disproportionately high rates of bullying, depression, and self-harm. Legislation like AB 100 and AB 103 would only exacerbate those challenges. When schools and communities support transgender students, we see higher graduation rates and improved mental health outcomes, benefiting all of us in the long term.

I ask you to reject AB 100 and AB 103. Let's ensure our state continues to move toward greater acceptance, respecting the fundamental rights and human dignity of all Wisconsinites. I urge you to oppose these bills and stand with every community member in Wisconsin—especially our transgender youth—who deserves safety, respect, and opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susie Seidelman, Shorewood, WI 53211, Opposing AB 100 and AB 103

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Brittney Koerner-Wrench, and I am a resident of Brown County in Green Bay, WI. I've lived in Wisconsin since 2003 and have been an advocate for, as well as a part of, the LGBTQ minority for as long as I can remember. Even growing up in a small town I knew the importance of living as your most authentic self and helping to support others to do so as well. I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills AB100 and AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to these bills because children of any minority, background, and gender identity have the right to be themselves without the risk of judgement and harassment. These bills risk these children not being able to have the same opportunities as any other child gets to have in their day to day school experience all due to simply expressing themselves in a different way. The way someone expresses their gender identity does not and will never be a threat to anyone. The only threat is when we take away that freedom and suppress people's rights simply for someone else's "comfort".

AB100

Sports should be a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for such hatred in my community.

AB103

This bill takes the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are. Their identity is not a threat to anyone and never will be.

I hope you will support our children of all gender orientations and let them have the right to express their inner selves the way that brings the most comfort to themselves, not for others who it will have no effect on at the end of the day.

Sincerely,
Brittney Koerner-Wrench

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Jennifer Smith, resident of Madison Wisconsin (53714). I'm writing in opposition of bills AB 100 and AB103. These bills are anti trans discrimination with no scientific underpinning and carry the potential for harmful and possibly fatal consequences.

First, trans athletes in sports. Believing and perpetuating myths and misconceptions about trans athletes is harmful. Denying trans people the right to participate is discrimination and it doesn't just hurt trans people, it hurts all of us, including cis women.

Second, forcibly out transgender students could threaten their well-being, and we already know that LGBTQ+ young people are not inherently prone to suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity but rather placed at higher risk because of how they are mistreated and stigmatized in society.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people aged 10 to 14, and the third leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022). Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) young people are at significantly increased risk.

LGBTQ+ young people are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers (Johns et al., 2019; Johns et al., 2020).

The Trevor Project estimates that more than 1.8 million LGBTQ+ young people (ages 13-24) seriously consider suicide each year in the U.S. — and at least one attempts suicide every 45 seconds. (<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/>)

Please vote no on these discriminatory and harmful bills.

Jennifer Smith
Madison WI 53714

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Mary Van De Loo and I live at 1208 S. Matthias Street in Appleton, Wisconsin.

I am writing to express my opposition to Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Please file my comments in the records for both hearings.

I am asking that in the best interest of youth in Wisconsin that you oppose these bills. As a former athlete (and member of my high school Athletic Hall of Fame), I know what an important role sports can be for youth. To be restrictive in accepting students is closeminded. ALL students need the opportunity to play, and this includes transgender students. Allow these children to play and use locker rooms that align with their gender. Trust their parents and current medical professionals. All children need to be accepted and encouraged to compete.

Further, to not allow students to use their preferred name is reprehensible. All members of society have the right to be called what they wish, and to take this away from students within the context of their education is nothing short of cruel. It is a way to close the door on students, not allowing them to be their full selves.

If you want children to thrive in Wisconsin, please do not pass AB 100 or AB 103.

Thank you,

Mary Van De Loo
1208 S. Matthias Street
Appleton, WI 54915

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 39 years, all my life. I participated in sports through my entire K-12 education, as well as supported them while attending UW-Whitewater, was a teacher in Madison for ages pre-K through 8th grade for 8 years. Now I support women and Marginalized gendered entrepreneurs by co-founding and leading a state-wide organization called Doyenne. Today, I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen and not on behalf of Doyenne.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, equal, inclusive, and caring education free from harassment and discrimination.

The continued attack on trans youth, and all from the LGBTQIA+ community, is deplorable. We have heard testimony from NCAA leadership, and public records that show these attacks target a very small percentage of the actual population and have almost zero confirmed cases where these items are in fact problems happening within our schools.

We know that the majority of Americans support LGBTQIA+ rights, so why are you continuing to go against constituents beliefs and wishes?

We also know that LGBTQIA+, especially Trans youth, have the highest suicide rates of any population. Are these bills worth even one child taking their own life when we know the results of passing the bills will affect less than 1% of the population?

I ask you to reconsider. I ask for you to do the humane and right thing of opposing these bills.

Sincerely,
Heather W
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Liz Anderson and I live in Madison (zip 53703)

Everyone deserves to participate in sports and be themselves at school, but these pieces of legislation would prevent trans youth from doing so on the basis of their gender. Our Constitution clearly states that we are all equals yet before us we see legislation purports otherwise.

Even if these bills don't become law, their introduction alone has proven harmful. A 2022 survey found that 85% of trans and nonbinary youth report that facing ongoing political attacks has been detrimental to their mental health, according to the Trevor Project. The effect does not end with just the youth in our state either. This continual stream of bills against the trans community invalidates the experience of state residents. In any other context the words and actions of the authors of these bills would be considered bullying and potentially harassment as we as a community have consistently asked you to stop. Asked you to treat us with respect. Asked you to have compassion from those different from you.

So I am writing to ask you to please stop targeting the trans community with bills that restrict the rights of people in this state.

I request that bills Assembly Bill 100 (K-12 trans athlete ban) and Assembly Bill 103 (denying preferred names & pronouns) not be permitted to move forward in the process.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 3.5 years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an equal, inclusive, and supportive education free from harassment and discrimination.

As a parent and as the family member of a gender-nonconforming student in the Wisconsin education system, I am deeply concerned for the safety and fairness afforded to students who simply want to be themselves, explore educational and athletic opportunities, and enjoy their childhoods.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Sveen
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 10 years years, and currently serve our community as an educator and doula. I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a caring, welcoming and affirming education in Wisconsin schools, free from harassment and discrimination.

These bills target trans children and youth and do not support students. If, as a committee on education, you care about all students then you should not single out trans students to discriminate against. In the end, trans kids are just kids and if you believe in all kids, you should believe in trans kids too. They deserve fair and equal treatment just like every child in Wisconsin schools.

Sincerely,
Jamie Hawkins
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Margaret Schnell, I am a Wisconsin constituent and voter, and I live in Madison. I am submitting written testimony against Assembly bills 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on 3/6.

AB 100 AND 103 are, frankly, a low and cowardly attempt to bully children in order to score political points. These bills would subject vulnerable trans kids to alienation and create a climate of fear that would harm all children. All kids deserve a sense of belonging, within their school, their community, and on a team playing sports, if they so choose.

As one of your constituents, I implore you in the strongest possible terms to vote against both these bills. I played girls sports for a decade, from age 8 to 18. If you've ever loved to play, or even loved to watch sports, you know that what truly matters is the people. The comradery of a team, knowing people you wouldn't otherwise get to, working toward a shared goal, learning perseverance and how handle both defeat and victory - all kids deserve these opportunities.

As your constituent and your neighbor I ask you to vote against these despicable bills.

Sincerely,
Margaret Schnell

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Jenny Benjamin from Milwaukee (53207), and I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. These bills are trying to take Wisconsin back in time, but it won't work. The fabric of our state and nation will always have trans youth who want safety, acceptance, and fairness.

Sincerely,
Jenny Benjamin

--

Jenny Benjamin (she/her)
JB Communications, L.L.C.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

My name is Erin Schimmel and I am a school social worker for the Milwaukee Public School District. I have lived in Wisconsin my whole life and worked my whole career in Milwaukee. I am writing today in opposition of AB100 and AB103.

Firstly, to those who continue to bombard and attack transgender and LGBTQ+ youth and adults, I would like to ask, how dare you? This is a minuscule population of people in this county who want to do nothing but exist as they are. They are not indoctrinating children. They are not forcing children to be transgender or gay. They are people simply wanting to exist, and same as you and me.

The number of students I have worked with in my career who don't go by their full, government name, and are not LGBTQ+, is substantial. So why should we look at transgender kids any differently? As a school social worker, and educator, and an advocate for my students, my mission is to ensure my student feel safe and supported to be themselves at school. Education is power and is a right to all people. In order to learn, and grow into strong, functioning members of society, students must feel safe at school, and this starts with simply being called the name they want to be called. Being transgender is not something new and has in fact existed in history for millennia. Why now this focus? It's shameful.

The microscope that has been placed on this minuscule community in the United States needs to stop. There are significant bigger issues that need to be addressed over focusing on something like allowing kids to play sports and allowing kids to be called the name they want to be called. It's time to take the focus on these kids and turn the attention to solving bigger issues in Wisconsin, such as record-high inflation, sky-rocketing housing prices, and access to health care for all Wisconsinites.

Let kids be kids. If they are not your kids, kindly butt out. It is none of your business, and frankly out of control. It's time to focus on bigger issues.

Thank you,
Erin Schimmel

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee Members,

My name is Katherine Hinson. I live in Washburn Wisconsin and have resided in this community for 24 years.

I am writing as a citizen of this country, a Wisconsin resident, a community member, a parent and an educator.

I am apposed to the passage of AB100 and AB103.

It is important and necessary for all humans to be seen, heard and believed for who they truly are. When you limit people's ability to be themselves you are taking away basic rights. Taking away these rights from youth is unnecessary, unkind and harmful.

It does not harm you or anyone for a person to use a name or gender marker that they personally know to be their own. It may make you a bit uncomfortable but it does not harm you. Please try to imagine the discomfort and pain and harm that is associated with being denied the truth of who you are and what you are called. Can you imagine being mis gendered and called by a name that has a negative connotation throughout your work day? That is what will happen to some students throughout their school day if you pass AB103.

If you truly want to protect youth then you will not pass AB100 or AB103.

Thank You,
Katherine Hinson

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 5 years, serving our community as a certified arborist, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, equitable, and caring education free from harassment and discrimination. Life is hard enough and if we care about the health of our community we will honor and respect the diversity of human existence and the dignity of all people.

Please vote no to bills AB100 and AB103.

Sincerely,
Ellen Sims
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing in strong dissent to assembly bills 100 and 103 and in strong support of our Wisconsin youth, ALL of them.

As a middle and high school teacher of forty years as well as a parent of two and grandparent of four, I have seen firsthand the importance of acceptance of youth at their most vulnerable ages and giving them opportunities to be their authentic selves.

The bills proposed would further alienate our transgender students when and where they are most vulnerable - in their teen years at school, which, for some, is their most safe place.

All students are vulnerable, but our LGBTQ youth are, by far, the most vulnerable of them all, and these bills would create a school environment that would make them more susceptible to bullying and singling them out further as they try to find their way.

Here's a suggestion - why don't we find out what our young people think? My experience with students taught me that they were much further along in accepting their classmates and their differences than the much older adults in a position to be creating laws about lives they don't understand.

VOTE NO! There are lives that depend on it.

Victoria Swetz

To the members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Kaelee Heideman and I am an elementary school counselor and 2023 Wisconsin State Teacher of the Year in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, zip code 54904. Although I am unable to attend the hearing in person, I am writing to respectfully submit the following testimony in opposition of Assembly Bills 100 and 103 relating to proposed bans on trans athletes and pronouns and names.

Private parts are just that, private. As an elementary school counselor, I spend part of every school year teaching my students about protective behaviors. We review that our whole bodies belong to us and no one should be looking at or touching the private parts of your body without a good reason. Excluding student athletes from school athletic activities based on the private parts of their bodies is nothing short of discriminatory and a violation of privacy. It is no one's business what lies underneath another person's clothing. A trans girl is a girl, no questions asked. A trans boy is a boy, no questions asked. If you attempt to exclude a student from participating in a school athletic activity based on their sex assigned at birth, you are making a decision based solely on the private parts of that child's body. Ask my elementary students if this is right or wrong, and even they will tell you that talking about someone else's private parts is wrong.

Pronouns save lives. Every person, every child, deserves to feel safe and loved for who they are. This means that our trans students deserve to be called by the correct name and pronouns. Unfortunately, our trans youth are not always safe to be out at home, in part because proposed bills like these perpetuate the negative stereotypes that exist around trans folks. When home is not safe for students, school often becomes the place where students are wrapped up in care and unconditional love. Schools become the place where trans youth are safe to come out and use their names and pronouns. Guardian consent should not be required in order to use a child's name and pronouns. This is a major safety concern because it could require educators to unknowingly out their students and create unsafe reactions at home. I always tell my students that my job is to keep them safe and the passing of AB103 would keep me from being able to uphold that promise. When the adults at home are safe people for their children, the children rarely have a problem sharing who they really are with their adults. Schools should not have to be put in the position to break trust with the kids who need us most. Quite frankly, it is concerning that we are so focused on regulating the name a child can be called at school when many adults have seamlessly transitioned from calling the Gulf of Mexico to calling it the Gulf of America and they did so without permission from that body of water.

The passage of Assembly Bills 100 and 103 will only harm our students. I strongly oppose the possibility of putting students at risk for serious harm by outing them through practices that include identifying a child solely on their sex assigned at birth or requiring guardian permission to use certain names or pronouns in a school setting. Our job is to protect all students, and all means all.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee on education members,

I am appalled at the introduction of these two bills that will only hurt children. I strongly oppose assembly bill 100 and assembly bill 103 and believe that everyone deserves the right to participate in sports and be themselves at school. These pieces of legislation would prevent trans youth from doing so on the basis of their gender.

thank you,

Tamsin Ford (she/her)
Madison, WI.53704

March 5, 2025

3/5 10:00am - AB 100 & AB 103 - Committee on Education – Room 412E

Re: In opposition of AB 100 & AB 103

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Reiko Ramos and I am a resident of Appleton, WI. I have over a decade of experience working with the LGBTQ community, most of which time has been dedicated to supporting queer and Trans youth. I currently serve as Statewide Director of LGBTQ Anti-Violence Programs at Diverse & Resilient. I am providing this written testimony in opposition to AB100 & AB 103 because of the harmful impact it will have on Trans youth.

According to the Trevor Project's 2024 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People, 90% of LGBTQ+ young people said their well-being was negatively impacted due to recent politics. Additionally, transgender and non-binary young people reported lower rates of attempting suicide when their affirmed name and pronouns were respected.

Our organization serves hundreds of LGBTQ+ people across the state of Wisconsin each year. When elected officials at any level say harmful things about the Trans community or introduce legislation that will impact their rights, our program sees an increase in Trans people and their loved ones reaching out to us for support. So far in 2025, we have received more crisis calls related to anti-trans legislation and executive orders than ever. We know through experience that the data from Trevor Project is accurate: legislation like this has a serious negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of Trans people in our state.

Transgender youth deserve to have their affirmed name and pronouns used and should have access to the same benefits of participation afforded to all youth in sports, such as belonging to a team, building relationships & camaraderie, and physical activity. These are all things that are linked to improved health and mental health outcomes regardless of age or gender identity, but are particularly relevant, as national data also tells us that acceptance and belonging are powerful protective factors for LGBTQ+ youth.

Please support the wellbeing of young Trans people across Wisconsin; do NOT move forward with AB 100 & AB 103.

Respectfully,



Reiko Ramos
400 N Richmond St, Suite B Appleton,
WI 54911

Chloe Keefe

Regarding: Assembly bills 100 and 103
City: Madison, WI
Zip: 53719

March 5th, 2025

To the Assembly Committee of Education,

My name is Chloe Keefe and I'm a concerned healthcare worker of 3 years. I directly oppose assembly bills 100 and 103. Not only do I have a trans sister, trans cousins, and trans friends, but I also have trans patients who come to our endocrinology clinic for gender affirming care. I've witnessed firsthand how gender affirming care saves lives.

As someone who grew up alongside trans youth who still remain friends of mine to this day, I saw directly how harmful misgendering these individuals can be. A trans friend of mine once reached out to me, desperate for help as they were suicidal from being called the incorrect pronouns every single day. Assembly bills 100 and 103 will put trans youth in direct danger. These are children we are talking about, children deserve to feel safe and secure at school. I urge you all to vote against assembly bills 100 and 103 as they are outright dangerous for these children.

Sincerely,

Chloe Keefe, CMA (AAMA)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103.

As a parent, I am concerned that AB100 could incentivize schools to perform unscientific, invasive physical exams on children who wish to join a girls' sports team. Teaching young girls that it is okay for teachers to ask them to expose their genitals for any reason sets a dangerous precedent. It is also sexist on its face in many ways, not least because the rules around sex determination appear to apply only to girls. I have lived in Wisconsin for over twenty years, and this is the first time I have been afraid at the prospect of my daughter choosing to play on a sports team in high school.

My concerns about AB103 go beyond gender. It is not reasonable or proportionate to expect school administrators to check the names that children ask to be called in class against their birth certificates. I have known many people over the years who go by nicknames not directly related to their first or middle name, whether for cultural reasons (like Chinese immigrants adopting Western nicknames) or personal ones. The extra paperwork that this bill would require for extremely mundane situations like these is potentially humiliating to families and wastes teachers' time.

All of this leaves untouched the issue of civil rights. Transgender people are a small and vulnerable minority. Legislative acts that make them feel unsafe in their gender identity do not protect me -- they make me feel vulnerable, too. I feel afraid that legislating around gender expression will not stop at trans exclusion, but will encroach on the way that I embody femininity, or don't. I cannot be free to be who I am, as a cis woman, when trans people are not. And I want and expect this freedom for my daughter, too.

Sincerely,

Erin Jonaitis
604 Rogers Street
Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Education on the topic of trans student athletes and the use of gender affirming practices in schools.

My name is Emma Hood, I live in Wisconsin, I am a nurse, and a mother of three children. I am also the proud parent of a transgender child.

Importantly, before I share more, I want to address the vulnerability inherent in sharing my story. I have seen parents in these situations be demonized and the children mocked. And at the same time, I think sharing is necessary right now more than ever. I believe every elected official here has an obligation to try to listen when someone takes risks to write or speak publicly.

I am deeply concerned about the current social and political climate surrounding transgender people, and the degree to which it has been forced into my life and others. These stereotypes have the potential to shape laws and policies in ways that may be difficult to understand, unless you are or love someone who is transgender.

My child was assigned male at birth, and up until three years old, this is what we thought he was. Right after she turned three, she showed a clear interest in dressing in girls' clothing and wanting to grow her hair long. Many of the people around her at this time speculated it was a phase that she would grow out of. But she didn't. It has persisted without change for over 5 and a half years.

One of the myths surrounding parents of trans children is that we are "teaching our children to be trans". And I think this comes from the premise of having limited experience or knowledge on gender expression. I can assure you; I spend more time thinking of ways of trying to keep my child's world as simple as possible these days. Most of the time, parenting her is like parenting any other child except there are certain events or situations that have called on me to really listen and learn more about who my child is. Once, when my daughter was about 4 or 5 years old, I offered her some boys' clothing for her to wear, just to see if she showed interest. It resulted in her crying in my arms for over ½ an hour while she fell asleep. That night she so clearly told me she was a girl. At that age, she did not have words for transgender or even what pronouns were. She just knew who she was. I did not teach her anything. For me, it was clear that I would choose to listen and love my child.

When my daughter was 6 years old, she asked to change her name to a girl's name and said she wanted to be a girl, at home and at school. I was so fortunate to have the support and the expertise of the staff and teachers at the school. Who she is now, secure in herself, is undoubtedly a result of her community. She is a bright, caring and creative child.

Last week, I asked her, what if mom had told you had to be a boy when you told me you were a girl? What would that have felt like? She answered, "I wouldn't feel good, I wouldn't feel free". Trans children have been telling us what it feels like to be in their bodies, and what it feels like to be recognized and supported for a long time.

School policies that support and affirm trans students save lives. It is that simple. There is clear evidence that affirming practices, and the support of caring adults is protective in reducing the risk of suicidality and suicide attempts in trans youth. Additionally, school cultures that allow for harassment

and bullying of any student, for any reason, contribute to a higher risk of anxiety and depression, as well lower academic performance. But we know without me even naming it here, which students are more often the target of bullying and harassment. We cannot talk about the use of pronouns and preferred names without speaking to the growing evidence that deals directly with this topic. Schools have the ability to ensure an environment that is respectful of all students and their families.

Finally, I want to say that I have sympathy for the parents who might feel fearful that their child will transition socially at school without telling them or having knowledge about it. I think it can be hard for any parent to feel like their child isn't as close as you had hoped.

For those parents, I would encourage any parent who has a trans or gender non-conforming child to find other parents and seek support if you need it. Especially if you don't feel like your community or church has been able to. The most protective and loving thing a parent of a transgender child can do is be their safe-haven and the person they trust to be themselves.

There is room in our humanity, within our faith communities and our schools for transgender people, and I hope you are all fortunate enough one day to know and love a transgender person or child. I urge you to support policy and practices that affirms transgender people and oppose bill AB100 and AB103.

Thank you

Emma Hood

Viroqua, WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Education committee,

I write today in opposition to the bills AB 100 and 103 before you concerning the rights of trans gender students. The right of a student to feel comfortable with their own identity is a human right that should not be impeded in any form. If you believe that a person should be allowed to be who they are in any form you must believe it in all forms. That is not a decision that you should force on people based on your own beliefs anymore than someone should be forced to be a religion they are not. As a teacher I believe that a student alive called by whatever pronouns and name they choose is a good thing. I believe the manner in which they identify is a personal matter not to be legislated. Thank you.

Ryan Moore, Wausau, 54401

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly,

I am writing with deep concern regarding AB100 and AB103, and I urge you not to pass either bill. Transgender students deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and allowed to participate in sports and be addressed using the pronouns and names they prefer. As a teacher in Milwaukee for nearly ten years, I have never witnessed a single instance in which refusing to use a student's preferred pronouns and name has improved the learning environment either for the student or their peers; on the contrary, refusing to address students as they wish erodes relationships and creates a hostile environment in which the student is unable to achieve their greatest potential. If these laws pass, they will directly injure my students and prevent me from treating my students with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Once again, I urge you: please do not pass these bills.

There is no room for hatred and ignorance in schools or the law.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Lipman
Milwaukee, 53204

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jen Schanen-Materi, and I am a social worker, and someone who deeply cares for and supports my loved ones who are transgender. I am writing to strongly oppose AB100 and AB103, bills that would restrict the rights of transgender athletes and students.

As a social worker, I have seen firsthand the profoundly positive impact that inclusive policies have on the mental and emotional well-being of youth. Conversely, these bills would harm our young community members by denying them the right to participate in sports and access facilities that align with their gender identity. They would also strip away their ability to be recognized by their name and pronouns in schools, an essential aspect of affirming their identity and fostering a safe and supportive environment.

These bills would create an environment of hostility and fear for transgender individuals, denying them the right to exist authentically and feel valued for who they are. Further, it has been shown that even when such bills fail, simply having these political debates has a negative effect on LGBTQ+ youth mental health.

My goal as a mother and social worker is thus: to help people feel like themselves. Likewise, transgender youth deserve to grow up in a world where they can be who they are without fear of being rejected or marginalized by the very institutions that should be supporting them.

As a bisexual person and social worker, I believe in the importance of standing up for equality, justice, and the dignity of all people. I oppose these bills because they go against these values. We cannot allow anti-LGBTQ+ legislation to make life harder for trans youth, athletes, and students—people who deserve to live freely, to play, and to be seen for who they truly are.

Please do not pass these harmful bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jen Schanen-Materi, MSW, APSW

Green Bay WI 54301

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

Regarding Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103, it is so important for children to be allowed to be themselves and not have their identities taken away or quashed. The more someone is allowed to be themselves in ways that don't hurt others (and using your own pronouns and playing sports never hurts others) the more that person will be able to feel comfortable in the world and be less likely to suffer from depression and suicidal ideation. Please do not allow these bills to pass. Thank you for protecting all students rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Jody Bearman

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 44 years, am a healthcare software tester and vice president of my child's school's Parent Teacher Organization, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen. I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Many trans and gender fluid adults I've known have spoken to me about how important sports were for them as children. I also know now a little trans girl who has clearly been a girl since she was 4 years old or earlier. She has always been a girl at school, in Girl Scouts, in the community. Think of a little girl in your life. Now think about telling her that because of the way she was born, she can't play on the team with all her friends. She has to go be the only girl to play on the boys team, and probably face a lot of harassment, if she wants to play sports. If you actually know any trans children, it's very easy to understand the cruelty of a bill like this. As for using the correct name and pronouns for children- it's hard for me to believe this is even a discussion. Of course children should be called by the name and pronouns that identify them.

Sincerely,

Anya Lienau

Madison, WI 53719

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To whom it may concern,

I am a physician and a scientist. I spent 4 years in medical school, 6 years completing my Master's and Ph.D., and 3 years in residency to train for my work as a primary care provider and educator. I use the strongest evidence and guidelines-based care to help me support my patients' health goals. It is distressing to see proposed laws and policies go against biological facts, scientific evidence, and medical guidelines. I urge you to reject these anti-science, anti-medical, and ultimately anti-child bills, which will put transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming children at risk. Schools and sports are supposed to be safe spaces for children, and these bills would make them less safe.

Re: AB100: this bill goes against gender affirming actions for gender diverse children as affirmed and recommended by The American Academy of Pediatrics(1), American Psychiatric Association (2), and American Psychological Association (3).

Re: AB103: this bill is not rational in terms of how gender identity vs sex assigned at birth affects athletic performance. It ostracizes a group of students without bringing benefit to others. See below for a recent and thorough reference analyzing current data on sex assigned at birth vs. athletic performance by Dr. DJ Oberlin of Lehmann College. His conclusion: "...an individual's sex does not determine their success or failure at any athletic event despite the high level of competition."

I hope you will make the right decision to reject these bills and keep some of our most vulnerable children safe from discrimination and isolation from their peers.

Sincerely,
Dr. Siobhan Wilson, MD, PhD

1. American Academy of Pediatrics (2018; reaffirmed 2023). Rafferty J; COMMITTEE ON PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH; COMMITTEE ON ADOLESCENCE; SECTION ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER HEALTH AND WELLNESS. Ensuring Comprehensive Care and Support for Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children and Adolescents. *Pediatrics*. 2018 Oct;142(4):e20182162. doi: 10.1542/peds.2018-2162. Epub 2018 Sep 17. Erratum in: *Pediatrics*. 2023 Oct 1;152(4):e2023063756.

2. American Psychiatric Association Position Statement (2020):
<https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/8665a2f2-0b73-4477-8f60-79015ba9f815/Position-Treatment-of-Transgender-Gender-Diverse-Youth.pdf>

3. American Psychological Association Position Statement (Feb 2024):
<https://www.apa.org/about/policy/transgender-nonbinary-inclusive-care.pdf>

4. Oberlin DJ. Sex differences and athletic performance. Where do trans individuals fit into sports and athletics based on current research? *Front Sports Act Living*. 2023 Oct 27;5:1224476. doi: 10.3389/fspor.2023.1224476. PMID: 37964771; PMCID: PMC10641525

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 7 years, serve our community as a small business owner, mental health therapist, and School Based Health Center Coordinator with MMSD, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans and gender expansive children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,
Emily Priestaf, LPC, MT-BC
Deforest, WI 53532

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns. I have lived in Wisconsin for 44 years, serve our community as a psychologist, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen. I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, dignified, caring and education free from harassment and discrimination.

These bills wrongly alienate children and young people and put trans youth at more risk for harassment and discrimination. As a parent I am NOT at all concerned with trans kids being in sports that are congruent with their gender identity and using bathrooms that they feel safe in. Trans kids like my kids deserve to feel safe and protected by our government. These bills target a small percentage of the population in such a way that is demoralizing and denigrating. I would never want my own children to be treated this way. I also know from a psychological perspective and research supports that protecting rights of trans individuals supports mental health and lessens risks for other problems later in life. I oppose these bills for the harm they can cause and as a parent who knows trans kids and whose job it is to protect kids.

Sincerely,
Tegan Corrigan
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello. My name is Meghan Van Gruensven and I'm from Kimberly Wisconsin, zip code 54136. I'm addressing this email to The Assembly Committee on Education in response to Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

Trans people are just the same as all the rest of us and deserve to be treated with respect and kindness. Allowing the government to control what they can and can't do should not be allowed. It should be the trans person themselves who decides what pronouns they want to use and what name they want to be called by. Trans people should also be allowed to participate in activities that align with their gender identity. Being basically forced to do activities that don't align with the trans person's gender identity is just cruel. I hope you consider to not sign these bills into law and please treat transgender people with all the respect they deserve.

Sincerely, Meghan Van Gruensven

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a parent, ally, and teacher, I vehemently oppose any bill that removes gender affirming recognition. These bills are mean and homophobic. It harms absolutely no one for a child to use a preferred pronoun. And there have always been transgender athletes in sports, they just weren't able to live their lives as their authentic selves. You are targeting children from simply living their lives, full stop.

I encourage you to vote against AB 100 & AB 103.

Kristen Keyser

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Re: Assembly bill 100 and 103,
And my opposition to both

I have 14 year-old grandchild.

For the past year, they have requested family and friends use they/ them, when referring to that grandchild. They have also adopted a gender-neutral Nick-name which I use, at their request.

I love this grandchild to the moon.

I am 76 years old. I cannot say I understand their request.- but u honor it, because they are family and I love them.

I am a practicing Roman Catholic, but am schooled enough to know that it is a fact (a FACT) that not all people have chromosomes which are "only" XX or XY.

It is amazing what variety actually exists.

We are who we are.

I am Who I am.

My grandchild (an honor student, musician and all around good person) is who they are.

Being a teen is hard enough in 2025- as witnessed by mental health statistics for this age group.

Passage of these discriminatory bills would only make it worse.

Marjorie Aiello

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the assembly,

My name is Krista Eastman. I'm a lifelong Wisconsinite living in Madison (53715), and I strongly oppose AB 100 and AB 103.

Trans kids have the right to live, play, and exist as their authentic selves everywhere, including in schools. As a parent, I strongly object to these bills. Every day I strive to teach my kid about the dignity and worth of all human beings and about the role we all must play in creating communities that do not discriminate. These bills fly in the face of those values - they are ugly, hateful, and small - and they choose fear mongering over real information.

Our schools should be protecting kids from hate and discrimination, not carrying out discriminatory practices dictated to them by lawmakers with canned political agendas and little to no experience of trans people or trans issues.

The people of Wisconsin recognize that trans kids have rights. We understand that trans kids are not a threat and we see trans kids for the gift that they are.

Thank you,

Krista Eastman

Dear Assembly Committee on Education Members,

As a proud lifelong Wisconsinite and former public school educator, I vehemently oppose Assembly Bills 100 and 103. These bills stand contrary to the Wisconsin motto of "Forward" and our strong progressive history, and will only harm the young people of our great state.

During my tenure as a Wisconsin public educator and now as an arts educator for Wisconsin non-profits, I see every day the positive impact respecting children for who they are and valuing each unique child can have on young lives. I have worked with many children who use names and pronouns that are different from those assigned to them at birth. Calling them by their names and by correct pronouns is the most basic of ways that I show respect as an adult in their lives. It is that simple: I respect them and value them, and I want them to know it.

To force educators to use names and pronouns that do not match a child's identity is denying them the basic respect all humans deserve and shows them that school is not a safe place for them. With school shootings and lockdown drills making our children afraid for their lives, shouldn't they at least be able to feel that school is a safe place just to be who they are? It may seem like a small thing, but to that young person, it can be everything.

Also, in all my years as an educator, I have seen how much participation in extracurriculars can be a worthwhile and powerful experience for students. Students who are in a sport, or a play, or clubs, or any other activity are more invested in the school experience. They find community, they learn new skills, they expand their circle of trusted adults, they are more invested in academics, and they discover more about who they are. Denying this opportunity to students because of their gender identity is just wrong. Why should only cisgender young people have the experience of being on a team?

I remember several years ago, working as part of the production team at a local high school. We had several students who were gender non-conforming. The students used the dressing rooms that worked for them. Their peers had no ill-will, no fear, no anger about sharing their dressing rooms. Those few students who were given the opportunity to be in spaces that felt right to them appreciated it so much; they felt seen. Don't we all just want to be seen for who we are? Why should only those of us who just happen to identify with the gender we were assigned at birth be the only ones who get to feel that way?

According to a study published in fall of 2024 in the journal *Nature Human Behavior*, the rates of suicide attempts among trans and gender nonconforming youth who live in states that passed laws aimed at these minors saw a marked increase up to 72%. Do you want the blood of Wisconsin children on your hands? Because young people will lose hope in the face of their government telling them they should not exist. And some of them will choose to no longer.

Passing these bills would risk the lives of children and teens in our state. All children deserve to live, to be educated in a place that values who they are, and to thrive. These bills will make that impossible for some of the most brave, beautiful, and vulnerable young people in Wisconsin.

Please reconsider these harmful pieces of legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Hoel-Neds
Deerfield, WI 53531

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Julie Guckenberger. I live in Wauwatosa, in the 53213 zip code, in Wisconsin Assembly District 13 and Senate District 5. I have lived in Wisconsin for over 14 years. I have 2 kids who attend public schools in Wauwatosa, and I am deeply concerned with the proposed AB103 and AB100.

I am writing to urge you to vote against these bills, AB100 and AB103. These bills harm children and deny them equal opportunity. Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as cisgender kids. Trying to legislate the experiences of children in our schools will serve only to belittle them. For the same reasons that a child may prefer to be called "Peggy" rather than a given or legal name of Margaret, a transgender child may be comfortable being addressed by a name other than their legally given name.

Transgender kids deserve to be addressed in school by the name and pronouns they use at home and with their friends. By denying their educators the right and ability to address them in this way, you are denying these kids their autonomy and basic respect. You are denying them the right to be addressed in a manner that makes them feel seen, heard, and valued.

The second bill would deny children the right to participate in sports. Every child, whether cisgender or transgender, should have the opportunity to participate in sports if they so choose. This opportunity should not require them to deny who they are, nor should it subject them to discrimination and ridicule by having to identify as trans. This proposed bill would actively harm trans kids, and make all kids less safe. It is a wholly unnecessary legislative attack on *children*. The fact that a group of adults would seek to attack a small group of children is sickening. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Trans kids are not trying to make a statement by requesting that their teachers respect them enough to use their pronouns and their preferred name in class. They are simply seeking the same respect afforded to their cisgender classmates.

In the same way, trans kids seeking to play sports are not trying to make a statement. They simply want to be afforded the same rights and respect as their cisgender classmates or teammates, in allowing them an opportunity to play the sport and pursue their own athletic talents.

I urge you to side with human decency and vote against both of these bills.

Sincerely,
Julie Guckenberger

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To of the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jennifer Streit from Madison – 53717. I am a public school teacher and a parent of two daughters enrolled in public school writing in opposition of AB100 and AB103. I also identify as cisgender, straight, and Christian.

I believe trans athletes should be allowed to play on the sport teams and use locker rooms that align with their gender identity. I have no problem with my daughters sharing a locker room and being on the field with trans athletes. Trans athletes need to be accepted for who they are - real, good humans - just like anll other people.

Trans students deserve the right to use the name and pronouns that they identify with in our schools. As a teacher, I have seen the significant impact on using the preferred names and pronouns of my students. Students feel safe, seen, valued, and respected when we address them in the way they want to be addressed. I see students' confidence grow when they are allowed that autonomy, and I believe lives have been saved as a result of this policy.

My goddaughter is a trans girl who loves soccer. When I watch her play, she is peaceful, happy and free on the field with her girl teammates. She's accepted for who she is - I honestly don't know if her teammates know she is trans. If she were to have to start playing with a boys team, she would be outed and most certainly treated differently. Or maybe she will make the difficult choice to discontinue playing and a part of her soul will die. I fear that her life, and the lives of other trans athletes, would be at stake -emotionally, and physically.

Keep all kids safe. Do not pass AB100 and AB103.

Jennifer Streit
10 Rye Circle
Madison 53717

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee of Education,

My name is Thomas Twiton, a resident of Madison, ZIP 53719. I am writing to testify my opposition to the Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

I have lived in Wisconsin since my family moved here in 2007 when I was in the fourth grade, and attended school through high school in Wisconsin and returned to Madison for my career. School is such an important time of development, and kids and young adults need to be uplifted, protected, and given every opportunity to grow and succeed, not discriminated against and denied the space to be who they are. Transgender and non-binary youth need our support in being fully who they are.

I have a niece and nephew who will be in the Wisconsin school system. It is so important to me that that school system cherishes and uplifts all its students, rather than hating and suppressing some of them. I have friends and loved ones who are transgender or non-binary, and these discriminatory bills make them feel unwelcome in our state. Please do not push forth this agenda of hate on our children, and instead let them know that all children are loved and valued and given opportunity to be their authentic selves in our state.

Thank you,
Thomas Twiton

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Statement of Opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103:

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I strongly oppose Assembly Bill 100, the proposed transgender athlete ban, and Assembly Bill 103, which would restrict the rights of transgender students to use their correct names and pronouns. These bills are not only unnecessary but potentially devastating to an already vulnerable population.

Impact on Mental Health and Suicide Risk:

We cannot ignore the severe mental health implications of such discriminatory legislation. According to data from the Trevor Project, 85% of transgender and nonbinary youth report that political attacks on their identity have negatively impacted their mental health. More alarmingly, studies consistently show that transgender youth experience disproportionately high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation compared to their cisgender peers. When we exclude young people from activities fundamental to social development and well-being, and deny them the basic dignity of being addressed by their correct names and pronouns, we compound these risks. Transgender youth who feel supported in their identity and included in school activities show significantly better mental health outcomes. By contrast, exclusionary policies increase feelings of isolation and rejection - precisely the factors that contribute to the heartbreakingly high suicide attempt rates among transgender youth.

The Reality of Transgender Participation in Sports:

AB100 purports to solve a problem that simply doesn't exist at scale. Transgender youth represent approximately 1.4% of the youth population, and only a fraction of these young people participate in competitive sports. In states that have already implemented inclusive policies for years, there has been no evidence of widespread competitive advantage or disruption. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association already has thoughtful policies in place to ensure fair competition while being inclusive of transgender athletes. This bill represents unnecessary government overreach into decisions best left to athletic associations, schools, medical professionals, and families.

Benefits of Inclusion vs. Costs of Exclusion:

Sports participation provides all youth with critical opportunities for physical health, teamwork, leadership development, and social connection. For transgender youth specifically, inclusion in sports can be life-affirming, offering a place of belonging during a challenging developmental period. The supposed "costs" of inclusion have been greatly exaggerated. When implemented with appropriate guidelines, transgender inclusion in sports preserves both competitive fairness and the dignity of all athletes. By contrast, the costs of exclusion are concrete and severe: increased mental health risks, decreased physical activity, lost educational opportunities, and the message to transgender youth that they don't belong in our communities. Similarly, AB103's restrictions on name and pronoun use would create hostile learning environments where transgender students are constantly misgendered, undermining their sense of safety and belonging in educational settings that should be supportive for all students. I urge this committee to reject both of these harmful bills and instead focus on policies

that support the well-being of all Wisconsin youth. Every child deserves to participate fully in school life, including sports, and to be recognized for who they truly are, regardless of gender identity. Our transgender youth are watching to see if you will stand up for their rights to simply be kids - playing the sports they love and being addressed with the basic respect all students deserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Scherkenbach
Milwaukee, WI 53207
Formerly of Eau Claire, WI 54701

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, pertaining to the participation of school sports and use of facilities and the use of chosen names and pronouns, respectively.

Firstly, the enforcement of these bills presents a practical challenge for teachers and administrators. A child's sex is not readily identified visually and a visual "inspection" of a child in any form is unsafe and disturbing. This would then require additional documentation and personal information is disclosed to teachers, administrators, and volunteers. Personally identifiable information is protected by law and should not be viewed by any person that does not have a credible reason to do so. This presents risks to data collection, data distribution, and data protections.

Teachers have an enormous responsibility to educate our children. Their duties of creating and delivering an enriching curriculum is more than enough to fill their time. Additional duties of enforcing targeted and prejudiced legislation is inappropriate and unnecessary. It empowers those with prejudiced views to act upon those against the most powerless people in our community, our children.

Most importantly, these bills are dehumanizing and sexist. Students deserve a welcoming educational environment that empowers them to learn and develop into responsible members of our community.

According to the National Institute of Health, students who participate in sports report better academic performance than peers. Student athletes have only a 2% chance of receiving a scholarship of any type to continue athletics in college, regardless of sex. Most student athletes participate in sports to have fun, make friends, and move their bodies. Discouraging children from participating in such activities is antithetical to our American values of protecting life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

You may think that these laws do not discourage participation, but they do. A female presenting child in a boys' locker room is unsafe. A male presenting child in a girls' locker room is unsafe. The option is to endanger one's self or not participate. That is no choice at all.

Finally, the use of a preferred name and pronoun is just a matter of respect. Whether a child chooses a derivative of their name or an entirely new name, children are not the property of their parents. They have an intrinsic right to express themselves freely and define who they are as a person.

Personally, I have loved ones and community members who would be directly and negatively impacted by these bills. As an adult, a voter, a taxpayer, who loves people who will be impacted, I voice my full-throated opposition to AB100 and AB103. My only wish is to see my loved ones and community thrive. Reducing rights has never been in service of that goal.

Respectfully,
Rene Salazar - Opposes Bills AB100 and AB103
Madison, WI 53719

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Fair Wisconsin & Committee Members,

I would like to register my vehement opposition to both bill AB100 and bill AB103.

With regard to AB100:

I grew up playing sports in Wisconsin my whole life from elementary school through high school and even when I went away to college. I was not concerned with whether my teammates looked feminine or masculine. It was high school. We were all goofy and figuring life out. What we needed most at that time were teammates and friendship, not someone questioning whether we belonged. I would have proudly stood next to and played with or against any trans athlete. And I stand by that statement today.

With regard to AB103:

As a former teacher, I find that one of the most important things we can do for kids is trust them. They take on tough materials and complicated topics better than they ever get credit for. And it is that trust that allows them to learn well, to be themselves, to build strong relationships with parents and teachers. Punitively threatening to control or undermine things that they already know about themselves only creates distrust. It is dangerous to mental health, and legislating this kind of deeply personal and particular matter is a level of governmental overreach that is unprecedented.

As a Wisconsin constituent, I urge the committee to vote no on both bills. You are welcome to reach back out to me at this email address with any follow-ups or questions.

Thank you for reading,

Christine Stocke

Former Teacher, Mom of two kiddos, Proud Wisconsinite

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

I am writing about AB100 and AB103. I live in Wisconsin and have for most of my life.

I am a trans adult and the past 6 weeks have been incredibly hard on my mental health, I can't imagine how trans youth are feeling. I have had extreme anxiety and depression which is directly rooted in the Trump administration and other transphobic Republicans. I've been in (fight or) flight mode for weeks, and have looked into moving to Minnesota or Canada for my safety. I have been unable to focus on my career or personal life, because I am worried about my future in America. The prejudice coming from the GOP is absurd and dangerous. Trans people make up less than 1 percent of the American population, and we are only trying to live our lives. Yet, we are constantly scapegoated by the GOP, including the president.

AB103 has no basis and is purely discrimination. It is incredibly important to one's mental health to be addressed by the correct name and pronouns. I do not understand how this affects anyone else in a meaningful way--it is truly a non-issue to address someone the way they prefer. If we can call James Vance "JD," Addison McConnell "Mitch," and the Gulf of Mexico "the Gulf of America," then we can call people by their chosen names.

AB100 is another example of the GOP choosing to bully children over doing things to actually help their constituents. Trans girls playing sports is basically a non-issue.

Republicans also love to talk about small government, but they also love to tell school districts what they're allowed to do, and individuals what they're allowed to do.

Aimee Morrison

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I write in opposition to: AB 100 and AB 103. As a lifelong Wisconsinite, I want our state to be fair and equal for all citizens. The proposed bills are undemocratic, unfair, and are truly cruel uses of our legislature. When you should be helping the community, you instead spend your time attacking vulnerable youth. Shame on you. Wisconsin children deserve better than this. They deserve to live their lives as their authentic selves, be accepted, loved and to feel safe in their schools and communities. Furthermore, these bills are based totally on fiction and go against all scientific consensus on the matter. Wisconsinites do not want to be governed by lies and misinformation. Wisconsin's state motto is Forward but this legislation would lead us backward. I urge you to oppose both of these bills.

Kristin Vornholt
Evansville, 53536

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 18 years, serve our community as Executive Director of Chrysalis, and speak on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,
Dani Rischall
Madison, WI
53704

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Taylor Witthuhn, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for 29 years of my life, and not only a member of the LGBT community but have many friends and family members in the trans community.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill AB100 and AB103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to this bill because it's a blatant violation of human rights, it is un-American. My trans family does not deserve to be dehumanized and erased by people with an agenda to promote cruelty, and a desire to other their fellow citizens to appease some self-centered goal.

These bills take the power away from individuals to determine their identity and instead give it to another just because they are in a position of power, who do not have the best interest of the community in mind. Myself, and fellow residents who have submitted a testimony or have shown up to this hearing will not stand for this hatred towards our fellow community members.

Sincerely,

Taylor W

Madison

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

I am writing to urge the Wisconsin state assembly to vote against bills AB 100 and AB 103. These bills harm Wisconsin children and deny them equal opportunities.

Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as cisgender kids. Trans kids belong in school sports if they choose to participate. All school children deserve the opportunity to join a school team of their choice and explore their own athletic abilities. To bar any kids from school sports is truly unjust and unkind.

This bill would directly harm trans kids and does not make cis kids safer. It's a wholly unnecessary legislative attack on a small number of children, which is sickening to me.

Transgender kids and cisgender kids alike deserve to be addressed with the name and pronouns they use at home or with friends, while they are in school. The first day of school, most teachers will run down the class list and ask kids what name they use. The teacher asks each student this question because it shows respect for the student's autonomy. Kids (both trans and cis) deserve the right to change their names and pronouns whenever they want to, just as adults do. This should be a matter between a student and their teachers, and should not require parent notification.

Name and pronoun changes can represent safety, autonomy, and authenticity for students. This bill is similarly unnecessary, and harmful to children who are exploring or embracing their identity.

I've lived in Wisconsin for 19 years, and I'm a parent who has raised 2 kids in the public schools here. I value the public school system and education for all children. All Wisconsin children deserve equal treatment in their schools.

Sincerely,
Laura Wendt
Madison, WI 53713

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Testimony for AB100/AB103:

To the members of the assembly:

My name is Amanda Kramp. I live in Oshkosh. I'm married and have two kids, I volunteer with my church, I'm in the PTO, and I recently met with members of the Joint Finance Committee to speak about reproductive rights.

Trans kids belong where kids belong. Trans kids belong in sports, schools, faith communities, scouting programs, and other places where kids gather to learn and play.

They also deserve to be called what they want to be called. My name is Amanda. My pronouns are she/her. If someone decided my name was Mandy and that my pronouns were he/him, they would be incorrect and it would be disrespectful. Why can't we extend that respect to trans kids? Being called the correct pronouns is one small way that trans people can feel included in the world. Being called the correct name, the name that someone tells you to call them, is basic courtesy.

And have you ever been in a school locker room? I have. I played field hockey in high school. Not once did we all stand around totally naked and stare at each other. I don't know what locker rooms the Republicans remember or are entering, but most people mind their business when they're changing. Most people who were raised right know how to act in these situations. Mind your business. Put on the uniform and get on the field.

These kids love their sports. They are passionate about playing, because they wouldn't fight so hard to play if it was just a thing they liked to do on the weekends. No teenager wants their entire life paraded around and mocked by grown adults who are supposed to be in charge. I admire their bravery and they shouldn't have to be brave.

These bills are transphobic and harmful. Vote no.

Thank you.

Amanda Kramp

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Lucy Kenyon, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Madison. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. I am writing today for my trans friends who are scared living in a country that vilifies them at any chance it gets. Being a growing, loving, and welcoming state means welcoming all. It means uplifting the trans community. I implore you all to trust trans kids and those who love them to know who they are.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Lucy Kenyon

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Tanner Schultz and I live in Madison. My zip code is 53714.

A friend of mine, who I met in high school and have known for 25 years, transitioned only a few years ago. Through them I have witnessed the transformative power of finally being able to express, and be accepted for, the gender they have always known themselves to be. They are today a much healthier and happier person than they were when I met them, many years ago, during a time when their parents and society were still telling them that what they knew in their heart was wrong, and trying to force them to conform to a gender they knew they were not.

I am not alone in this recognition, as many prominent and respected medical organizations, such as the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the American Medical Association, have also concluded the same.

I strongly encourage you to reject Assembly Bills 100 and 103, as well as any legislation that seeks to oppress our trans youth and deny them their right to exist as they are and be recognized for who they are. Such legislation is counter to the science of mental health, our rights, and basic human decency.

Sincerely,
Tanner Schultz

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

Please accept this as my testimony on Assembly Bill 100 (K-12 trans athlete ban) and Assembly Bill 103 (denying preferred names & pronouns). I'm unable to attend tomorrow's hearings in Madison.

Prohibiting trans students from playing on sports teams and using locker rooms consistent with their authentic gender identity, as well as taking away the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with at school, is extremely disrespectful to those students, and it's completely wrong. Students participating in sports and being themselves at school facilitates strong, mentally healthy kids who grow up to be strong, mentally healthy adults! Creating these unfair limitations would undoubtedly encourage more dangerous "othering" and shaming towards these students.

A 2022 survey found that 85% of trans and nonbinary youth report that facing ongoing political attacks has been detrimental to their mental health, according to the Trevor Project. Even introducing these bills would increase stress levels and mental health problems among many students, not just trans and nonbinary students. I oppose both of these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my voice heard and included in the official record.

Live and let live,

Jill Mitchler
Egg Harbor, WI 54209

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

Please make note of my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

Having lived in WI for nearly 50 years, and having known several trans people in my life, both these bills would be harmful to children that I personally know and love.

Furthermore, I strongly believe it is inappropriate for the state legislature to tell local school boards what they can and can't do in this area. Please leave it up to local elected school boards to set policy in this matter.

Thank you,

--

Mary E. Myers
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Assembly Committee on Education

Re: AB100 and AB103

I cannot testify in person before your committee tomorrow as my husband will be having a hip replacement, but I wanted to share my thoughts with you. I come from a family of teachers. My father was a teacher and coach in the Madison School District for 45 years. My sister taught in the same district and then in higher education all across the country, as her husband did.

I know how important it is for young people to be part of a culture in their schools that allows them to be true to themselves while doing no harm to others. The use of pronouns to identify one's gender is not a harmful action against anyone. Much like preferring a nickname to one's given name at birth it is the identity that the young person knows reflects them the best rather than what their parents gave them a birth.

As a parent of a non-binary identifying adult child and grandparent of an 11-year-old non-binary grandchild I have seen that their ability to use pronouns that best reflect who they find themselves to be is vitally important to their well-being. And it brings absolutely no harm to any other person who chooses to use pronouns that reflect their gender identity at birth.

As a daughter of a coach, I have been an avid supporter of sports as well. And while I can understand there are some concerns about transgender youth performing in sports under the gender that identify they now feel to be accurate versus the one assigned at birth, I feel that this too can be handled in thoughtful ways. And I believe blanket legislation is not the answer.

However, at minimum, I would hope that the State in which I have spent my 77 years will not legislate in harmful ways against the use of chosen pronouns for trans and non-binary students, and give thoughtful consideration to all ways in which the small percentage of young folks so impacted are far more harmed by proposed legislation that reflects on their differences versus their many similarities.

Sincerely,
Betty Harris Custer
Madison, WI 53717

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,
I am writing in strong opposition to bills AB 100 and AB 103.

I am the parent of a non-binary middle school scholar and athlete. As a parent, it is heartbreaking to see these bills come forward. My child deserves to thrive as much as any other child. These bills make them feel as if they don't belong, as if they can't pursue the sports and activities that other children can, and that their name and pronouns are wrong. There is nothing wrong with my child. They are who they are and they deserve the same as every other child, boy, girl, or however they identify. Their preferred name and pronouns are essential to their sense of self and ensure their mental well-being.

As a lifelong female athlete, I can say with confidence that this call to ban trans girls and women from sports is ridiculous and only intended to do harm. I have been fortunate to count as teammates and opponents trans women, and I stand in strong support of their right to access the sports I have found so empowering and enriching. Their use of locker rooms that fit their agenda ensures their safety and security and does not threaten mine.

I urge you as a parent, a woman, and an athlete to oppose these bills.

Sincerely,
Amy Washbush
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Good evening.

My birth name is Anna Claire Stamper, and though it is not the name I currently use, I expect it will get me farther here. I live under the 54703 zip code in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and I am a senior in high school.

I am sending this message in the hopes The Assembly Committee on Education in the Wisconsin State Legislature will listen to it. The assembly bills number 100 and 103 are being discussed, and I would like my voice to be heard. Though I cannot attend this meeting, as I will be in school, I am sending a message. These bills directly impact my education. Though I am a senior, and moving into secondary education, I am heavily impacted to the precedents that these bills send. It is about more than the silencing of children, which means to erase the ideas of trans children across the state. It is about the politicians and people that have been trying to erase our histories from the moment they began. Being transgender is not a new idea. It has been around since the Egyptians, and will continue to exist no matter how hard legislation tries to stamp out our voices. Once we declare that these children cannot express their first amendment right of free speech by referring to themselves as their chosen genders and names, we step into territory we cannot step back from. This isolation of transgender students from sports, from saying their names, is all intentional. They want us isolated so that no one may remember us. Already they have tried to erase our history, saying that this "new wave" of transgenders happens out of nowhere, forgetting the people they met in high school that were trans. They forget these people not because they never knew them--in fact most had probably encountered trans people in their schooling. The difference, is that the legislation kept those trans kids scared. It kept them quiet. In the same way that these bills are trying to keep trans people quiet. Once they silence our children, they will move on to the next thing they can accomplish. It will start with the trans kids, and then anyone in the LGBTQ+ community. These types of bills are the beginning of the end. Once we silence one group of people, the precedent is set, and they will move on to the next group. How many times wist me repeat the mistakes of our ancestors. The Nazis did not stop at Jews. They did not stop at the disabled, the elderly, the gay, the trans, the disordered. We are watching history repeat itself, and I plead that if you listen to anything in my message that you listen to this. They will not stop with trans kids. This hatred is the kind that cannot be satisfied with one group of people. So I ask you, how long do you think it will take to reach you? Already DEI programs are affecting more than just the disabled, and the POC. When you sign this bill you are signing away more than the rights of our transgender children, you're signing the beginning of the end for yourself. This will not stop here, no matter what--and we will not go down without a fight.

Thank you for your time,

K. Stamper
(They/them)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee of Education,

My name is Thomas Twiton, a resident of Madison, ZIP 53719. I am writing to testify my opposition to the Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

I have lived in Wisconsin since my family moved here in 2007 when I was in the fourth grade, and attended school through high school in Wisconsin and returned to Madison for my career. School is such an important time of development, and kids and young adults need to be uplifted, protected, and given every opportunity to grow and succeed, not discriminated against and denied the space to be who they are. Transgender and non-binary youth need our support in being fully who they are.

I have a niece and nephew who will be in the Wisconsin school system. It is so important to me that that school system cherishes and uplifts all its students, rather than hating and suppressing some of them. I have friends and loved ones who are transgender or non-binary, and these discriminatory bills make them feel unwelcome in our state. Please do not push forth this agenda of hate on our children, and instead let them know that all children are loved and valued and given opportunity to be their authentic selves in our state.

Thank you,
Thomas Twiton

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 19 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an education free from harassment and discrimination.

We've seen these kind of bills before. They have been brought before this committee year after year in an attempt to terrorize our trans youth, their parents, and decent folks all around the state who understand these bills are no more than hatred and grandstanding.

This is a grotesque public spectacle where homophobic and transphobic legislators make us come back year after year and beg for some shred of decency. For some shred of humanity, some empathy, some understanding.

I'm not submitting this to beg you to not be cruel. I'm submitting this to tell you that the people of Wisconsin are—on the whole—better than this.

All Wisconsinites—yes, even the children—deserve the right to dignity, the support to grow and thrive to their greatest potential. These bills are directly in opposition to those rights.

I hope that you learn. I hope you fix your hearts.

Regardless, I and so many others will continue standing up for decency, for kindness, for justice, and for all LGBTQIA+ kids in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Rosen Heinz
Verona, WI 53593

Scott Hershberger
Regarding AB100 and AB103
March 5, 2025

My name is Scott Hershberger, and I am a Madison resident. I am testifying that two bills currently before the Assembly, AB100 and AB103, would have a negative impact on our students and should not become law. I am a straight, cisgender man, but I have many transgender friends who would have been harmed by this legislation if they were still in school.

I had several transgender friends in high school. My college roommate (still a dear friend years later) is a trans man. Many people in my current friend group are trans women. All these friends have shared with me painful stories of discrimination that they faced after coming out—individual acts of dehumanization as well as policies that created huge bureaucratic hurdles and decreased their quality of life.

When people call them by a name or pronoun that they do not identify with, this creates deep emotional wounds. If this has never happened to you, take a moment and imagine someone intentionally doing it to you. Maybe there was a bully when you were in school who always called you a name you hated. It doesn't feel good. Now imagine your teachers calling you that name, over and over. That's dehumanizing, and that would have long-lasting mental health impacts. That's what AB103 would do to trans kids.

Now, imagine that you went through this trauma because you wanted to get a competitive edge in sports. Would that be worth it? No, it wouldn't. Trans kids who are athletes just want to be kids playing sports as their authentic selves. One of my friends who is a trans man played soccer growing up, both before and after he transitioned. He had a much more positive experience after the transition, once he was playing with other boys. And his teammates were happy to have him. AB100 would prevent kids from enjoying sports the way every kid should be able to. Again, this would cause long-lasting harm to their mental health.

It's easy to think that these policies would only hurt trans kids. But that's wrong. These policies would hurt all kids by teaching them to discriminate, teaching them to ignore others' wishes, teaching them to disrespect their peers.

Instead of institutionalizing discrimination, we need to institutionalize empathy and understanding. We need to educate our kids with the tools to value everyone's perspectives so that they can interact respectfully regardless of gender identity.

I urge you to reject AB100 and AB103. Thank you for reading my testimony and considering my input.

Best wishes,
Scott Hershberger

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the whole Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing this email to oppose both AB 100 and AB 103. Not only are these bills unnecessary, but they aim to take rights from our most vulnerable population. The number of trans youth playing high school sports is extremely small. If you care about protecting youth, you should be focusing on protecting our vulnerable youth population - not further ostracizing them.

As for needing written documentation from a parent before a school can use pronouns other than their biological gender -- again, this is absolutely unnecessary. Using a different pronoun or a chosen name is not a burden to anyone. However, using the preferred pronouns for trans youth is very important to their mental health.

A study done by the Trevor Project of over 61,000 children aged 13-17 in 19 states, showed that suicide attempts increased by 72% when those states passed anti-transgender laws. NPR article

I have a teenage cousin that is transgender and transitioning to a female. Erica (formerly Eric) was suicidal and in a very dark place until, through therapy, she started to understand she is transgender, and that she had the option to live her life as a different gender. Erica is now a well-adjusted teenager, enjoying time with friends rock climbing and participating in gymnastics.

As a school board member at the Deerfield Community School District (I am speaking on my own behalf, not on the behalf of the board), I care deeply about making school a safe place for all students. Please reconsider these bills. As a school board member, I do not want to be forced to participate in increasing the risk of youth suicide attempts for this unnecessary legislation.

Sarah Hart
Deerfield, WI 53531

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 15 years and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive and inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

Sincerely,

Emily Witte
Madison, WI 53719

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Cari (I prefer this name to my full name, Carilyn) Jacobs. Now I'm wondering how many of you use a different name than your birth certificate states? But, I digress... I live in Milwaukee, 53210.

I am writing to let you know I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103.

I have been fortunate enough to meet six trans individuals throughout my life. Five are adults and are highly intelligent, talented individuals who are not only valued for who they are as people, but also for their contributions to their communities and workspaces. Not one of them has used their trans identity as an attempt to try to get ahead in sports (or anything else on life) or to gain access to a different a bathroom. I mean really; why would anyone choose to identify as trans in today's dangerously unsupportive society? They have all gone through (and many continue to go through) substantial pain and heartbreak just to be recognized as their true selves.

One of the six individuals is a trans youth who is a remarkably strong, caring, and intelligent person. I can only imagine what this person is going through at this time. Not only is being a teenager hard enough, but when some family members aren't understanding and now society at large is trying to erase your very identity, I can only imagine how lonely, frightening and isolating it must feel. In the United States, many youth already feel unsupported and ostracized enough; that much is evident in the obscene amount of suicides and school shootings that take place. Trans youth have an additional level of social navigating to deal with and again, no one would choose to be trans for any reason other than to be true to who they actually are.

I'll close by saying that a good friend once told me that every single person is their own kaleidoscope image. Every single person is an array of colors and angles and patterns and, if you've ever clicked through a kaleidoscope, you'll know just how beautiful each and every array is AND that the variety and differences in each also bolster the others.

We are better together and stronger together. Don't pass these bills that are attempting to break the kaleidoscope. See the beauty in everyone instead.

Thank you,
Cari Jacobs
Milwaukee
53210

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to strongly oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 36 years, serve our community as a social worker in the mental health field, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a safe and inclusive education free from harassment and discrimination.

I have worked with trans youth for years as both a school social worker as well as in the mental health field. Those who were able to have their names and pronouns affirmed on a consistent basis by their community were able to engage more fully in their education and felt safer in the school environment. Those who engaged in group activities such as sports or clubs were the most resilient and able to overcome their mental health challenges. I firmly believe that all humans deserve and require a place of belonging in life, and to take that away from trans youth via these bills is truly unacceptable.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Hardin
Madison, WI 53714

AB 100, AB 103 - Testimony against

Hale Sink (legal: Haley Sinklair)
937 E Gorham St Apt 2
Madison, WI 53703

"I've walked these capitol corridors with conservative, free-market, and centrist organizations reporting on legislation back to 2013.

I've enjoyed the privilege of growing up and out of beliefs that rob individuality from people like my Grandfather, W. Harlow Duerst.

Harlow went by his middle name, denouncing his first name, shared with and assigned at birth by his domestically abusive and alcoholic father.

Grandpa Harlow was a Republican for 98 years, and the most peaceful Christian Lutheran man I've ever known.

He accepted me for me. Why can't we all do the same?

This bill denies the existence of the very individuality Assembly persons here cling to in their own being and arguments.

Not only do y'all not know what you're talking about in these bills, you don't even know who's in the room with you.

Robin Vos, you and your colleagues have TRans brothers and sisters within your own beloved Koch network. I would know, they cut my checks 2013-2016.

I ask that you abandon your assumptions about a deeply rational, emotional, and spiritual journey.

Lack of education does not give you reason to deny the fact that Trans people exist. They are your sons and daughters in the reddest counties asking for safety, just once.

The Trans and Queer community transformed me into a better person.

As a respite worker with Trans and Queer youth, your bills will kill kids.

Are you prepared to carry those deaths to the gates of your God, Representatives?

Make the right choice, vote against bills lacking power, lacking truth.

Pause for a moment.

To gain the knowledge I know you're capable of consuming and understanding.

Thank you, Representatives. Thank you Trans community. Thank you all for your time.”

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education

I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103. I believe these bills are seeking to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports and use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right of trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools. My transgender child and all children deserve equal access.

My 17 year old child has been working through their transgender journey since they were 13 years old. Because of so many negative and painful experiences of judgement and discrimination they have slowly transitioned adding new ways of living in their gender identity with each phase - using they pronouns when entering high school then thoughtfully progressing to he when reaching 11th grade and feeling more confident, secure and supported in their community. The path he took isn't unusual. It mirrors many young people's exploration and discovery of self - the job that every young person is tasked with - to figure out who you are and how you can best contribute to our world.

AB100 and AB103 would take away my child's and all other children's right to be themselves and contribute their full selves to society. Because of my child's ability to be themselves he thrives as an A student, an athlete, a performer in theater and choir and student leader.

Please don't take these rights away from him. Please don't pass these harmful bills out of your committee.

Thank you
Susan Ramspacher,
Madison WI, 53704

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education

I am writing to urge the Wisconsin state assembly to vote against bills AB 100 and AB 103. These bills harm children and deny them equal opportunities. Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as cisgender kids. Trans kids belong in school sports if they choose to participate. All school children deserve the opportunity to join a school team of their choice and explore their own athletic abilities. To bar any kids from school sports is truly unjust and unkind. This bill would directly harm trans kids and does not make cis kids safer. It's a wholly unnecessary legislative attack on a small number of children, which is sickening to me. Transgender kids and cisgender kids alike deserve to be addressed with the name and pronouns they use at home or with friends, while they are in school. The first day of school, most teachers will run down the class list and ask kids what name they use. Example: "Elizabeth? Do you go by your full name or a nickname?" The teacher asks each student this question because it shows respect for the student's autonomy. Kids deserve the right to change their names and pronouns whenever they want to, just as adults do. This should be a matter between a student and their teachers, and should not require parent notification. Name and pronoun changes can represent safety, autonomy, and authenticity for students. This bill is similarly unnecessary, and harmful to children who are exploring or embracing their identity.

James Guckenberg

To: 2025 Assembly Education Committee
From: Patti Clark-Stojke, Appleton

I oppose both AB 100 and AB 103. First, Wisconsin was the first state in the nation with a broad anti discrimination policy for schools. Transgender and gender-nonconforming students have the right to be safe and be themselves at school. Wisconsin Statute 118.13 requires school districts to have a formal complaint process called "pupil nondiscrimination. Federal law prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes gender identity, potentially requiring schools to accommodate students' preferred names and pronouns. Public schools have a responsibility to create a safe learning environment. Wisconsin school districts are required to comply with federal law prohibiting discrimination based on a student's sex-- and generally also gender identity. I implore the Education Committee to promote educational equity and access to educational opportunities for each student in our public schools through non-discriminatory policies.

To the members of the assembly Committee on Education

These bills will undoubtedly harm Wisconsin kids. I oppose both AB100 & AB 103.

First, the bill on banning transgender athletes will ostracize trans youth from enjoying recreational activities. Most of the time, kids are just participating in an after school activity for socialization and being involved with something. Why are we trying to restrict children from that? Additionally, at this age group, sports have very little to do with natural ability. If this bill is at all meant to allow "fairness" in sports based on the physical ability of children, the fact that children go through puberty at different rates throws that out the window. Two kids in 7th grade can have wildly different strengths, growth spurts, etc, and this bill completely overlooks that to vilify trans kids specifically. I strongly oppose this bill.

The Second bill will also harm kids. Why is the government trying to get its hands in how kids perceive themselves? Is the next bill going to restrict the use of nicknames, another way that kids and people self identify? I oppose this bill and its goal of the government to restrict kids self expression.

Aedan Gardill
Madison WI 53711

Dear assembly committee on education,

I am writing as a lifelong Wisconsin resident to express my concern about the new anti trans bills, AB100 and AB103. These bills do nothing to protect children. In fact they do the opposite by making trans children feel bullied and unsafe in school.

School is difficult enough for students. For students to succeed they need to feel like school is a safe place. By banning them from sports or refusing to use their pronouns as they request them, you are not only refusing them agency but are making them a target for bullying. Imagine a student who dresses masculine, goes by a masculine name, and at a quick glance LOOKS masculine, and forcing them to play on the woman's softball team, or be called 'she' in class.

These students already face so much discrimination and hate. How does refusing to use their chosen name or pronouns protect them or anyone else at the school? Alienating children like this will lead to more insecurity, more bullying, and likely higher rates of drop out and suicide.

Please protect trans youth. They deserve to be cared for in school just like every other student.

Best,

April Presnell

Morgan Adams

Regarding the Presentation of AB100 and AB103 to the Wisconsin
Legislature

March 5, 2025

I am a concerned Madison community member and am testifying about how these anti-trans bills frighten me because of the precedent they would set and the danger they would impose on our trans youth.

Transgender kids are so brave, and we should be celebrating their discovery of identity, not condemning it. They should be allowed to play sports with other children of their gender and be referred to by their correct name and pronouns.

I didn't know I was trans until college, and it was (and still is) a challenge to get people to respect my pronouns. If I had to manage the misgendering when I was a child, I'm not sure that I would have been able to cope. Students, especially those in middle and high school, have so much going on in their day-to-day and they deserve basic levels of respect so they have the energy to manage all the other things life is throwing at them. They shouldn't be forced to be deadnamed or misgendered every single day. That is a miserable and exhausting way to live. I want trans kids to grow up to be trans adults and these bills will be huge factors in preventing that. "The Trevor Project's 2023 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People found that 41% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including roughly half of transgender and nonbinary youth¹". If you take away a sport they love and force them to be deadnamed and misgendered, that will certainly contribute to suicide rates among trans youth.

These bills will also set a dangerous tone and precedent, opening the door for more anti-trans legislation to be introduced in Wisconsin. Legislation of this kind will harm the safety of so many Wisconsinites, trans or otherwise. It's terrifying living as a trans adult in America today, I can't imagine the terror experienced by our trans youth. I felt the need to speak out because we all deserve to live in peace, not constant fear and dread.

Please reject these bills. They are dangerous and will lead to trans deaths, one way or another. We need to love and protect our trans communities, not destroy them.

Trans people have always existed and will always exist. You get to decide how many of us continue to exist and what our quality of life looks like. Please make the right choice.

Thank you for your consideration,

Morgan Adams

1. Quote from <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/>

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Sarah Gaskell and I live in Verona WI. As a cis, white female, I am writing to vehemently oppose AB100/AB103. At a time when legislators' efforts could be spent on far more important issues, focusing on regulating pronoun use and a trans athlete ban is ridiculous and cruel. Trans kids threaten absolutely no one. Leave them alone.

Thank you,

Sarah

--

Sarah Gaskell

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about AB100 (K-12 Trans athletic ban) and AB103 (restrictions on the use of pronouns for trans and non-binary youth).

These bills are breathtaking in their scope and the harm they can inflict, with no evidence that their good outweighs this harm.

Only 1.4% of all youth in the US ages 13-17 identify as transgender. I couldn't find statistics for Wisconsin, or national statistics for ages 12 and under. Why do you need AB100 when only a tiny number of youth identify as trans and it is likely that not all of those want to participate in sports? And what business is it of the state to legislate the use of pronouns? Why is it in the state's interest to interfere in this deeply personal part of people's lives? We have much more pressing issues in this state to address.

I want to remind you that it was in the late 1990s, that marriage equality for gay couples a hot button issue. Bills were introduced to ban or support gay marriage, and it was highly politicized. Miraculously, the more we as a nation talked about it, the more we became aware of family members who were gay, and became personal. Now a significant majority of Americans support gay marriage. In 2023, 80% of Wisconsinites approve of it.

Many of us are only recently, becoming aware and educated about what it means to be transgender. And only a few of us, especially in my generation, have transgender people in our lives. Thankfully this is beginning to change. My son and daughter have transgender people in their lives, including my daughter in law's trans sister. My 6 and 12 year grandchildren have transgender classmates, friends, even a teacher or two. They go with the flow.....they use pronouns fluidly and play in mix gender sports. It is no big deal to them; they are all human. They simply would not understand these bills, which sideline and vilify their family and friends.

Others will speak to the facts that should persuade you to say no to these bills. And facts are super important. As important is the consideration of the potential harm you inflict should these bills pass. You are trying to legislate being transgender out of existence and denying those who are transgender any agency....and all, it seems to fulfill a political agenda rather than address a pressing problem. I urge you to vote no on obit. Thank you,

Mary Wichita
Mason, WI 54856. 715-413-0177

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

I am writing this testimony against current Wisconsin Bills AB100 and AB103. Hate has no place in our communities as marginalized identities continue to be attacked by the current presidential administration, and as a state, we must do everything in our power to resist the current wave of facism that it has allowed to crop up and allow transgender youth to thrive and have a sense of community and welcomeness in spite of the Federal Government.

Best regards,

Mx. Claire A Durgan

Pronouns: they/them fae/faer

SUNY POLY '15, B.S. Information Systems

Radio Station WZ90

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly committee on Education ,

My name is Laura Komai, and I am a resident of Madison and business owner in Madison. I have lived in Madison for over 50 years and have always had great pride and love for this state. Unfortunately the Republican party has been testing that. Where is the dedication we had towards the ways that rural and urban communities depend upon each other, for our wonderful natural resources, for the foundation of public schools and access to education for everyone, and the fair treatment of all people? Where is the care for the way that success of our children brings success to our communities and our economy? I'm tired of the ways you are wasting time and resources, targeting innocent people who simply want to live their lives with the freedoms that you would expect for yourselves.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on AB 100/103. I am opposed to these bills because they interfere with the individual liberties of our children. Is this helping with rural transportation to schools? Is this helping create learning environments that are safe from gun violence? Is this helping with budget shortfalls and failure to keep up with inflation?

I really don't understand why politicians are so concerned with private lives in ways they would not tolerate in their own lives. I hope you will focus your time and attention on matters that will improve fairness and success of all children of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Laura Komai
Madison, WI 53705

and Anthology
Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

My name is Drew Laser, and I am a Milwaukee county resident. I am writing to ask the assembly committee not to pass bills AB100 and AB103. Both of these bills are attempts to make life more difficult for trans and queer students. As a trans person myself, I understand the discomfort and pain that students go through when they feel left out and unsupported. There are so few of us, and we ask only for basic respect: to be addressed by the name and pronouns that feel comfortable to us, and to be included in our community. Trans children deserve to feel safe and comfortable at school. Banning trans kids from being in their preferred sports team and making social transition such as a name change or pronoun change a difficult bureaucratic process serves no one, and in fact creates harm. It also seems like it would create confusion — if we have to go through this process for any non-legal name, can no one go by nicknames? These bills are short-sighted attempts to make life even more difficult for a very small group of people who pose no threat and are generally just trying to exist. Please choose to be a kind person and to try to understand and support the people around you.

Thank you,
Drew

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello,

Unfortunately I cannot make it in person, but I strongly oppose Bill AB 100 and AB 103.

At a time when teens in the area are committing suicide in alarming rates, and knowing the high rate of suicide attempts by transgender people, it is horrible that these bills are even introduced. This is nothing more than grandstanding. Who are they protecting? No one. What are they "protecting" from? Reality. Not everyone is the same. That's life.

To single out and ostracize transgender students who are not hurting anyone, and simply trying to live their lives, is horrible.

While racist and homophobic people are being emboldened by the president, I ask you to stand up for what's right.

These bills seek to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools.

Rita Krause
Black Earth, WI 53515

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hi,

I'm Wyatt Garlow, a Wisconsin resident and a Transgender person who is concerned about the bills AB100 & AB103. As a former transgender student who received education within Wisconsin schools, the possibility of Bills AB100 and AB103 passing into law are worrying to me.

For myself and many others, having the ability to have teachers/faculty use my chosen name and pronouns as well as the ability to play team sports was an extension of my freedom. Even if I was denied the possibility of being called my chosen name and pronouns by one teacher, there were many others that understood the importance and chose to respect my decision.

If Bills AB100 and AB103 are passed, not only are you restricting transgender students freedom of expression, you are creating an unsatisfactory and uncondusive environment for their learning. Students shouldn't have to worry about advocating for themselves the way I had to worry, and I hope my words don't fall on deaf ears.

Thank you for reading my testimony and I hope this may provide some insight.

Thank you,
Wyatt Garlow

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Noah Leigh and I am the school board president for the West Allis/West Milwaukee School district. However, today I am providing testimony only on behalf of myself, not the entire board of education since this was not a topic we had a chance to discuss as a board.

AB 100 and AB 103 are both bills that I have personal issues with in regards to the damage they could inflict on vulnerable students of my district. However, I am not going to focus on these concerns for my testimony, but keep it much broader in that both of these bills aim to strip my authority as a duly elected school board member for the district I serve and give that authority to the state.

As a school board member, I am elected to represent my constituents in regards to the operation of the West Allis/West Milwaukee et. al. school district. This includes the consideration and creation of policies that govern said school district. Bills AB 100 and AB 103 would force policies on my district, and all other school districts in the state of Wisconsin, circumventing the statutory authority granted to myself as an elected school board member.

As a school board member, there are many concerns that I aim to address in order to improve my district. The topics addressed in AB 100 and AB 103 are not topics that my constituents have brought to myself or the board as topics of concern. However, if these topics were ever a concern for my constituency, I would like the opportunity to address those concerns based on what is best for my district and not be restricted by the state in how to address those concerns.

In conclusion, I believe that AB 100 and AB 103 are an overreach by the state to exert control of decisions that should be made locally by the duly elected officials designated to make those decisions. I guarantee that there is no state representative or senator that understands the needs and concerns of the school district I represent better than myself. I ask that you allow me and my fellow board members to continue to serve our school district as informed by our constituency without interference from the state.

Respectfully,

Noah Leigh, President of the West Allis/West Milwaukee et. al school district"

Noah Leigh
He/Him
WAWM School Board

The statements contained in this email in no way represent the opinion of the WAWM school district or the WAWM school board as a whole. These are my personal opinions and should be treated as such.

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

As a parent, business owner, and advocate in Middleton Cross Plains School District of Dane County, I am writing to you in concern of bills AB100 and AB103 currently being considered, that would ban trans athletes from school sports.

I even more strongly am opposed to the idea that children are no longer allowed to use pronouns to which they feel comfortable with based on their gender identity.

I understand that federal funding may be withheld. However, I believe we as a state need to come together to find alternative funding sources for our schools.

The current administration's bullying tactics are disgusting and unconstitutional. I would encourage law makers and representatives of Wisconsin to not fall susceptible to the authoritarian, racist, xenophobic, homophobic, and exclusion-based leadership.

As a state we must stand strong to protect our children and families. Every child deserves the freedom of unadulterated and uncensored educational opportunities with freedom to express their own identity with respect from staff and peers.

Childhood and adolescence is already a challenging time of learning, growth, and development paired with social pressure and rejection. Our children do not need the additional pressure and stress of being surrounded by hate and targeted for their differences.

Many trans and LGBTQ+ children already face difficult navigation of their identities in families and in their community. They have some of the highest suicide rates of all children and demographics. Children and their families spend the majority of their waking hours at school and involved in school activities.

Taking away this protection in schools is inequitable, and quite frankly appalling. I urge you to carefully consider the consequences of Wisconsin families which should be our ultimate goal.

One aspect that makes Wisconsin unique is the culture of inclusion and community. In trying times we come together and we stand for what is right, regardless of what the rest of the world is doing.

Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the 19th amendment to allow women to vote, setting the precedent for equality within our state, our communities, and our families. We should remain steadfast in this commitment.

I strongly urge you to take this bill off of the table and allow children the safety, dignity, and respect they deserve within their school community.

Erica Page
Cross Plains, WI
608-982-6097

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan,

My name is Dani O'Brien, and I am professor of education in Ashland, WI. My research and work focus on making schools safe, supportive spaces where all young people can thrive. I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103. These are harmful bills that will no doubt make schools more dangerous for transgender and non-binary students in our state. Queer students, and transgender students in particular, are at an increased risk of suicide. A recent peer reviewed study found that when states pass anti-trans laws suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth increases by up to 72%. If you care about children, and their safety, you must oppose these bills. A 2023 study found that 48% of Wisconsin's LGBT youth have seriously considered suicide and we should be doing all we can to decrease that risk. Regardless of your political party or individual views, I hope you can see the harm that bills targeting transgender and non-binary students causes.

Please help save young Wisconsinites' lives by opposing these bills.

Dani O'Brien, PhD

Ashland, WI 54806

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Members of the Assembly:

I am writing to express my opposition to AB100 and AB103.

I am the coparent of a wonderful young trans woman. She's intelligent, athletic, kind, gentle, and empathetic. She's a human being who's working to become a contributing, caring, and productive member of society. The bills being proposed are an attempt to strip my daughter, and other transgender children, of their humanity and right to exist as who they are. We—and it's no secret to any of us, including members of this body—know that rates of suicide amongst queer and transgender children are statistically higher when compared to other children. I've already started mourning the needless deaths by suicide that will occur because of bills such as these. I've already started mourning the irreparable mental harm these bills will have on our children. My daughter is loved and cared for, and despite the hatred purported by these bills, will be loved and supported by her parents who will do anything to protect her and to make sure she grows into the empowered woman she is. Other children won't be so lucky.

The State of Wisconsin has an opportunity to distinguish itself from other states and the federal government and to come out in support of our transgender children, family members, friends, and neighbors. Please—don't be a party to the death of our children. Vote no on these bills.

Jason D'Acchioli
He/Him/His
jdacchio@gmail.com

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

1808 Van Hise Avenue
Madison WI.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee of Education,

My name is Lynette Miller, and I am a resident of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for fifty-five years. I have been a member of a Christian Church for all those years. There are youth in my church who have identified themselves as transgender or on the LGBTQ+ spectrum. They are very concerned about the way the government is targeting them. Some are even considering moving away.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100 and 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to these bills because legislators are not trained to understand physical and mental sexual identity and are hurting these children and youth. I developed a little understanding about the variety of sexual identities from an acquaintance who studied psychiatry at Columbia University under a professor who worked with parents and babies around the world who were born without a definite sex.

There is great physical and psychological variation in people even in individuals of the same sex. Even if everyone on a team identifies as the same sex, there are going to be some who are better than others. Sports are for physical and social development. It is a place where people can learn to appreciate and work with a variety of people. A good coach will help the members of the team work as a team. Vote no on assembly bill 100.

I think we all want to be called by the name we prefer and be identified by the pronouns we associate with. Vote NO on assembly bill 103.

These bills discriminate against a group of people instead of treating people as individuals. At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin.

Sincerely, Lynette Miller

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB 100 and AB 103. I have lived in Wisconsin for 13 years and speak on my own behalf as a private citizen and former classroom teacher.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive education: free to be themselves, learn, play sports, and grow, safe from discriminatory harassment.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Kirchgasser
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Assembly Committee on Education,

As a trans/nonbinary Wisconsinite, I strongly oppose the proposed bills AB100 and AB103. The moral panic around trans kids is appalling and reactionary, and those who will be impacted by this bill are deeply vulnerable youth who will be made to feel even more ashamed of their existence than they already do. I suffered due to a lack of inclusivity in school and am saddened to see those in power fighting to intensify the oppressiveness of the environment. If you claim to support our state's youth, understand that these bills will cosign hatred and violence against those perceived as 'other' and the suicide rate among LGBT people will raise from its already horrifying level. Our lives are in your hands; please make the right choice.

Abigail Sharp
Madison WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello to the Assembly Committee of Education,

Thank you for your time today. My name is Emma Cholip and I'm a resident in Madison, Wisconsin. I'm writing this testimony to ensure the protection and inclusivity of trans youth. Particularly, this is in regards to their right to be in athletics and unfair legislation aggressively singling out this small portion of students because of their gender.

I am not a student athlete anymore, but the team spirit and inherent community that comes with being a part of a sports team, especially during formative years is immensely important for forming relationships and sportsmanlike conduct. Being a part of a team is a special experience that no one should be excluded from, especially not for their gender or transness. It helped shape me, a nonbinary person, into a more empathetic, well rounded person when I was with people who shared the same passion as me, and actively wanted me to be there.

Encouraging the exclusion of students who already feel alienated from the growing anti-trans climate in the United States is detrimental not only to the trans students, but to everyone alongside them as well. Our communities are only as strong as our weakest members; those who are most likely to experience violence, incarceration, and in the worst cases, suicide and homicide. The more we push trans youth to the side and allow them to suffer under the violent rhetoric that exists in these anti-trans bills being put forth, the more we're condemning ourselves to further division.

This testimony is for everyone who is no longer here to speak on it. To those who have been killed, merely for their existence. To those who ended their own life in fear of never being able to live as their authentic self. To those who are living on the streets, or homeless shelters, scorned by their families who failed to keep their promise of unconditional love. I am speaking for them, because I am able to, and they are not.

Do not let these anti-trans bills pass, do not give up on these children who are in the greatest need of support. They deserve to be protected. They deserve to be loved. They deserve to be included as they are, not who everyone wants them to be.

I deeply oppose bills AB100 and AB103, and can only stress that it will cause more pain. Do not let them continue on.

Thank you for your time.

Emma Cholip

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB103 and AB100, both of which unfairly target transgender and gender non-conforming youth in Wisconsin. These bills create harmful barriers for students by restricting the use of preferred names and pronouns (AB103) and by prohibiting trans youth from participating in school sports consistent with their gender identity (AB100).

As a community member and advocate for youth well-being, I have multiple friends with transgender children, and I fear for their mental health and overall well-being if they are denied the right to be seen, respected, and included. Schools should be safe spaces where all students feel supported and valued, not places where their identities are erased or restricted. Denying students the ability to use their chosen names and pronouns isolates them, increases their risk of anxiety and depression, and sends a harmful message that they do not belong.

Furthermore, barring transgender youth from participating in school sports strips them of essential experiences—teamwork, confidence, and a sense of belonging—that should be available to all students. Research consistently shows that when trans youth are affirmed in their identities, their mental health outcomes improve significantly, while exclusionary policies cause lasting harm.

I urge you to oppose AB103 and AB100 and instead focus on policies that support the well-being of all Wisconsin students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Charmaine Swan
Washburn, WI 54891

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Committee on Education,

As a cisgender female, I do not fear my transgender siblings nor competing with them. Furthermore, I am fully capable of taking care of myself in all situations and do not need your so-called "protection" of me.

AB100 would prohibit those assigned as males on their birth certificates from participating in sports usually ascribed to females. AB100 would also prohibit males from access to locker rooms assigned to females.88 I P99

While on its face these may seem reasonable, the reality is quite different. Further consideration of both bills indicates a troubling, and unnecessary, point-of-view that females are in need of protection from males. If this is not the case, why did you not propose a similar bill prohibiting those assigned as females from participating in sports usually ascribed to males? Let me be very clear that I would oppose such a bill as a violation of Title IX and the Senate rejection of a bill excluding transgender students from school sports (<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/senate-rejects-bill-excluding-transgender-students-from-school-sports>.)

AB103 would require schools and their staffs to address students solely by their legal name as stated on their birth certificate and refer to students using solely pronouns that are consistent with the gender ascribed to them on their birth certificate. This would shut down students' process of inquiry into who they are and who they want to be and isn't restricted to names and pronouns but also education and career paths. AB103, which would restrict the speech of students, their families, teachers, and other school staff, based solely on content of such speech, is also likely a violation of the First Amendment.

For all of the reasons stated above, please do NOT go forward with AB100 and AB103.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Downs
Madison, WI 53715-1486
Assembly District 78

Amie Hoag
Regarding AB100 and AB103
6 March 2025

Hello, I'm Amie Hoag, and I've lived in Wisconsin most of my life. I've chosen to raise my daughter here because I know the people of Wisconsin are some of the most genuinely kind people on the planet. What is represented in AB100 and AB103 does not represent Wisconsin.

I'm reading a book called *An Immense World* by Ed Yong. This book explores the senses of the animal kingdom, laying out the way mammals, birds, insects, fish, and reptiles experience the world around them, and how different it is from the way humans experience that same world. It even goes so far to explore how human beings experience some senses, like the sense of smell, in wholly unique ways. For some people, for example, sweaty gym socks smell like vanilla. Imagine that. Doesn't smell like vanilla to me.

Why am I talking about sweaty gym socks when we're talking about transgender kids in Wisconsin? Because this is just one illustration of how each one of us experiences this vast and mysterious world in our own unique way, and it's harmful to assume that the way I experience the world is the *only* way to experience the world — or the *right* way to experience the world.

This legislation, AB100 and AB103, take aim at a remarkably vulnerable part of our population. Children are already naturally vulnerable, and children who are being told they can't be who they know at their core they are? Well, they are the ones we need to protect the most.

These pieces of legislation amount bullying for that vulnerable population and fear-mongering for the broader population. I took a look at the numbers.

- * According to the Williams Institute at UCLA, **0.6% of the US population** age 13 and older identifies as transgender.
- * In Wisconsin, there are a little more than **412,000 middle and high school students**, about 7% of our state's total population of 5.961 million.
- * If you apply that nation-wide percentage to the middle and high school populations in Wisconsin, that means **we have about 2,472 transgender students** in the state of Wisconsin, which amounts to about **0.04% of our state's total population**.
- * Let's go a little further. Wisconsin has 359 middle schools and 514 high schools, for a total of 873. That means there is **an average of fewer than 3 transgender students at each school**. Hardly enough to make a sports team out of, and certainly not a burden to learn the preferred names of.

Now, I know that transgender numbers are certainly underreported — and who could blame a kid for hesitating to share who they really are in an environment like this? But if you take those numbers at face value, that means this body is targeting 0.04% of our state's population, an average of less than 3 kids per school. **If that isn't bullying, what is?**

Laws like these not only make our state less safe for this small population of vulnerable kids, they make it less safe for every single person. Because where will you draw the line? How about you draw it right here and vote no on this discriminatory and bigoted legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amie Hoag
5790 Oak Savannah Ct., Marshall, WI 53559

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Good morning,

As a resident of Thiensville WI, a practicing healthcare professional, and a concerned parent, I am writing to declare my opposition to AB 100 and AB 103. These proposals represent the willful ignorance and abject hatred of bigots seeking to alienate and intimidate marginalized children. Such heavy-handed measures will do little but create fear, perpetuate discrimination, and legitimize violence. This is unacceptable.

I ask you as an active voting constituent, to please reject AB 100 and AB 103.

Thomas Ramlow, RN

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Legislator,

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I'm again demanding that you respect our youth as each human has the right to be cared for and nurtured.

RE AB 100: Denying young people their right to play on sports teams is preposterous. There are so many better things to legislate, for example, keeping guns out of the hands of people who would use them to hurt others in Wisconsin. AB100 prevents children from developing their social and physical skills. They need those skills to thrive as citizens, consumers and taxpayers. All young people deserve to play sports. Let's be adults about this and stop trying to control people. It's ridiculous.

RE AB103: Every person has the right to be addressed in a respectful manner. This starts in childhood, when young people begin to develop autonomy. In our FORWARD-thinking neighbor to the south, Chicago, students are addressed with the names and pronouns they prefer. This allows them to concentrate on their school work, get better grades and grow up to be citizens and consumers that contribute to society.

Giving the children the rights they are owed will happen. Younger generations don't trifle with such nonsense and soon they'll be in your position.

Regards,
Holly Marley-Henschen
they, them, theirs

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Drew Kohrs and I live in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. I oppose both AB 100 and AB 103 bills. Transgender and gender non-conforming students deserve an opportunity to play amateur sports. These bills are a cruel attempt to further isolate kids who already feel different.

In research published by Kaiser Permanente, transgender youth are more likely to be diagnosed with mental health conditions than young people who identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. A team sport could be the support one kid needs to feel included!

Getting the opportunity to play, and to compete, and to grow as a person? Everyone should have access to that.

Thank you,

Drew Kohrs
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Source: <https://www.kp-scalresearch.org/transgender-youth-more-often-diagnosed-with-mental-health-conditions>

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Samuel Rouleau, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. Such policies would only alienate and isolate children who are trans, with no justifying benefit to any child, trans or not.

I believe AB100 specifically is clear government overreach. The matter of determining who is eligible to compete in any athletic competition should be solely up to the parties directly involved in hosting the event. There is no reason that the state government should intervene.

Regarding AB103, children that hide their being trans from their parents usually have legitimate reasons to do so, and forcing faculty and staff to report students who ask to use a different name or set of pronouns will cause more harm than good. The enactment of this bill will lead many children to bottle up their pain in fear of straining their relationship with their parents, and a child who doesn't tell anyone about their struggles can't get help from anyone.

As one of your constituents, I ask you to vote against both AB100 and AB103.

Sincerely,
Samuel Rouleau

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Subject: Opposition to AB100 and AB103 – Protecting the Rights and Dignity of Transgender Students

Dear Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB100 and AB103, two bills that would harm transgender students in Wisconsin by restricting their participation in sports and limiting their ability to be recognized by their chosen names and pronouns in schools. These measures not only violate fundamental principles of equality and dignity but also place undue government interference in deeply personal matters that should be handled with compassion, not legislation.

Every child deserves to be treated with respect and fairness, and these bills send a dangerous message that transgender youth are unwelcome or unworthy of the same rights as their peers. Studies have shown that affirming a child's gender identity reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide. By enacting policies that single out and discriminate against trans students, Wisconsin would be ignoring the overwhelming evidence that acceptance and inclusion create safer, healthier communities. Additionally, these bills undermine the autonomy of local school districts, teachers, and parents, inserting state lawmakers into private decisions that should be made by those who best understand and care for each individual student. Restricting the use of correct names and pronouns not only disrespects transgender students but also sets a dangerous precedent of government overreach into educational spaces.

I urge you to reject AB100 and AB103 and instead focus on policies that support all Wisconsin students. Our state should be a place where every child—regardless of gender identity—feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive. Please stand on the right side of history and protect the dignity and rights of transgender youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will choose to affirm Wisconsin's commitment to equality and fairness.

Sincerely,

Ryan Reilly
Cedarburg, WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Rev. Rachel Young Binter and I am a resident of Milwaukee, residing at 1830 N 51st Street, 53208. I am also the mother of a trans daughter and served as a pastor to many trans and non-binary youth in my former call as a Lutheran campus pastor at UW-Milwaukee.

I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103, which would strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools.

These bills actively discriminate against and harm children born with a whole body that does not conform to the gender assigned to them at their birth based on a part of their body. These bills also actively dismiss the science that documents that there is and always has been gender diversity within the chromosomes, hormones, brains, and organs of human beings and that this means intersex, non-binary, and transgender people have always existed within the human population.

Children within these minority populations already face tremendous obstacles in navigating the world and society, with 82% of all transgender individuals having considered suicide and a full 40% attempting. A recent peer reviewed study by the Trevor Project found that suicide attempts increase as much as an additional 72% for transgender and gender nonconforming teenagers in states that pass anti-transgender laws aimed at minors.

As a mother and pastor to trans people, these numbers are not abstract to me. They represent gifted, beautiful young people that I know and love - many of whom almost did not make it as they fought to find their way in a world that is fearful and turned against them. They include my own most precious child, who I carried into existence through my own body, held at my chest as my first born, and have loved since her first breath. My daughter is funny and smart and adored by her family and friends. She gives back to our community daily in the challenging work she does compassionately caring for vulnerable populations of people in the emergency room of a local hospital. She is an advocate for the least among us, as taught to her by her pastor mother, the congregations in which she grew up, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. She grounds my life with her wisdom and makes me a better Christian every day through the witness of her own courage.

Like so many parents of trans children, however, I almost lost her as she faced the struggle of coming out. She knew I would advocate for her life, but she knew the rest of the world would not, and it was the hardest thing she has ever done, but she knows if she hadn't done it, she wouldn't be alive. She is here and contributing to the world with power and grace because she has chosen to stop fighting who God created her to be and has finally allowed others to see her as I trust God has always seen her. Yet I constantly live with the fear that someone will beat her or take her life because we live in a society that is demonizing her very existence. There is nothing holy about denying people the right to exist as God created them to be. Jesus, in the Gospel of Matthew, says of the gender nonconforming people of his time, the eunuchs, "For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

I don't know why government officials feel they can legislate against people Jesus himself accepted and against a biblical witness that uplifts again and again our need to love and care for those who are vulnerable in our society. I don't know why the life of my daughter and other children, who it is proven will gain strength to live by being able to play sports with friends and be called by the names and pronouns that affirm their innermost being, are being actively targeted by laws that will take their lives away from them. I don't know why sports are considered more holy than the life of a human being, especially when people of all genders have widely different levels of strength, agility, and capacity. (I can assure you, my daughter would be no threat on any sports team, even before estrogen decreased her strength and muscle mass). I don't know why scientific knowledge of the diversity of humankind is being ignored in order to punish innocent children who want to thrive in the bodies given to them.

This legislation is cruel and defies what has proven to be true, which is that the lives of gender nonconforming children are stabilized by even one caring adult or institution. As a mother who lives every day swallowing down the fear that her child will come to harm in a world mounting against her and that I will face the greatest fear of her life being taken away from me, I beg you to oppose this legislation. I beg you on behalf of myself, I beg you on behalf of the two other women I work with with trans children and every parent of a trans child, and I beg you on behalf of our society that needs the gifts our children bring to the world. In my many years of campus ministry, it was so often my trans and nonbinary students who brought the biggest and most caring hearts into the room, because they knew how life saving it was to have someone care for them and this is true of my child as well. I believe this is why Jesus tells us that salvation will come from the least among us. May we listen to him and protect those who carry in their very holy, God-created bodies our own path into the kingdom of heaven.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rachel Young Binter

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Justin Marquez, and I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Madison. I am submitting this written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. I do not want any child to feel unsafe and unwanted simply because of who they are or how they see themselves. In school, I had a couple friends who identified as transgender and it was hard to watch others disregard their identity, whether intentionally or not. Living each day having to face ignorance or malice must be incredibly tiring and sad, and I do not want kids today to have to experience what they did. I now identify as transgender as well, and I am fortunate to be a part of a loving and accepting community. All I want is for trans kids to find their own community, and to not be alienated due to legislation.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. Enacting these bills will enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB100 and 103.

Thank you,
Justin Marquez

Kattarina Kaybee
Regarding the Assembly Committee on Education
March 4th, 2025

My name is Kat Kaybee and I am a resident of Milwaukee, WI. I am testifying against Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. I was an elementary teaching assistant at a character-education-based charter school for four years, and I'm a trans/non-binary adult who was out to my school community - teachers, students, and parents alike. I am sickened by the lack of compassion and understanding being shown in these bills, and the insertion of the government in the private business of individuals.

During my time in the classroom, I interacted with hundreds of different students. A handful of these children were trans/non-binary, but for most students, I was the first out trans person that they met. Let's talk about me as a trans adult in that space. Do you want to know what impact my transness had on them? For cis students, it made them aware of another type of person they can encounter in the world. It confused them sometimes, just like any new piece of information might confuse someone as they add that information to what they already know, but that's to be expected as kids learn about new things in the world. But for trans students, my transness gave them an adult they could trust and be honest with about their inner feelings of self - someone who actually understood what they were going through.

Transness is being talked about as this big, scary, deviant "other" when it's just another way of being. The trans/non-binary children who passed through my classroom were just like any other kid. They had homework to worry about, soccer tryouts to practice for, piano lessons they were dreading, friends who ate lunch with them every day... And teachers who loved them and wanted to provide a caring, nurturing environment for them to grow to be their best selves. For some kids, that's going to mean social transitioning, a.k.a. going by a different name and different pronouns. And some kids who want to start that social transition don't have adults at home who would respond with care and nurturing like their teacher would. This is what adults who are afraid of children transitioning are missing.

There are countless situations where the only adult a child trusts is at school, for whatever the reason may be. Likewise, there are important, overlooked reasons that some children are asking *teachers* to call them a new name/new pronouns *without* asking their parents the same thing. These kids are having to do the hardest and saddest thing a kid could ever have to do - weigh whether or not their adult at home is a safe adult or not. I know that sounds harsh against those parents - I know that those parents are worrying about what is best for their child. They fear permanent change that'll be regretted, or they fear damnation, or they simply fear something they're unfamiliar with. But outing a kid to parents who would keep their kid from transitioning doesn't make the feelings of transness go away - it puts them in danger, and pushes them away further, showing them exactly who they can and can't trust with their truest self. If a kid doesn't want their parents to know they are trans, the issue isn't the teachers at school "hiding" this information. The issue is parents who let fear overcome their responsibility to love UNCONDITIONALLY. *Why* does that kid not want their parents to know? What resources

can we provide to support children who don't feel safe to be themselves at home and who don't feel that trust with their guardian? What resources can we provide their guardians? Why do we think banning the change of names and pronouns in schools will make children "safer" when it'll just cut us off from them even further, and leave them vulnerable, hurting, and lost, stuck in a space where they have to worry about personal safety and their rights as an individual, instead of homework and piano lessons? Why are we continuing to believe false claims that trans athletes are taking over sports and introducing bills that will alienate, harm, and dehumanize ALL children - not just trans ones - who just want to play sports and have fun? What actual concrete evidence shows these bills are necessary and not just a Republican attempt to control, belittle, and eliminate a group of people that they have such a baffling hate for?

Children's lives will be put into jeopardy if we rip away these rights to individual privacy and individual determination. Government doesn't get a say in this. Government doesn't NEED a say in this. Fight against Assembly Bills 100 and 103 and stop the misunderstanding and unjustified fear-mongering.

I appreciate your consideration of this testimony in these matters.

Representatives,

My name is Ani Miskowski. I am a resident of Milwaukee. While I believe that there is plenty of evidence detailing the harm Assembly Bills 100 and 103 will cause, part of me fears that those points do not matter to you. I fear that hearings like these have become an easily dismissible formality where the physical presence of a committee is meant to placate us. I hope I'm wrong. I cannot force you to open your hearts, and I would not want to. All I have is my hope that you will let yourself hear me.

I was born into a God-fearing family. We went to church every week. We communed with people who shared our faith and our values. But despite all of the faith that my parents claimed to have, they were afraid every day, afraid of making even one misstep, afraid of others, afraid of themselves, afraid of God, and afraid of punishment. That fear destroyed our relationship. I was not brave enough to ask them then, so I ask you now, those of you with open hearts who truly believe trans children are hurting themselves and genuinely want to protect them:

What if you're wrong? What if God's priority isn't the names or pronouns of these children but whether they are accepted and loved? What if trans children are not perverting their bodies but are transcending them, embracing a divine energy inspired by God?

I can't answer for you. I understand it might be scary to grapple with these questions regardless of what faith you may or may not hold. Your mind might conjure memories of shame or even physical punishment, times where you were deemed not masculine or feminine enough. Or perhaps you witnessed others receiving similar treatment and vowed to avoid it. Your instinct might be to defend these corrections, to insist they were acts of love, but *you know what it feels like to be loved*. Love is incompatible with the rejection of mental and physical autonomy. Do you know how it feels to find joy in who you are only for someone else to insist "You are who I say you are." If you know how that feels, if you remember that confusion and frustration, how can you carry that pain forward? How can you give it to *children*?

I feel sorry for you. Because I see the joy in these children. I see the love and transformation they bring to their families. Why don't you trust their joy? What messaging have you received that taught you their truth is in opposition to yours?

The only people you are protecting with these laws are yourselves, and, while you might feel like you've done something good (despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary), you are also holding yourself back. You are running away from your cognitive dissonance because you are afraid of what will happen if you're honest. As long as you avoid honesty, you will never know true peace. I do not want you to be trans if you're not trans. I do not want you to change your name unless you'd like to. I want you to have the freedom to celebrate differences in others and in yourself without fear of punishment. I want these children to lead long, happy, and fulfilled lives.

I beg you to use this moment and your power to show trans children love and acceptance. You have the ability to reject these bills and their rhetoric, and, furthermore, you have a moral responsibility to do so. All it takes is one moment to choose to embrace change. Aren't you tired of being afraid?

Compassionately,

Ani

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly or Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Sloan Greenheck and I oppose bills AB100 and bill AB103.

All children deserve safe and supportive environments. Encouraging knowledge, learning, and self exploration is the purpose of education. By restricting a child's access to education and acceptance of gender expression, irreparable harm WILL be caused.

I am nonbinary. I am scared. I can only imagine how horrifying it is to live as a child in this political climate. Please do not make children feel less safe.

Thank you.

Sloan

Waterloo, WI

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Aislinn Hutchinson and I am a concerned resident of the city of Madison. I've lived in Wisconsin for five years and have called Madison home for all of them. I am a business owner, spouse, and active member of my community. I am also trans. I am testifying on bill AB100 and AB103. I am testifying both about allowing trans youth to participate in sports according to their identified gender as well as their ability to use their chosen name and pronouns in school.

I am testifying about this because I myself just came out as non-binary this year. I am also a former college DI athlete, and sports were and are my entire life. I recently had to find a new league to play hockey in because all of this hate that is being spread towards trans people is becoming a problem everywhere. My league tried to ban all trans players, including non-binary players. This significantly impacted my mental health as hockey is the place I go to play, have fun with my friends, decompress, and get physical activity. There was absolutely no scientific reason for banning athletes like myself from participating in sport, and the same thing is happening to youth if this bill is passed.

I wanted to share my story because I believe all PEOPLE should have the right and access to sport, as well as to use the pronouns of their choosing. Sports, and feeling safe in a dressing room are so important. This is a place where youth are able to learn skills about teamwork, camaraderie, and how to accept one another but this bill creates a scenario in which people will be taught to fear and discriminate against their trans peers. We are just people, wanting to respectfully be shown respect and honor like any human person deserves. The way this bill specifically targets trans youth is abhorrent and I will not stand for it in my community. Madison is a welcoming community for all trans and queer people and I have never felt safer to be myself in a community. Passing these bills will create an environment where others can openly hate and fear monger them when all they want is to be accepted for who they are. Just believe them. How does it affect you? Do you know a trans person? Have you loved a trans person? I do, and I have, and they are the most caring people who know themselves deeply, and just want to exist with the same human rights and decency that cis people get. Please, just leave the trans kids alone.

I wish I had access to language like non-binary or trans when I was a kid this age, I would have known myself a lot better then. It took me 29 years to come out. I have never been happier, or thriving more than I am today. I have never felt safer in sport when others use my pronouns and allow me in their locker rooms. Please don't let youth have to deal with hatred from this young of an age. I barely made it to 29 years old, and a lot of these kids will not survive passing a bill like this. Suicide rates dramatically decrease when we allow kids to be themselves, and to be recognized by others as themselves. My solution is to allow kids to use the

pronouns of their choosing, because why does it affect you to respect what someone wants to be called? Let trans kids play sports with their gender, because there is no real difference in athletic ability at these ages, and we all just want to play.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story, and I urge you to think about these kids as people, trying to figure themselves out, instead of as some scary group of people that the media and leaders of this country have decided are bad and wrong. Thank you for your consideration of these matters and solutions, it is very much appreciated.

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 30 years. I came as a teen from California and could never leave because I felt more at home in Madison than I have ever felt. But lately I've found myself questioning if this is where I can stay. If Wisconsin is where I want my children to go to high school and college? Why would they stay in this place if we pass bills that restrict the rights of others who are doing nothing more than asking to live as their authentic selves?

As you consider your vote today, I'm asking you to think about the children of today and tomorrow who these bills truly affects. What do you have to lose? What do you have to gain?

I personally have loved ones who, in the past few years, have been able to be their authentic selves, to go to school and use the pronouns that reflect who they truly are. Passing this bill would take away their comfort, their safety, their ability to live as who they truly are meant to be. I have gained the honor of knowing Trans youth who make our community a better place.

But, if these bills pass, I have so much to lose. I lose knowing the people I love as they authentically are. I lose seeing the people I love who can live safely and who feel comfortable living their lives in our community, this community, where they were born and raised and want to be able to stay. These bills are nothing more than a way of telling someone they don't belong. That's not the Wisconsin way. That's not who we are. Please consider the people who would truly be affected by these bills and support their rights to be who they are.

Trans youth deserve the right to participate in sports, and to use the pronouns that reflect who they are. Please vote in a way that supports the inclusive community we know and can be proud to be a part of.

Thank you for your support,
Ellen Weismer
Madison, 53717

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

My name is Kelsey Foster (she/her). I am a lifelong Wisconsin resident, and I write today in opposition to Assembly Bill 103. I have also written in opposition to Assembly Bill 100, because I see these bills as two pieces of the same problem: Certain legislators have gotten very confused about what their jobs are. Instead of working to address the real challenges that face all Wisconsinites, they are wasting time and taxpayer money on being hateful, divisive bigots. I don't know where they got the idea that their roles as state legislators have anything at all to do with telling kids what they can and can't be called. That is blatant government overreach. Calling someone by the name and pronouns they choose does no one any harm, and in fact can be hugely beneficial for trans youth, some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

We have actual problems in the state of Wisconsin that our elected representatives could be addressing. Please, stop targeting kids and get back to work.

Thank you.

Kelsey Foster

Madison, 53704

(technically I'm a Westport resident, even with that Madison address)

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I oppose Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Trans youth deserve to learn and participate by playing on sports teams and using locker rooms that match their authentic gender. They also deserve to use the name and pronouns they identify with at school. Every person has the right to be and to belong. This is what schools and school sports are for. Learning to appreciate each other's differences and how they contribute to the whole (as well as make us stronger). By not allowing students to be themselves, we are contributing to their mental health problems which is detrimental to not just them but other students and society at large. Please consider sending a message that we are here to love one another and unite in the acceptance of trans youth. They deserve to belong as themselves in schools and extracurricular activities.

Thank you,

Shawn Brown
Stoughton, WI 53589

March 4th, 2025

Dear Assembly Education Committee members,

My name is Laura Stoesz, and I am a licensed professional counselor in training with a Master's of Science in Counseling from the University of Madison. These are my own views, and they are informed by psychological science. As a psychotherapist, I work with children and adults who have been harmed by anti-trans legislation like AB 100 and AB 103. I ask that you vote no on both these bills because they will harm children and adults in our state, leading to public health impacts, lost productivity and creativity, and lost faith in your work as politicians.

Trans, gender nonconforming, and nonbinary people have always existed. It is society's prejudiced views, policies, and actions that harm non-cis people, not their gender identity. The evidence in scientific literature is clear. As researcher Ilan Meyer established in his seminal 2003 peer-reviewed paper, "stigma, prejudice, and discrimination create a hostile and stressful social environment," which leads to mental health problems and can lead to negative physical health effects. (Meyer, "Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence," *Psychological Bulletin*, 2003). We have known this for over twenty years, and yet bills like these continue to inflict minority stress on people, causing public health impacts that reverberate for decades.

Lost productivity and creativity: As nonbinary author Alok Vaid-Menon says in *Beyond the Gender Binary*, "Gender non-conforming people face considerable distress not because we have a disorder, but because of stigma and discrimination. There is nothing wrong with us, what is wrong is a world that punishes us for not being normatively masculine or feminine." Pronouns are a zero-cost affirmation of identity. If you could affirm a child with a word, why would you refuse to do it? I'm not talking about potentially hurtful words. Using a correct pronoun or name is morally neutral, costs nothing, and affirms a child without harming another person. The discomfort of the person being asked to use the correct name or pronoun is not harm; dysphoria is. Dysphoria is traumatic, and the more gender nonconforming children and adults are forced to experience it, the more trauma builds up, leading to challenges in life functioning, just as we see in PTSD, and in fact, sometimes rising to the level of clinical PTSD. This mental trauma of being misidentified, stigmatized, and ostracized has a social cost, as traumatized people often need additional support from friends, family, or social systems. Traumatized people and their allies pay the cost, but so does society, when a person's potential goes underutilized and their relationships and lives are affected by trauma. Some people still excel despite these stacked odds, like trans athletes, and they are my inspiration.

Trans-inclusive sports can still be fair. Trans athletes in sports aligned with their gender should be allowed to compete. Overcoming transphobia and adapting to changing bodies are challenge enough for trans athletes. They should not be subjected to exclusionary practices just to be able to enjoy their sport. Far worse outcomes can and do happen to girls and women in sports than competing with trans athletes, who pose no threat to safety. Look at the recent US Olympic Gymnastics team and how many were systematically abused by a cis male team medical provider, who did present a threat to safety and who was allowed to continue far too long. Look at the intrusive testing being proposed to police women's categorization as women just to

participate in their sport. Inflicting this testing would be traumatizing, objectifying, and unnecessary.

Lost faith in you as an elected official: It's not a good look to be anti-trans. It may seem politically expedient now, when others are attacking trans rights. But in the years to come, anti-trans politicians will suffer the consequences of alienating so many people -- allies, loved ones of trans people, folks who come to realize what brilliant, beautiful contributions trans people bring to society. I watch Roller Derby, a sport that is inclusive of trans athletes, BECAUSE it is inclusive of trans athletes. At games, I get to witness gender diversity, excellence in sport, and welcome for all. At the most recent game, competitors wore shirts that affirmed, "Trans Athletes Belong Here." There was a palpable joy in the arena and on the bleachers. Children clamored to high-five all the athletes at the end of each game. This is the positive impact inclusion can have: sportsmanship, compassion, and inclusion. Who doesn't support those values? Anyone who votes for AB 100 or AB 103.

Sincerely,

Laura Stoesz, M.S., LPC-IT

(she/her/hers)

Therapist, Willow Counseling and Therapeutic Arts Center

laura@willowcounselingandarts.com

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing today to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

My name is Astrid Hooper Lofton and I am a Madison resident. I studied Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Wisconsin- Madison. While there, I took an internship through Madison School & Community Recreation where I worked in a middle school afterschool program and helped run summer school.

While there, I worked with some of the Trans students who will be impacted by AB100 and AB103 if they are passed. I think about them and what they will experience going on to highschool and how they would be excluded from participating in extracurricular sports or potentially be forced to go by an incorrect name or pronoun. The intense shame and othering this would cause is hard to imagine, and trying to do so breaks my heart.

Recently, my family lost my step-sister to suicide. She was a Trans woman. I hope you all keep in mind the undisputed fact that the Trans community faces much higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality than cisgender people as you discuss these bills. Constant discrimination from unaccepting communities is what drives those statistics. I do not believe there is enough reason to pass these bills. All the reasons not to, however, are perilously important as they may save the lives of our Trans youth.

Thank you for your time,
Astrid Hooper Lofton

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

As an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a resident of Wisconsin, I strongly oppose AB 100 and AB 103. These bills undermine the basic human dignity that should be afforded to all people, including our transgender neighbors, friends, and family members. My faith calls me to recognize and affirm the worth of every person as a beloved child of God, and these bills fail to honor that fundamental truth.

Beyond the harm they cause to transgender individuals, these bills also place undue burdens on families, educators, and school staff—forcing them into impossible positions that fracture trust and create fear where there should be care and support. Policies that target and marginalize vulnerable populations do not reflect the values of compassion, justice, and equity that should be afforded to all residents of Wisconsin.

I urge you to reject these harmful measures and instead work toward laws that uplift and protect the dignity of all Wisconsinites. We are called not to create division, but to care for one another in love.

The Rev. Jason Poole-Xiong
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Members of the Assembly Bill on Education,

I am writing to oppose Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

For Bill 100, I am opposed because school sports are not professional sports. All children and youth are still developing and develop at different rates regardless of gender and that includes transgender kids. Blocking transgender children and youth maintains them as second class participants and reminds me of the days when girls were only allowed to play half-court basketball, or were only allowed to wear dresses and skirts, or when we forced left-handed children to try to become right-handed--all within my parents' lifetime. All children and youth play and participate in athletics because first and foremost it's fun, it's something they enjoy. In a world where transgender children and youth are more likely to be bullied. Studies from the National Institute of Health show that 53% of cisgender boys and girls are likely to be bullied, but that rate is 83% for transgender kids. Disallowing trans children and youth from participating in athletics, including locker room use, contributes to the sense of isolation and poor mental health and well-being, as shown in that same study. Inclusion of transgender children and youth has the opposite effect of building self-esteem and acceptance among *all* children and youth, including both transgender and cisgender kids. The percentage of transgender youth ages 13-17 is less than 1.5 percent of the entire U.S. youth population. We are talking about a small number of children and youth who just want to be treated like everyone else. Please oppose Assembly Bill 100 to assure fair treatment and mental well being for all of our children and youth.

For Bill 103, I am opposed because people change names and use nicknames all the time. Are we going to not allow children to use the nickname they prefer? Are we going to insist they use the last name they are registered in, even if they are not in the custody of that parent and choose to use a different family last name? This is an unnecessary bill. For transgender children and youth, studies have shown that using their preferred names and pronouns boosts self-esteem and mental well-being. This is the same for cisgender children. I myself was given a nickname by my family that has been used my whole life; when someone uses my full legal name I know they do not know me personally and do not know who I really am. I know other cisgender adults who were given a nickname by their family and as they became teens they stopped using it because they found it didn't fit. Why would we do this to children and youth? This seems unnecessarily cruel. Allow children and youth to use the names they prefer. Pronouns are also a similar way of declaring who someone is, and it seems rather ridiculous to tell someone they aren't who they know themselves to be. But not only is it ridiculous, it is harmful, and contributes to bullying. Studies from the National Institute of Health show that 53% of cisgender children and youth are likely to be bullied, but that rate is 83% for transgender kids. This seems like

a waste of legislation to target a small percentage (less than 1.5% of all children and youth in the U.S.) and would also affect cisgender children who use a different name at school. Vote no on Assembly Bill 103.

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell
Brookfield, Wisconsin

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I have never written a testimony before. But as a transgender individual living in Wisconsin I have to speak out against Assembly Bill 100 and 103.

In regards to AB 100. I was a freshman in highschool when I started socially transitioning. The importance of being called the appropriate name and be correctly gendered cannot be overstated. Socially transitioning is just as important as medically transitioning, especially when gender affirming healthcare is not always accessible. Principals and schools should not be allowed to discriminate against their transgender students. They should not be able to inflict their personal beliefs to harm trans youth. Calling someone by their correct name is a sign of respect and acknowledgement that causes no one harm and does not cost anything. Legal name changes are a lengthy process should not be required in order to be called the correct name.

In regards to AB 103. It is unfair to target and discriminate against any child who wishes to participate in school activities. The legislators who are looking to impose this bill, and the countless others across the nation, are in a fight against literal children. There is an insignificant number of trans kids in athletics that are being harassed by conservative ideology. They are seeking to exclude them because they do not agree with their personal decisions.

Please let me know if this is sufficient! I hope to hear back from you confirming that you have received this and it will be some use!

Jesse Goyette (he/him/his they/them/theirs)

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Maks Kopish, I am a constituent from La Farge, WI (54639). I've lived in Vernon County for the past six years, and I am in training to become an interfaith minister. Four years ago, I decided to change my name with the realization that my interior self is much more masculine-leaning than people would assume based on the sex (female) and name I was assigned at birth.

I discovered that there is a name for a feeling I had my entire life, the feeling of not really fitting within the category of "girl" or the social expectations of girl/womanhood. The word is dysphoria. Gender dysphoria is what I felt when I'd open birthday presents from my mom to find pink clothes, barbie dolls, and heart-shaped jewelry, when my young self wanted army men, spy gadgets, and science books. Gender dysphoria is what I felt when I had to wear a dress to prom and felt like a man in drag. Despite being biologically female, I have never fit within the box of girl/womanhood, and I knew it from the earliest age I can remember.

Changing my name and adopting gender neutral pronouns (they/them) was a massive relief for my mental and emotional health. I immediately felt more confident, happy, and excited about life. I was getting to know myself better, no longer hiding under labels that always felt off. I was being more honest with my friends and loved ones about who I really am. Changing my name and pronouns was one of the most important and life-affirming things I've ever done. My only regret is that I was kept from my own truth for so many years trying to fit within a category I didn't belong.

Please do not cause misery for our kids. They have it hard enough with everything going on in the world. Just let them be themselves. Gender is not some big scary thing. Gender expression should be fun and interesting. Don't you want to know who people really are, in all of our wonderful and wild glory, and as our Creator, rather than our government, intends?

Please do not pass AB100 and AB103. Trans kids should be able to use the locker room that suits their self-understanding of their gender; and refusing to use a person's name and pronouns is not only supremely disrespectful but also massively harmful for that person's internal well-being and sense of self. Just let us be.

Thank you,
Maks Kopish
La Farge, WI 54639

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing in regards to my opposition to Assembly Bills 103 and 100

As the parent of a trans person, I have witnessed how beneficial it is to have a trans person referred to as the chosen name and pronoun that identify as. Attacks on transgender people, especially youths have life long emotional and mental health difficulties. Those that have Gender Dysphoria are trying to live their true, authentic selves and school should be a place where they can focus on their education. Transgender is not a new concept, across the world many cultures have thousands of years of history that includes transgender people. Current focus on transgender people now is not about the best interest of them, it is emboldening a society of hate on a marginalized group and any vote to restrict their right to exist can only be seen as an act of hate.

Assembly Bill 100 is another needless assault on transgender individuals. It invites gender policing that could subject any woman to invasive tests or accusations of being “too masculine” or “too good” at their sport to be a “real” woman. It also reinforces the stereotype that women are weak. Women and girls who are trans face discrimination and violence that makes it difficult to even stay in school. According to the U.S. Trans Survey, 22 percent of trans women who were perceived as trans in school were harassed so badly they had to leave school because of it. The idea that women and girls have an advantage because they are trans ignores the actual conditions of their lives.

Jason Goyette
Cedarburg WI 53012

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

This letter is speaking out against bills AB100/AB103.

I am a parent of a cisgender child, but fully support the full inclusion of transgender athletes in sports at all levels. I believe that students, regardless of their gender identity, should have the opportunity to compete and thrive in a welcoming and equitable environment. Transgender students are already at greater risk for depression and anxiety. However, a 2022 study done by of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC Foundation) and the University of Connecticut 2022 LGBTQ+ Youth Study found that high school-aged transgender and non-binary student-athletes reported higher grades, lower levels of depression, and were less likely to feel unsafe at school than those who did not play sports.

In 2023, when the Wisconsin State Assembly signed off legislation limiting transgender participation in youth sports, author Barbara Dittrich (R) said she was aware of only six transgender athletes in Wisconsin. I don't have concerns with my daughter playing sports with transgender athletes. I do have increasing concerns on genital checks being required if any student's sex is called in question.

Transgender individuals, like all athletes, deserve respect, safety, and the ability to pursue their athletic goals without discrimination or exclusion. Inclusion in sports not only enriches the lives of transgender athletes but strengthens our collective commitment to fairness, teamwork, and community. By ensuring that everyone has access to play and compete, we foster a society that values diversity, acceptance, and human rights. I am calling on the Wisconsin state assembly to reject policies that discriminate against transgender athletes and instead champion efforts to ensure their equitable treatment and participation.

Together, we stand for inclusion, equality, and a future where all athletes belong.
Best, Molly Schuman

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Liz Charewicz, and **I am reaching out to you to respectfully urge you to oppose AB100 and AB103.** These bills, which seek to ban transgender athletes from participating in sports and restrict of pronouns, represent an overreach of government authority and undermine the principles of fairness and individual liberty that, we, as Americans, hold dear. I am a mom of two boys who are heavily involved in youth sports within the City of Franklin, WI.

Contradicting values of limited government: Both bills unnecessarily increase government involvement and interfere with the lives of taxpayers like me. Decisions about sports participation and pronoun usage should be made by individuals--and not by the state. These bills impose a one-size-fits-all solution that disregard individual freedom public servants, like yourselves, were elected to fight for. As a parent, I am a consumer of youth sporting clubs. I don't think I want lawmakers to craft the policies and procedures of organizations my kids are involved in. These bills are a 100% overreach.

Undermining fairness: Transgender youth, like all children, deserve the opportunity to participate in sports and enjoy the benefits of teamwork, discipline, and physical activity. Excluding them from sports denies kids of these opportunities and sends a harmful message saying that they are not valued members of society. Fairness can be achieved through thoughtful policies that balance inclusion with competition, without resorting to blanket bans. If Boy Scouts of America can get the memo of gender identity why can't educated state lawmakers? I expect some follow up to help me understand who has the time to manifest such a time and money drain by promoting hate among youth and families which is being done by these bills.

Infringing on personal freedom: Pronouns are a matter of personal expression, speech, and respect. The government fundamentally, should not proactively censor or influence speech. This bill is a mean spirited, dangerous, and unprecedented threat to our First Amendment rights. I would like to see the WI legislature pass laws around supporting spelling, grammar, phonics, and communication skills instead of wasting taxpayers' time, money, and resources on banning a population of children from accessing positive recreational activities. I encourage lawmakers to review writing of youth in our public and private schools and report back to me on what we should focus on--fear mongering or helping our students have access to academic excellence.

Distracting from budgetary, social, and economic issues: Regardless of your beliefs around the existence of an entire population, of people, we can agree that it is not anyone's right to dictate who an individual is or can be. Please consider the constitutional and long-term harm that will be caused to individuals, State constitution and laws from passing what I see as a shameless and publicity-focused pot-stirring win for republican law makers. According to the Williams Institute, only 1.4% of youth athletes are transgender. As a mom whose kids are in hockey, football, snowboarding club, diving, swimming, tennis, and baseball, I can assure you that the use of pronouns and gender identities of children is not an issue.

Please fulfill your civic duty by opposing both of these bills and aligning with our constitutional freedom.

Liz Charewicz
Franklin, WI 53132

Morgan Lange
Madison, WI 53704

AB100/AB103 OPPOSE

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on AB100/AB103,

My name is Morgan Lange, I am a registered nurse, a parent, currently a public health nurse for Madison & Dane County, a family member and friend of individuals in the LGBTQ+ community in Madison, and a former school nurse.

I am testifying to oppose the anti-trans legislation being proposed in AB100 and AB103. I was a school nurse for 5 years in the Madison Metropolitan School District (2019-2024) and know firsthand how harmful and dangerous this type of legislation is for trans youth and the school community overall.

These bills completely take away the power of an individual to determine their identity and instead give it to a person of power (the school principal). **NO ONE** should be allowed to tell anyone who they are. This is a completely inappropriate guideline for a school community - as one of the foundational pillars of the school environment is acceptance of others and being unafraid to be yourself. Specifically, the sports team environment fosters teamwork and working with others, and engaging in camaraderie. These bills create a tableau for others in the school to fear and discriminate against their trans peers or their trans students.

More than 1 in 10 LGBTQ+ young people attempted suicide in the past year, and 39% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year — **including 46% of transgender and nonbinary young people.** (These statistics are from theTrevorProject.org). I want to emphasize that LGBTQ+ youth are **not** more prone to suicide because of their gender identity or sexual orientation but rather because of how society has treated them and stigmatized them.

I also want to point to the statistic from the [trevorproject.org](https://www.trevorproject.org) that clearly shows 49% (almost HALF) of LGBTQ+ youth experienced bullying at school. As a school nurse - this is something I have personally witnessed. I have taken care of many trans students in the health office, in mental health distress or even crisis from bullying or discrimination that they are experiencing from peers, and in some cases from school staff. As someone who has worked in the middle and high school environments, I can say with absolute certainty, that stigmatizing trans youth, but disallowing them to express themselves will have a

devastating, and likely deadly effect on the youth in our Wisconsin schools and the education community. I am completely horrified that these bills are even being proposed; schools are a place for inclusion and acceptance of self-expression, *not* hate and discrimination.

Thank you for hearing/reading my testimony. I hope you will consider what I have shared with you today, and stand up for trans youth (and all people) in Wisconsin by opposing AB100 and AB103 which severely harms trans students in the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Morgan Lange RN

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Virginia Kamp. I grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin, completed my Bachelor's Degree at UW- Madison, and am currently a resident of Wauwatosa. I am writing to strongly urge you not to move forward with bills AB100 and AB103.

When I was a high school student in Appleton, I knew that I was gay. But I also knew that I wanted to be seen as a "good" student, so for a long time, I didn't tell anyone. But later, I got to know other students who were openly LGBT, and who were bullied and made to feel unsafe because of it.

So, along with a few other students, I started a Gay-Straight Alliance at my school. I still did not tell my teachers that I was gay, but they knew I was part of forming this organization. And to this day, I can still remember how I felt in each of my high school classrooms after my teacher's found out this information. There were some classrooms where I felt safe to learn, safe to be myself. But unfortunately, there were lots of classrooms where I did not feel that way.

I am deeply concerned that these bills will only serve to increase self-harm, self-hatred, and even suicide among Wisconsin's kids.

I hope that that is enough for you to not move these bills forward. But in case it's not, let me also share my perspective as a former classroom teacher. We are already having a hard time keeping teachers in classrooms, and I fear that we will lose more teachers - good, kind, loving teachers - if you tell them that they can't listen respectfully when a child asks them to use a preferred name or pronouns.

There is one final thing I hope you will consider. When I did finally start coming out as gay, I remember that there were certain people who surprised me. People I expected to be disgusted who instead were curious and kind, who kept our connection and our communication open long enough to get to actually know me, and for me to actually get to know them. I see a Wisconsin where it's possible for that type of kindness to overcome partisanship. Let's be the state where you can be a Republican or a Democrat, where you can disagree wholeheartedly, but where we don't let fear or hatred prevent us from taking care of all of our kids.

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Kate McKay and I am a resident of Madison, WI writing you today to ask you to oppose both AB100 and AB103.

Regarding AB100: As a former NCAA Division III college athlete at one of Wisconsin's public universities, I find it abhorrent that you would try to take the joy of sports away from anyone. Growing up, sports were the one place I felt like I belonged and it wasn't important who we were playing against, but that I could be part of a team and play the games I loved. By taking away the ability for trans athletes to participate in sports teams aligned with their gender, you're taking away so many opportunities for kids to learn, grow, move, and succeed. As a woman, I want to play sports with other women. Trans women are women. Trans men are men. This goes for students and minors too.

Regarding AB103: A person's name - the name they prefer to go by - whether it's a shortened version of their first name, their middle name, or something completely different - is so important to identity. By stripping students of their right to be called the name they identify with is stripping them of their identity! Pronouns are similar. When referring to students by pronouns they do not identify with, you're not only disrespecting their identity, but showing that you don't care at all about who these students are. It's frustrating that over and over again the right for both cisgender and transgender students to be addressed in their preferred manner comes into question.

Trans rights are human rights. Whether or not you believe trans people when they tell you or others about their identity, what they are experiencing is real. These bills will hurt and exclude people. I vehemently oppose them and ask you to think about the people these will impact. Oppose these bills!

Thank you for your time,

Kate McKay

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

As a resident of Wisconsin since 1980, I am contacting you to express my concern for anti-equality Assembly Bull 100 and Assembly Bill103. This anti-LGBTQ+ proposed legislation is aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms of our transgender and non-conforming Wisconsin citizens. They represent a cruel attack on our transgender youth. I urge you to oppose these two Bills at every opportunity!

Thank you, Jane Evans
Madison, WI 53711

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

For 34 years I was a pediatric nurse practitioner in the Madison School District. Many of those years I worked with students who were transgender. They needed the love, acceptance and support from all of us. These students just want to be students who can live life without someone imposing restrictions on whether they can play sports or not. These students were beautiful individuals just like all children. They just want to live their authentic lives with names that fit who they are. Why is there such a fixation on names, pronouns and bathroom use?

Why is it that legislators feel the need to take valuable time away from important topics like education, homelessness, & the economy among many other issues? Why must you try and ruin the lives of children who just want to be children? I just cannot understand why Republicans have decided they can take parents rights away by deciding what is best for children who are transgender. Health care providers, parents and the children should be able to decide what is best...not legislators.

Please, please support children who are transgender.

I strongly oppose AB 100 & AB 103. Please get back to work on legislation that will improve lives, not destroy them.

Elly McGraw Chybowski
Madison, WI 53717

March 5, 2024

To:
Assembly Committee on Education

From:
Susan Hersh
102 N. Water St. #206
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Committee Members:

Regardless of your politics or religious beliefs, Wisconsin children will be harmed by Bill 100 and 103. Students deserve to be able to be their authentic selves at school, and these bills block that right. Do not contribute to the alarming suicide rate of our children. Do not deny our youth peace of mind and acceptance. Please stop Bill 100 & 103 to protect the children of Wisconsin from self-harm and harm from others. ALL students deserve to belong in our schools.

Sincerely,
Susan Hersh

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives

My name is Will Manley. As a resident of the state of Wisconsin and city of Milwaukee, I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103, proposed on March 6th to the Assembly Committee on Education.

Both of these bills are crafted to target the tiny percentage of transgender students and children in the state of Wisconsin. Both through athletic bans for the approximately 0.002% of trans athletes in Wisconsin student athletics, and by allowing the creation of a hostile atmosphere for trans students, regardless of whether they are at school, camp, daycare, or home. These bills are not meant to do anything but disrupt and distract from the real problems facing Wisconsin residents.

Through my experience as a teacher, both in the state of Wisconsin and beyond, in the classroom and out of it, I can tell you these bills help no one and hurt everyone. They are invasive, shameful, and blatantly bigoted. These bills do nothing but bully and alienate trans children and create a climate of fear where there is none! Children do not hate each other by nature, they are confident and curious and should be lifted up and celebrated for this, not driven to division.

Trans people will continue to exist, at all ages, at all stages, and to allow these bills to come to pass is to allow violence to fall on these children. As representatives I urge you to acknowledge and empathize with the pain these bills will cause, and vote against these bills.

Sincerely,
Will Manley

Dear Members of the Assembly,

My name is Sam Eifert, and I am a lifelong resident of Stoughton, Wisconsin. I have spent 34 years in this state, and I am proud to call it home. I am a Realtor, a business owner, a board member of a local non-profit, and a member of a professional Realtor council. Growing up, I was involved in sports from a young age, playing baseball and basketball throughout my childhood and high school years.

I am writing today to strongly urge you to vote **NO** on Assembly Bills AB 100 and AB 103. These bills are not only harmful to our transgender youth but also fundamentally undermine the values of inclusion and equality that we hold dear in Wisconsin.

Transgender students already face immense challenges, including discrimination, bullying, and a higher risk of mental health struggles. To strip them of the right to play sports aligned with their gender identity and to deny them the ability to be recognized for who they truly are—by using their name and pronouns—would only worsen their struggles. It would send a message to these young people that they do not belong, that they do not have a right to exist as their authentic selves.

The conversation about "fairness" in sports has been manipulated and exaggerated. The reality is that transgender students simply want the same opportunities as their peers to participate, learn, and grow. The idea that they pose a competitive advantage is a distraction from the real issues. Should we apply the same logic to athletes like Michael Phelps, whose physical characteristics were exceptional and not "standard" compared to other swimmers? Sports are about more than just competition—they are about building resilience, fostering teamwork, and teaching life lessons. Transgender students deserve that opportunity too.

It is disheartening that, in a time when there are so many critical issues facing our state and our nation, we are focused on further dividing and harming vulnerable members of our community. The harm these bills would cause to transgender youth is far-reaching, and the focus on sports and pronouns is a dangerous distraction from the real challenges we should be addressing.

Please, take a moment to think about the well-being of our children. Do not pass AB 100 and AB 103. Stand with equality, dignity, and inclusion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sam Eifert
Stoughton, WI 53589

Aria Xavier Trucios
8430 Market St. Apt. 203
Middleton, WI 53562
In Opposition

RE: AB100 and AB103

To the members of the 2025 Assembly Committee on Education:

Wisconsin Assembly Bills 100 and 103 are yet another installment in the latest wave of legislation aimed at destroying the rights and freedoms of transgender individuals -- this time, attacking our children. These bills will prevent transgender students from participating in the school sports that align with their gender identity and also forcibly out transgender students if they in any way request staff to recognize their authentic selves. They are not just unnecessary wastes of Wisconsin taxpayer dollars; they are actively harmful.

Supporters of AB100 argue that the bill protects fairness in women's sports. These claims, however, are based on misleading political narratives and reject widely respected scientific evidence. Countless major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as the American Medical Association, recognize and confirm that transgender athletes do not inherently have an unfair advantage over cisgender athletes, and sports governing organizations such as the International Olympic Committee already have policies ensuring fair competition regardless of gender. AB100 is really just a solution in search of a problem, and in the process of trying to fabricate a crisis, it singles out and excludes transgender youth, sending a message that these children are not welcome.

AB103 is another attempt to marginalize transgender students -- this time by restricting how schools recognize and respect their identities. This bill would prevent schools from using a student's chosen name and preferred pronouns unless they align with a legal name change and are formally requested by a parent. If any parent or legal guardian makes such a request, ALL guardians will be given the opportunity to intervene. I know several people whose parents divorced or separated due to deep disagreement over whether their child should receive lifesaving care. Had AB103 been law they would have been subjected to the whims of their anti-trans parent, whether or not they were involved in their daily lives. Such policies disregard the lived experiences of transgender and nonbinary youth and will force their guardians to weigh whether to risk outing their children to unsupportive family members, who themselves will have the power to override a supportive parent. Or likewise, if they will risk the scrutiny of potentially unsupportive or even bigoted school administrators, personnel who may not even know the child in question. These barriers to simply existing at school are only in place for students the author deem unworthy of identity; students who request a name or similar accommodation who are not transgender are not burdened by AB103. Respecting a student's chosen name and preferred pronouns should not be a matter of politics; it is a matter of dignity, mental health, and safety. AB103 is not about parental rights or educational integrity; it is about policing identity and forcing schools, teachers, and staff to participate in discrimination against transgender youth.

Wisconsin's AB100 and AB103 are not about fairness or protection -- they are about discrimination and control. The bills target an already vulnerable population, ignoring general scientific consensus and the voices of transgender people themselves. If these bills become law, they will cause real harm, not only by worsening stigma and mental health, but also the likelihood of self-harm among transgender youth.

A study published in the *Journal Nature*¹ September of 2024 assessed 19 states where anti-trans legislation passed from 2018 to 2022 and found an up to 72% increase in past-year suicide attempts by transgender and nonbinary youth, with a causal relationship by those states' anti-trans legislation.

Children's suicide rates increased across all states where anti-trans bills had been passed, and specifically as a result of those bans being enacted by their state legislatures.

These bills kill children born the same way as I was – created by God to find and live as our authentic selves. At best, they are intended to penalize and subjugate children who themselves are unknown by this bill's authors or the members of this committee. But in effect, this body will be setting policy that certain children are unwelcome in our schools, and unwelcome in our society more broadly. How many children must die before their lives are considered by this body?

I firmly believe what my church teaches: that all children, transgender nonbinary or otherwise, are created by God to find and embody our authentic selves and live out our lives as any other child of God. These bills attack that purpose, and with it our dignity and humanity. Would this body cosign the hatred, verbal and physical attacks transgender Children of God will be forced to endure by their peers, teachers, administrators, extended family and community? Will this body shield itself from the reality that children will be subjected to conditions which guarantee they will be told they are unwelcome in our society? This was a reality I was forced to live through for many many years, and as a result I regularly considered ending my own life beginning at the age of 13. I know many others like me who considered the ultimate sin, and I can only wonder how many more people would be alive today had they not experienced the same. I pray this body looks beyond themselves to see the humanity they will be snuffing out by putting their political careers over the lives and safety of fellow Children of God.

“If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!”

-Jesus, via Matthew 18:6-7

Respectfully,

Aria Xavier Trucios
(they/them)

1 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 47 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive education free from harassment and discrimination.

I have 4 minor children of my own, all of whom have trans friends. The thing about these friends is they're only referred to as "trans friends" by adults. Kids at school simply call them friends, or teammates, or classmates. Kids in the neighborhood call them by the name they introduced themselves with and aren't bothered by using their friends' preferred pronouns. If our children can accept people just as they are, our government leaders should too. Please oppose these bills.

Sincerely,
Sara Milhans
Verona, WI 53593

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly,

I am writing in opposition to the bills AB100 and AB103, which seek to restrict Athlete's and Children's Transgender rights in Wisconsin.

I am born and raised in Wisconsin for nearly four decades, and this bill will adversely affect our state and communities within in untold ways. To put it plainly, these bills are the Republican party seeking to do legally harm a minority community, for no apparent reason other than the goal of causing harm. To borrow a phrase levied at then Senator McCarthy decades ago, 'Have you no decency?'

Of all the goals you could be focused on at this moment, you are choosing malice and pain towards students over quite literally any other form of support this state currently needs. Workers Rights, equitable tax distribution, equitable tax contributions, caring for the environment, to name but a few goals for the common good. Rather than take on any of that, well, here we are.

I will close by asking what other minority groups you would seek to hide from public view again because you feel irked by their existence? Why can we not just let our kids grow up and thrive?

In Opposition to AB100 and AB103 on March 6, 2025,

Bob Grabow
Madison, WI 53718

March 5th, 2025d

To: the Assembly Committee on Education in the Wisconsin State Legislature

From: Lane Pierce, Milwaukee, WI 53217

I would like to express my opposition to the Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. Every person deserves to use restrooms that match their gender identity, participate on teams that match their gender identity, and particularly feel safe enough to be authentic in their schools by referring to themselves with pronouns that match their gender identity. We have to support and protect our trans kids. They belong just as they are.

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing to vehemently oppose bills AB100 and AB103. These are bills that attack LGBTQ+ rights, especially for transgender youth. The Wisconsin Legislature has continued to advance bills that target transgender people. LGBTQ people have the right to participate in sports activities, to live in safety, to thrive, to be addressed by the name and pronoun they choose, and treated with dignity. These bills will cause harm to LGBTQ youth.

I ask that you reconsider your support of these bills.

Sincerely,
Barbara Mottl
Dousman, WI 53118

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Cedar Worth, and I am a constituent from Middleton, Wisconsin. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, which are scheduled for discussion in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly designed to ban transgender athletes and restrict name and pronoun changes for transgender youth. These bans, amidst an unprecedented wave of anti-trans legislation across the US, will only serve to alienate and harm transgender children, fostering a climate of fear rather than support.

As your constituent, I urge you to vote against these proposed bills. Transgender people exist and will continue to exist at every age. Enacting these bills would not only harm the transgender people you represent but also the broader transgender community by enabling hate, creating further division, and cultivating a climate of fear.

I ask that you, as representatives in Wisconsin, acknowledge all of the trans people you represent and vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Cedar Worth

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Amy Basel and have been a resident of Madison since 1995, with a home now in the 53714 zip code, and I'm writing to oppose the Bill AB100 and AB103. As a person with the same initials (AB) as these bills, I do not want to be even closely associated (no matter how random) with something so horrible. Please vote NO to both Bill AB100 and AB103!

I'm not proud of my state representatives taking the time to even introduce these bills in the year 2025. You all should be spending time fighting back against the takeover we are seeing and cuts to important supports and supporting our education system instead of trying to criminalize gender identity and tell kids that they don't belong. We should be trying to work toward sports teams that are open to all pupils. Why must we continue to separate folks by their gender that people want to maintain is binary when it is not. You should be ashamed of yourself for wasting the time it takes to write and get these before the committee. These bills seek to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools. There is not any need to further provide laws against a small and marginalized group of kids. This is blatant discrimination instead of working with kids, schools and parents.

There are so many other things that our schools and kids (pupils) attending them need instead of these hateful and discriminatory Bills. Please start spending your time on those and not trying to vilify trans youth.

I'm not trans, but I know several people who are and I've taken the time to listen and learn from them. There is a specific friend of mine that was born a female and grew up a girl and always was referred to as a tomboy. This friend of mine who is now an adult had qualified to participate in the CrossFit games and has been an athletic trainer and athlete themselves. They even started a fitness company and helped the roller derby league I was a part of with some training. Within the last few years, they have transitioned to using he/they pronouns and getting gender affirming surgery. He identifies as a non-binary trans male and is now living life as their authentic self. This friend of mine recently took themselves out of the CrossFit games and was disappointed to see this organization comply with an executive order based on fear and without any scientific evidence behind it. How can anyone think this is better for all kids, instead of appeasing the instances of a few people who "think" that they were discriminated against.

Ironically, Bill AB100 would not have applied to my friend as a pupil or athlete in school had they decided to transition sooner, since they are a female at birth and therefore would be able to qualify for male sports since the bill just refers to male at birth folks not able to qualify for female sports participation. Doesn't that just scream for a lawsuit of discrimination? Why would you just making it one gender and not include trans folks that identify as male not be able to participate in female sports?

More importantly, I've worked with skaters in a sport, and students in college who have clearly expressed the fact that they have gender identities that are not easily put into binaries of male and female. Whether or not you think that gender exists within that spectrum - the fact remains that people identify along that and are not changing their gender assigned at birth or going by different names or pronouns to win on a female sports team or impersonate anyone. They are trying to live their lives as themselves, and you and I don't need to understand or agree with that to know that it is harmful to force people to put themselves in one group or the other. Sports teams and Schools should be where we are helping kids to build identities, friendships and teamwork skills as well as getting to know one another.

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on AB100 (transgender athlete ban) and AB103 (preferred name/pronoun ban).

I oppose these two bills as the proud parent of a transgender 14 year old girl who thrives socially as a K-12 climber in our local community and would be deeply bereft without such opportunities. I am a Madison resident, have lived in Wisconsin for 19 years, and intend for my family to continue to live here for many more years to come.

If passed, these bills will do enormous harm to our youngest and most vulnerable constituents. At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin.

In my view, it is well beyond the role of the state to dictate this level of rigidity over policy for children so young.

Sincerely,

Marc de Kruijf

Madison, 53711

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Sarah Forzley, and I am a Madison resident. I've lived here since 2012, and my husband and I settled here to be near his family, just like all his siblings. I say this to emphasize that even while pursuing a masters, a doctorate, and a corporate career, I continue to prioritize family values. Additionally, I am a former instructor at the University of Wisconsin, a former high school teacher, and a former elementary school teacher. Given that I live according to my family values, and that I spent over twenty cumulative years teaching young people and participating in girls' and women's sports myself, I care deeply about safety and equity in school and in sport.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100 and 103. These bills do not increase safety or equity in schools or sports. Trans girls and trans women do not threaten the success of individual women or of women's sports in general. I have seen this myself as both an athlete and a teacher. Instead, they reveal a fundamental misunderstanding of sex assigned at birth, of the actual threats that girls and women face every day, and of athletic competition. Sex assigned at birth is not a perfect way to identify a person's sex. I have had students with different medical conditions whose sex assigned at birth did not take into account their chromosomal makeup because the doctor simply visually assessed the baby's features. I also have had students who felt that they belonged nowhere because they did not "fit in" with the boys or girls at their school. I would have loved to see those students find belonging, purpose, and friendship through sports. These bills instead teach our students to fear and discriminate against their peers. These bills teach our students that the definition of "girl" or "woman" is ever narrower. These bills threaten to drag us back into a time when the United States was more sexist, when women had even fewer opportunities in sport.

After my master's degree, I taught at a university in Paris and ran for a team there. I was just a run-of-the-mill varsity athlete in college, but in France I quickly climbed the national rankings. Why? Because France has less gender equality than the United States. I know that sometimes, conservative folks fear that liberal folks are not proud of the United States. I can say without hesitation that I am proud of the United States for how far we have come in girls' and women's sports since my mother's time. In France, I faced more sexual and physical harassment, more restrictive expectations for my gender, and more inequality in sport than I face here. Though it meant giving up my excellent ranking in France, I was relieved to return to the competition scene in the United States because, frankly, I love how many women in the United States are faster than I am – women's sports here have thrived under Title IX to the benefit of all, including mediocre athletes like myself. We are carried along in the wave of those who run faster than we do. It is in our interest to compete against as diverse a group of women as possible so as to improve our training and overall times.

Perhaps, if you feel that discussing nonbinary genders is polarizing, you can remember a time in your life when you did not fit in. Remember how uncomfortable that was, how isolating, how sad you felt. Trans students do not choose to be trans; nobody chooses to have a more difficult life in this way. Allowing trans students to participate in sports, allowing trans students to use the bathroom most comfortable for them, tells them that they belong. Nobody would undergo so

much social stigma just to cause harm to others. Trans students are not trying to harm anyone, and they certainly don't threaten our sports. Do you know what does threaten girls and women in school and sport? Sexual harassment by male students, teachers, administrators, and clergymen. Bias from adults who do not believe girls or women have what it takes to lift weights, to succeed in STEM, to obtain advanced degrees. Let's focus on real problems instead of an imagined one.

Sincerely,
Sarah Forzley
Madison, 53704

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

Vote No on AB100. Sports and locker rooms should be available to all students. Sports are an essential foundation for many students' participation in extracurricular activities in public schools. As a high school student at West High School, I played on the soccer team and still have friendships with my teammates today.

You must oppose this bill because it attacks the freedom of all kids to play sports in Wisconsin. It creates an environment where it is ok to sideline kids rather than include them in the sports they love. We ought to do everything we can to support the rights of all kids to play sports in Wisconsin.

A vote yes for these bills is a vote yes to take away the right of all kids to enjoy sports with their friends. Make sure you vote no to protect kids' rights to play sports.

Vote No on AB103. The government has no business getting into our personal lives and telling us how to live our lives. Vote No on AB103 to keep the government out of all our kids' lives and let all kids be themselves.

Vote No on AB100 and AB103!

All the best,
Eli Tsarovsky
Madison, WI 53703

March 5th, 2025d

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB100 and AB103. These proposed bills are deeply harmful and would actively contribute to an unsafe and hostile environment for queer and transgender students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

AB100 and AB103 are not about fairness or protection—they are transphobic measures that seek to erase and marginalize transgender youth. Trans students, like all students, deserve to be affirmed, supported, and safe in their schools. Denying them the ability to participate in sports or forcing them to be misgendered undermines their dignity, mental health, and overall well-being. These bills would fuel a climate of discrimination, making schools even more unsafe for queer and trans youth.

I have lived in Wisconsin for over 20 years and I am a full-time therapist. Many of the clients that I support are queer or trans, or have loved ones who are queer/trans. In my work, I see firsthand the destructive psychological and emotional impacts that legislation such as these proposed bills have on queer individuals and the queer community. Particularly under this new administration, trans folks are being targeted, scapegoated and persecuted. Trans people are under attack, and bills like this are nothing more than state-sanctioned discrimination.

Trans people exist. Trans people are not a threat. Trans folks are simply asking for the basic human right to be themselves without fear of persecution.

These proposed bills do nothing but put trans students at greater risk of bullying, isolation, and harm. If the goal of this committee is to protect and support students, then the focus should not be on banning pronouns or excluding children from sports—it should be on addressing the real dangers facing our schools, such as gun violence. Gun violence is the leading cause of death among young people in this country. Instead of wasting precious time and resources targeting one of our most vulnerable student populations, I urge you to prioritize real solutions that will protect all students.

I strongly urge you to reject AB100 and AB103. These bills do not protect students; they only harm them. Schools should be places of learning, growth, and acceptance—not sites of state-sanctioned discrimination.

Sincerely,
Tiffani Amber Sebastian

Dr. Stephanie Budge, Madison, Wisconsin
Regarding Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103
To: The Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Education

My name is Dr. Stephanie Budge and I am a resident of Wisconsin who has a specialty in understanding the mental health impacts of discrimination related to transgender individuals. I am a licensed psychologist in the state of Wisconsin. While I am testifying as a private citizen, my role as a Professor of Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison provides me with the expertise necessary to comment on this bill (I have published 100+ academic articles mostly focused on transgender people, over 180+ conference presentations mostly focused on transgender people, and have engaged in clinical work related to over 200 transgender people). I have worked in the field of transgender research and clinical work for 17 years.

I am testifying that the passing of these bills and the subsequent actions from these bills have a high likelihood of causing both physical and mental health impacts on youth. For the record, I oppose the proposed bills AB100 and AB103 based on the scientific research presented below.

Broadly, psychological science has used the concept of “minority stress” to understand and explain the reasons why transgender people (and members of other minority groups) experience physical and mental health disparities (see Meyer, 2003; Hendricks & Testa, 2012). The minority stress model indicates that there are three types of minority stressors: 1) external stressors, 2) expectations of external stressors, and 3) internal stressors. Examples of external stressors experienced by transgender people include discrimination, prejudice, harassment, rejection, and non-affirmation of gender identity. Examples of internal stressors experienced by transgender people include concealing one’s gender identity, internalizing gender-related stigma, and constantly thinking about one’s gender. Transgender people will often expect that they will experience external stressors due to having actually experienced them in the past, as well as witnessing or hearing about other transgender people who have experienced external stressors. This lens can assist with understanding the impacts of both exclusion from sports teams (AB100) and the impacts of not being able to use chosen names and pronouns in required settings, such as schools (AB103).

Sports Participation

For children and young adults, school-sponsored sports offer lifelong benefits and have a positive developmental impact that is second only to family support. These benefits can be seen in a variety of realms in students’ lives, including social and emotional development as well as physical and mental health. With regards to social benefits, students who participate in sports are given the opportunity to make friends and become part of a supportive community of teammates and peers (Boone & Leadbeater, 2006). Athletes spend considerable time with their teammates, often experiencing high-pressure situations together that lead to deeper friendships and students who participate in sports also can build teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills (Thompson et al., 2022). They learn the importance of working as part of a team to achieve a common goal and the importance of each teammate’s role in bringing about that goal (Salcinovic et al., 2022). Moreover, coaches and other staff members provide students who participate in sports access to meaningful mentorship and guidance. (Mills & Clements, 2021). This mentorship can extend beyond school sports, guiding students through other areas of their lives.

With regards to emotional benefits, school sports provide an opportunity for youth to gain confidence. They also reduce the effects of risk factors, such as stressful life events, that lead to increases in depression. Furthermore, learning how to manage stressful events at a young age provides benefits to student athletes throughout their lives, such as learning how to regulate their emotions. Students who participate in sports experience significantly lower levels of externalizing issues (for example, aggression and delinquency) and anxiety/depression (Vella, 2019). Students also experience the success and personal fulfillment achieved from discipline, hard work, and perseverance through many hours of practice and competition, all of which helps students develop positive habits that can benefit them in many other areas of life (Eime et al, 2014).

Based on my experience working with transgender youth, it would be psychologically damaging for a transgender youth to be banned from playing sports on equal terms with cisgender peers. This type of discrimination causes irreversible and severe damage to transgender youth development. Specifically, discriminating against transgender youth athletes leads to an increase in youth anxiety, depression, trauma, and suicidal ideation/attempts as well as an increase in physical health concerns for transgender youth (Chan et al., 2024). Barrera et al. report that the physical consequences for transgender youth of not being able to participate in sports include worse cardiovascular outcomes, poor bone mineral density, and poor neurocognitive development when compared to cisgender youth. In addition, physicians report that participation in sports is often one primary method through which transgender youth gain access to regular medical care, and if they do not participate in sports, it increases the disparity between cisgender youth and transgender youth (Hughes et al., 2022). In addition to the physical and mental health consequences of not being able to participate in sports, transgender people report greater experiences of harassment, prejudice, rejection, and bullying as a result of legislation focused on restricting transgender people's rights (Tebbe et al., 2022).

Transgender youth will also internalize the shame and stigma of being excluded for a personal characteristic (being transgender) over which they have no control and that already subjects them to prejudice and social stigma. Fear of additional discrimination and violence are two primary outcomes that stem from transgender youth being excluded from sports (Kosciw et al., 2022). Not only are there the actual consequences outlined above that occur from direct discrimination, but fear of additional sports-related discrimination leads transgender youth to avoid gym/physical education class, locker-rooms, and athletic fields and facilities. Also, being misgendered (i.e., requiring transgender girls to participate in boys' sports) is associated with the internalization of stigma and the subsequent mental health consequences that arise from internalized stigma (McLemore, 2015).

Importance of Social Transition

The incongruence between a person's gender identity and sex assigned at birth can manifest in clinically significant distress, which the American Psychiatric Association calls gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria is codified in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (APA, 2022; DSM-5-TR) and is the medical and psychiatric diagnosis for distress associated with gender incongruence. Two current diagnostic categories are used by mental health and medical providers when children and youth are transgender: Gender Dysphoria in Childhood and Gender Dysphoria in Adolescents and Adults. Although individuals who are diagnosed with gender dysphoria can experience a diversity of symptoms, the shared diagnostic criteria that is required for both includes clear,

distinct, and significant distress from the incongruence between the sex the individual was assigned at birth and their gender identity.

For transgender individuals, social transition can be an important aspect of treatment to reduce the symptoms of gender dysphoria. As part of a social transition, an individual will typically, among other things, use a name and pronouns congruent with their gender identity and use sex-designated facilities such as restrooms that align with their gender identity. To be clinically effective at alleviating the distress associated with gender dysphoria, a social transition must be respected consistently across all aspects of a transgender individual's life—for example, at home, in school, and at work. It is the aim of treatment to assist the individual in successfully integrating their internal identity into a life that allows them to function consistently in accordance with that identity and not feel shame for who they are. For those transgender adolescents for whom social transition is part of treatment of gender dysphoria, it is likely that serious distress will result if clinically indicated aspects of transition are impeded, as is suggested in both AB 100 and AB 103.

The precise treatment for gender dysphoria depends on the individual. For most transgender individuals, a gender transition is considered psychologically and medically necessary. Transition can take either or both of two forms: (a) social transition, and (b) medical treatments that change a person's body to align with their gender.

Gender dysphoria reduces significantly when the treatment aligns with the individual's goals, and the medical community has known for decades that there are effective interventions to reduce gender dysphoria. Every major medical association in the United States agrees that medical treatment for gender dysphoria is safe, necessary, and effective (Lockmiller, 2023).

For transgender individuals, social transition can be an important aspect of treatment to reduce the symptoms of gender dysphoria. As part of a social transition, an individual will typically, among other things, use a name and pronouns congruent with their gender identity and use sex-designated facilities such as restrooms that align with their gender identity. To be clinically effective at alleviating the distress associated with gender dysphoria, a social transition must be respected consistently across all aspects of a transgender individual's life—for example, at home, in school, and at work. It is the aim of treatment to assist the individual in successfully integrating their internal identity into a life that allows them to function consistently in accordance with that identity and not feel shame for who they are. For those transgender adolescents for whom social transition is part of treatment of gender dysphoria, it is likely that serious distress will result if clinically indicated aspects of transition are impeded.

Psychotherapy to reduce the harmful effects of stigma and improve resiliency can also be an important form of support for individuals of any age with gender dysphoria (see Budge et al., 2025; Budge et al., 2021; Exposito-Campos et al., 2023). While psychotherapy can be useful as a support tool, it is not a substitute for social transition and medical treatments needed to reduce/eliminate gender dysphoria (see Lindley et al., 2023).

Attempts to "cure" transgender individuals by seeking to change their gender identity to match their assigned sex are ineffective and cause extreme psychological damage (see APA, 2021). All major associations of medical and mental health providers, including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, consider such efforts unethical.

Failing to support a transgender minor's gender identity can cause serious harm to their long-term health and wellbeing because transgender youth experience that mistreatment as a profound rejection of their core self. This harm often includes significant psychological distress

and difficulty maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships and developing emotional resilience, among others. Research demonstrates the importance of social transition for transgender youth. Research from the longitudinal TransYouth Project (TYP) indicates that transgender youth who have socially transitioned demonstrate similar mental health patterns when compared to cisgender youth (Durwood et al., 2017; Olson et al., 2016). Additional research demonstrates that social transition processes are related to less depression, less suicidal ideation, and less suicidal behaviors (Russell et al., 2018). Consequently, delaying social transition is detrimental for transgender youth. Horton's (2022) qualitative study of parents of transgender youth provides an in-depth analysis of the consequences of delaying social transition for children, notably mentioning the psychological distress that results from delaying social transition. In the largest nationwide survey in the U.S. focusing on discrimination experiences of transgender people 18 and older, impeding social transition processes (for example, not being able to change one's name) is directly related to experiencing harassment and assault (James et al., 2016). In a large (N = 1,519) nation-wide Canadian survey of transgender youth, findings similarly demonstrate that not being able to access social transition components/processes is also directly related to experiencing harassment, assault, and denial of services (Taylor et al., 2020).

In addition to studies that focus generally on external stressors, there have been several studies that delve into specific types of external stressors. For example, there is one type of external stressor called "misgendering" that includes communications or actions that convey that a person's gender is misperceived or is being purposefully denied, as is being highlighted in both AB 100 and AB 103. Examples of misgendering can include using a name or pronouns inconsistent with a person's gender identity or denying them access to gendered facilities that are consistent with their gender identity (McLemore, 2018). In a study with 1,091 participants, researchers reported higher anxiety scores for participants who reported more instances of misgendering (Jacobsen et al, 2023). As well, McLemore (2015) found that experiences of being misgendered were associated with anxiety and negative affect (e.g., hostility and guilt), lower self-esteem related to appearance, and felt stigma. In a follow-up study with more specific measures regarding mental health, McLemore (2018) again reported that experiences of being misgendered were related to depression, anxiety, stress, and felt stigma. In addition to depression and anxiety, Colson et al. (2024) found that participants reported post-traumatic stress symptoms as a result of misgendering.

Misgendering, along with other forms of external stressors, is considered a form of social exclusion. Social psychology has established that seeking social acceptance is one of the most basic human needs and that the harms of social exclusion based on identity are widespread and can be catastrophic. On an individual level, social exclusion impacts one's sense of belonging, self-esteem, sense of existence, and self-control. Social exclusion is associated with an increase in maladaptive behaviors and risk-taking behaviors. On a systematic level, social exclusion is often reinforced by organizations and institutions adopting policies and procedures that can enforce discrimination toward certain groups of people. Social exclusion is considered harmful in general; however, it can be even more harmful when people in positions of power perpetuate notions that isolate and stigmatize transgender people. Research on social identity theory describes the harm that results when people of higher status—usually people in power such as administrators—fail to affirm or actively disaffirm lower-status individuals with a marginalized identity (Hogg, 2016). This often leads to external forms of harm such as ostracization and discrimination against the individual by peers and others, as well as internal harms such as internalized shame and self-hatred. These internal and external factors can be directly related to

psychological distress, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, and hypertension, amongst myriad other health concerns.

In a study involving 610 transgender individuals (Galupo et al. 2020), study participants provided information about their experience of gender dysphoria. When asked about the impact of being misgendered or otherwise discriminated against based on their being transgender, they provided descriptions such as “it’s like a visceral, violating, physical manifestation of psychological pain for me” and “each of those [misgenderings] is a knife.” In our recent publications on the experiences of gender dysphoria, the data indicate that gender dysphoria is distressing (Lindley, Lee, Norton, & Budge, 2024) and that social experiences, like misgendering, increase gender dysphoria (Lindley, Pulice-Farrow, & Budge, 2023).

Misgendering and Gender Discrimination Have Long Lasting Mental Health Effects

Transgender people report extensive exposure to mistreatment, harassment, and violence (James et al., 2016). One of the largest nationwide studies in the United States focused on LGBTQ+ youth demonstrates that transgender youth experience significant amounts of harassment, bullying, and violence (Kosciw et al., 2022). In a report from the data that compared transgender and cisgender youth (GLSEN, 2021), 84.4% of transgender youth felt unsafe at school when compared to 20.6% of their cisgender LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer, but not transgender) peers. In addition, 43.6% of the transgender sample reported missing school because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable, compared to 24.9% of their cisgender LGBTQ+ peers. The study indicated that 77.3% of transgender students reported experiencing discrimination at school, compared to 46.1% of the cisgender sample. In the overall report (Kosciw et al., 2022), 80.3% of youth reported hearing biased language regarding gender expression and 65.2% reported hearing anti-transgender language while at school. Of those youth, 72% reported that there was a staff member present while hearing those remarks and that 91% of staff did not intervene. In one of the largest nationwide Canadian studies to focus on transgender youth (Taylor et al., 2020), 66% of youth reported being bullied, 35% were physically threatened or injured, 9% were threatened with a weapon; 63% reported experiencing verbal sexual harassment, 34% reported physical sexual harassment. In another study, transgender youth reported high rates of physical violence at school (57%) and nonphysical victimization at school (68%) (De Pedro & Gorse, 2023).

Transgender children and adolescents experience a great deal of victimization in the school environment, including bullying, physical assault, sexual assault, maltreatment, property victimization, and witnessing/indirect victimization. In their systematic review, Martin-Castillo et al. (2020) examined the effects of school-based victimization throughout 19 studies covering over 23,000 transgender people. Results from this systematic review indicate that transgender youth experience significantly higher rates of victimization at school than their cisgender peers.

There also is robust data regarding the psychological impact of external stressors for transgender youth and young adults. Exposure to discrimination has been linked with higher reports of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, self-harm, and suicidality (e.g., Chozden et al., 2019; Price-Feeney, Green, & Dorison, 2020; Veale et al., 2019; Wilson et al., 2016). Pease and colleagues (2022) note that external minority stressors were directly related to psychological distress for young adults. In addition to this finding, they also note that experiencing more anti-transgender discrimination leads to higher levels of gender dysphoria, which then increase psychological distress for young adults. A recent meta-analysis noted that gender related discrimination, gender related rejection, gender related victimization, and non-

affirmation of gender identity were all positively related to depression and anxiety (Wilson et al., 2024).

Regarding mental health disparities, transgender youth consistently report higher instances of mental health concerns when compared to their cisgender counterparts. When compared with cisgender matched controls, transgender youth displayed a twofold to threefold increased risk of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, suicide attempt, and self-harm (Reisner et al., 2015). In their study, Fox et al. (2020) report that transgender adolescents were 8 times more likely to report depressive symptoms when compared to cisgender adolescents and were 5 times more likely than cisgender adolescents to report self-harm and suicidality. There is a large body of research demonstrating that these disparities can be explained primarily by the presence of external stressors. One study by Suarez et al. (2024) analyzed data comparing 98,174 cisgender and transgender youth and found that transgender students were more likely than cisgender students to report experiences of violence, poor mental health, suicide risk, some sexual risk behaviors, unstable housing, and felt less belonging at school. A recent meta-analysis noted that transgender young adults experienced significantly higher rates of 7 types of victimization (violent victimization, sexual victimization, intimate partner violence victimization, stalking, bullying, microaggression, and discrimination) when compared to cisgender young adults (Daigle et al., 2024).

Although all psychological distress deserves attention, suicidality (suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and completed suicide) is perhaps one of the most devastating outcomes due to the finality of completed suicide. For transgender youth, the evidence indicates that suicidality is an overwhelming mental health disparity. Data indicate that transgender youth are more likely to attempt suicide when compared to cisgender youth; for example, that 45% of transgender youth compared to 12% of cisgender boys and 24% of cisgender girls (Zell & Kerr, 2024). Additional studies indicate that transgender youth are 2.71 times more likely to attempt suicide than cisgender youth (Jackman et al., 2019). In one of the largest samples of transgender young adults (age 18-25) in the US, 66% of respondents indicated an experience of suicidal ideation (Wang et al., 2024). In addition, in a sample of transgender youth, 86% reported suicidal ideation and 56% reported a previous suicide attempt and that external stressors such as harassment and bullying were directly related to suicide attempts (Austin et al., 2022). As noted above, these disparities can be explained primarily by the presence of external stressors. A recent systematic review indicated that safety and connectedness at school were amongst some of the primary protective factors from suicide attempts for transgender youth (Christensen et al., 2023).

Studies demonstrate that a negative school climate is not only detrimental to transgender youths' mental health, but also impacts their academic achievement. When compared to cisgender youth, transgender youth were three times more likely to be truant from school due to feeling more unsafe and distressed (Day et al., 2018). Additionally, transgender youth reported greater victimization at school and poorer academic performance when compared to cisgender LGBTQ+ peers (Poteat et al., 2021). Transgender youth are statistically more likely to fail a class than cisgender youth and are less likely to take advanced math classes by the end of their school (Wilkenson et al., 2021).

Conclusion

I urge the Wisconsin Legislature to understand the mental health effects of excluding transgender youth from playing on sports teams that match their gender identity and effects of not using the correct name and pronouns for youth. As outlined above, these effects can be

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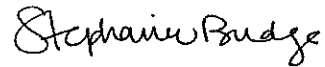
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detrimental and are considered discriminatory. Your consideration of these matters is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,



Dr. Stephanie Budge
Licensed Psychologist

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March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee on Education,

Please do not pass Assembly Bills 100 and 103 banning trans athletes in public schools from participating in sports activities and preventing trans students from using their preferred names and identities. People are who they are. People do not choose to be gay, bi-sexual, homosexual, trans, etc. I understand that there are particular reasons why it might be unfair for a trans female to compete in women's sports or the reverse may also on occasion be true. However, identification with a specific gender that is not the birth gender is traumatic for a family and difficult enough for a child.

Please understand that being a trans person or a gay person is not a choice people make. This is a fact of nature or a choice from God. People do not choose to be different, etc. If this was really a choice people make in life do you think people would really choose to make life this hard for themselves? Try to put yourself in the position of a gay person or a trans person. How would you feel if there were laws passed to keep you from being who you truly are? Being a trans person is tough enough without having to deal with legislation against your unique identity. If you study the science of LGBTQ identity I think you will realize that laws can't change life for people whose identity differs from what you might consider "normal."

Legislators have spent an inordinate amount of time debating an issue that impacts a very tiny number of people. In the event that a trans women is competing in a sport and wiping out all the competition then it is reasonable to consider some special action but the issue is so rare that I hope we can use our laws for purposes that impact greater percentages of people. Thank you for considering my concerns about this issue.

Sincerely, Nancy Piper Jankovich, 1155 North Osborne, Racine WI 53405

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 67 years, and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, dignity-affirming, equal, inclusive, caring education free from harassment and discrimination with the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ramona Keyes
Madison, WI 53705

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Lori Vavrus, a concerned parent/grandparent from Washburn, WI 54891. This is my written testimony for opposing bills AB 100 and AB 103 Both bills are aimed at stripping the rights and dignity of transgender students.

These students have the right to compete in sports and to be called by their name and pronouns of choice. These students, like all of our students, have the right to feel included, supported and welcomed. School sports provide opportunities for staying healthy, working as part of a team and creating friendships - all lifelong benefits.

Being called by their name and pronouns of choice are especially important. Studies show that transgender youth suffer mental distress when referred to with the incorrect name and pronouns. This show of support is especially important if they are not receiving that respect in their own home. They need somewhere to feel validated. Everyone deserves to be heard.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

March 5th, 2025

To: Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

From: Soren Shivy, Madison WI 53704

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

I wish to express my opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103.

I believe trans kids have the right to exist in our society. Period. All this extra attention persecuting trans people, particularly kids, is very unproductive to the general public and is rather harmful to trans kids.

Regarding Assembly Bill 103, the government should not concern itself with names and pronouns at school, other than to support kids being themselves. People use nicknames and such all of the time. Let's stop pretending you are protecting parents' rights. You are only looking to out a child or suppress their authentic selves. We need our government to work on actual issues that affect people every day, not persecuting a small group of people. This bill is a dog whistle.

Regarding Assembly Bill 100, trans kids do not transition to dominate girls sports. Trans kids who want to participate in sports should be allowed to do so. This bill is also a dog whistle.

Your exhausting and relentless attacks against a small population are ridiculous. Do actual work that improves lives rather than working to exclude trans people.

Sincerely,

Soren Shivy, concerned Constituent and supporter of trans kids and people

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Assembly Committee of Education,

I could not be there in person, but wanted to write to share my concern over the bills regarding student athletes and pronouns in schools (AB100/AB103). I fiercely advocate to make this world a safer place for transgender and non-binary children.

Parents of transgender and non-binary children have become all-too-familiar with the danger that can come if a child is unable to express their gender identity. Research shows that transgender and non-binary children are at great risk of emotional harm, showing that 82% had contemplated suicide over the last year and 40% have attempted suicide [1].

Please think about that for a moment - over two-third of all kids who are transgender come to the conclusion, at some point in their young lives, that they would be better off committing suicide than live in a world that believes they are not welcome. I ask you to take time to speak with families of trans children. You will find story after story about trans children whose "choice" literally came down to being their true self or dying.

It causes harm when we deny or reject a child's gender identity. It is irresponsible and shameful for you, or any other elected official, to pass two anti-LGBTQ bills that further stigmatize these children and call into question their judgment.

I'm asking you to think about the way children in the LGBTQIA+ community are treated. This is a difficult, scary and beautiful mountain for them to climb, and we need to be there for them. I'm asking that you provide support and acceptance. Please do not propose a trans-athlete ban and a bill restricting pronouns and names used by transgender kids.

Thank you,

Brooke Dykema

Mequon, Wisconsin

Cited by:

[1] Suicidality Among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the Role of Interpersonal Risk Factors, National Library of Medicine, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Emily Erlen, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Milwaukee, WI. I am writing this testimony against AB 100 and 103.

As an educator in this state, I have seen the extreme mental duress that LGBTQ+ youth navigate as they explore and discover who they are, who their families want them to be, and at times, have to navigate the deeply traumatic times when those two futures are in direct opposition. Adding the government's involvement in limiting extracurricular choice and name usage!?! The purposes of AB 100 and 103 are clear: To encourage discrimination against trans kids. To alienate youth and stoke a climate of fear amongst children. Students cannot learn if they do not feel safe.

Why in the world is our government wasting time on policing what name a kid goes by? The club they want to join? Why are we spending time limiting the future of our youth and silencing the young voices of Wisconsin?

I'm not sure why our representatives feel the need to engage in viral, hate and outrage-based political theatre when Wisconsinites are struggling under the weight of so much already.

Trans people, at any age, exist and will continue to exist. Vote against AB 100 and 103.

Forward -

Emily Erlen
HS English Teacher
Milwaukee WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Testimony Regarding Assembly Bill 100 & Assembly Bill 103:

To the Assembly Committee on Education,

The vilification of trans youth is abhorrent and does not belong in the Wisconsin legislature.

Transgender people comprise 1.6% of the human population. Of that fraction, even less play sports. Only 34 trans athletes have openly competed in U.S. college sports to date and fewer make it to the professional level. The largest disparities in sports fairness come from the socioeconomic disadvantage of marginalized populations, not trans participation. Proximity to privilege predicts success in sports, not testosterone levels or biological markers. Meanwhile, disparities faced by the trans community begin at a young age and impact all facets of life including sports access. Trans youth are 9 times more likely to experience homelessness than their cisgender peers, and 68% experience bullying in middle school and high school. 22% of trans women surveyed in 2015 reported that they were bullied so badly in school that they dropped out. Many trans students worry about where they will use the bathroom at school, never mind which locker room to use. Without supportive services to help them navigate these additional challenges, it's tougher for them than their peers to make it through classes, let alone onto a soccer field. (Thank you to ACLU for the use of their stats and statistics)

These bills are only fueling anti-trans rhetoric that trans women have an unfair advantage in sports, despite a lack of consistent research to suggest this. As a woman, please do not speak for me to say that this bill is protecting mine or my daughter's rights, when in truth it is only limiting the rights of small group of individuals who should be receiving care, support, and affirmation instead of hate.

Nicole Kester
Madison, WI 53714

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin for 40 years, have served our community as a substitute teacher, legal secretary, member of the Middleton Commission on Aging, and community volunteer. I am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to an educational environment free from harassment and discrimination, where they feel safe to take the risks involved in learning, where they feel valued as a community member and able to explore their future roles in society, where they feel able to contribute to the community as themselves.

In my time working with students, changing pronouns was not a distraction to anyone's education. Participating in any group activity, like sports, when adults model the self respect and respect for others that we all require to live in community has not made anyone feel unsafe. But trans kids have felt unsafe and unseen every day when they use the restrooms in public, people ignore their respectful requests to be addressed as requested, and adults model the language and behaviors that give children in the room tacit permission to ignore, bully, or harass another student.

Sincerely,
Stacy Austin-Li
Middleton, WI 53562

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose bills AB100, a proposed trans athlete ban, and AB103, a bill restricting the rights of transgender students using the correct name and pronouns.

I have lived in Wisconsin all my life and am speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen and a parent.

I strongly oppose these bills because trans children and youth, like all of our students, have the right to a supportive, respectful education free from harassment and discrimination. They also have the right to participate in sports -- to stay healthy, be part of a team, and build confidence and self-esteem.

I have many transgender children in my circles, and they are the loveliest human beings. I can assure you that they do not pose a threat to anyone. They are silly and kind, funny and talented, imaginative and smart. They also struggle in similar ways to other kids -- worrying about friends and fitting in, how to achieve success, and make themselves and their parents proud. They are kids, just like any other kid -- just like the kids in your life, even.

Trans kids are struggling to get by, just like the rest of us, and they deserve a fair chance. Please give them that chance and oppose both of these bills.

Sincerely,
Maggie Fitzsimmons
Madison, WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Greetings to the whole WI legislative committee considering bills AB 100 and AB 103. I hear there may be a hearing and comments are welcome, Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Although I'm not able to be there in person, I'm writing today against these bills which would place limits on the rights of trans kids to participate in school athletics programs. Kids come in such different varieties of height, weight, hormones...and as long as they are willing to show up for practice and do their best in whatever sport it is - SO BE IT!

As the proud grandmother of someone who calls themselves 'they' - I'm showing up for our trans kids and friends of my grandkid - and their right to live, play, and exist as their authentic selves everywhere.

Judy Miner
Madison WI 53704

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Christopher Tammes, I am a constituent and resident of Milwaukee (53212) where I work two jobs, have hit multiple milestones in my own transition, and have found a vibrant and compassionate community of other trans people and allies.

I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear and hate rather than cultivating connection, understanding, and mutual respect.

As one of your constituents, I implore you to vote strongly against these proposed bills. Being one of the only out transgender students in my high school left me the choice to give up on being the most honest, true, and happiest version of myself or be the version that would let me continue to compete within my passions. No kid should have the entirety of a State government becoming the bullies that I faced when trying to just be myself. If a child figuring out who they are and how they want to live in this world is the biggest threat that you face, I truly envy how little struggles you have to actually face in your life.

I hope all the representatives continue to uphold the separation of church and state, continue to show that Wisconsin is a state that represents compassion, and know that trans people will continue to exist at every age; as we always have.

To enact these bills is to enact violence on the trans youth of your own communities, as Representatives of Wisconsin I hope you acknowledge all the trans people you represent from all corners of the state; and in good conscience vote against AB100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Christopher Tammes

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly or Senate Committee on Education:

As a Wisconsin educator and resident since 2016, I write in opposition to AB103 and AB100. The proposed bills contradict best pedagogical practices for effective instruction, promote intolerance, and have no place in our schools.

Sincerely,

Kyle Bladow

Ashland, 54806

3/5/2025

Assembly Committee on Education

Subject: Opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103. As a substitute teacher at my children's public school, I see firsthand the impact that inclusive policies have on all students. These bills target a very small number of students, yet they cause very real harm to a vulnerable minority group.

Legislation should be focused on supporting all students and ensuring that our schools remain places of learning, growth, and acceptance. Instead, these bills create unnecessary division and distraction. Furthermore, they represent a misuse of taxpayer dollars, as they seek to address a problem that does not exist while ignoring more pressing educational needs.

I urge you to vote against AB 100 and AB 103. Our schools should prioritize the well-being and success of all students, not target specific groups for political reasons.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Cochran

1891 90th Street

New Richmond, WI 54017

Amber Anderson
Regarding Assembly Committee on Education
03/05/2025

My name is Amber Anderson, BSN RN and I am a nurse at a local child/adolescent psychiatry unit. I am writing in regard to Assembly Bill 100 and 103. For the past four years, I have worked on an acute-stay child and adolescent psychiatric unit in the Madison area serving patients ranging from six to eighteen years old. The majority of patients I work with are admitted after a suicide attempt and/or after disclosing suicidal ideation. Throughout my years working with this population, I have had the privilege to meet kind, clever, empathetic and resilient kids in our community. Many of these patients identify as either trans or nonbinary. More often than not, the stressor resulting in suicidality is a lack of recognition and acceptance of their preferred name and pronouns. Further supporting this fact, according to the Trevor Project, anti-transgender laws cause up to a 72% increase in suicide attempts amongst transgender and nonbinary youth.

The reason I am writing to advocate for this community is simply this: I have seen the ramifications of not accepting a child who identifies as trans or nonbinary, and fear for our youth if these bills were to pass. I implore you that, based on proven statistics, allowing this bill to pass would essentially be signing a death sentence for many of Wisconsin's trans and nonbinary youth.

In summary, as a medical professional who works with this specific population on a daily basis and understands the negative effects these bills would have on youth in Wisconsin, I believe you should not allow Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103 to move forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amber Anderson, BSN RN

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

As a registered nurse and a parent of an amazing nonbinary child, I am writing in opposition to AB100 and AB103, and asking legislators to stop going after transgender children and work to address one of the numerous actual problems facing Wisconsinites.

My child has been bullied in school by classmates who have targeted them for their gender identity, despite the fact that my child using they/them pronouns and identifying as nonbinary has zero effect on anyone else. Thankfully, their school administrators took it seriously and facilitated a conversation between all of the kids involved about treating each other with respect, and the bullying stopped. This outcome happened because the school is committed to fostering a culture of mutual respect and supporting children's identities. These bills would interfere with our school's ability to support children like mine.

These bills do not protect children, period. They make my child and other transgender and nonbinary children LESS safe. The sports bill is unscientific, as studies show no difference in athletic ability between cisgender girls and transgender girls who have not gone through a male puberty, and the regulations on schools will make it harder for gender-nonconforming children to find support. It's shameful that politicians have decided to make a small, vulnerable population of citizens a scapegoat to whip up public fear and anger in this moral panic. It's causing real harm to children and adults who only want to live honestly and be themselves. Historically speaking, targeting minority groups has never reflected well on those in power. This will be no exception, and I encourage you all to vote with this in mind.

Thank you,
Lori Cannon
Washburn WI 54891

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Assembly Committee on Education

I am writing to let you know I am opposed to Bill 100 and Bill 103.

All students deserve the right to participate in sports and be recognized by their preferred gender pronouns . As a retired educator I support the mental health of all students.

Please vote NO.

Robin Kimbrough-Dibble
Gordon, WI 54838

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members of Bills AB100 and AB103,

I implore you to think about the children who will be adversely impacted if these bills pass. Being transgender is NOT a choice. Very young transgender children already KNOW that their gender should be other than that assigned to them at birth, and express this fervently to their parents. How many transgender children have you actually talked to? How many parents of transgender children? Are you educated about this enough to make a decision that could ruin a child's life? Please vote NO to bills AB100 and AB103. Transgender children are human beings who deserve to be loved and believed. YOU hold their happiness in your hands.

I appreciate your time and hope you will consider my beliefs.

Lisa Carey
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives -

My name is Camille Camacho. I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Oak Creek. I am submitting a written testimony AGAINST the Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education, which is meeting on March 6, 2025.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti trans legislation proposals across the US. These bans also don't do anything but alienate, belittle, and exclude transgender kids. Lastly, the bans create a climate of fear rather than inclusion.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote AGAINST these proposed bills because I want a safe community for my students. I am a high school teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools and I have trans students. My trans students are extremely brilliant, kind, hilarious, hard working, and the world is a better place because of their presence. They deserve to live in a state (and world) that accepts them for who they are and respects their identities. They deserve to have a high school experience where they can participate in sports. My students feel heard and seen when I utilize the pronouns they tell me to use rather than the pronouns given to them at birth. True recognition of their real identity increases their motivation in school, sense of belief in themselves, and their overall classroom performance. Not only will their lives be better when people stop being transphobic and when lawmakers stop making transphobic laws, but our world will be better because of the actions my students will take to change the world once they graduate high school.

Trans people exist. Trans people are beautiful. They will continue to exist and be beautiful at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent. I ask that you, in good conscience, vote AGAINST AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Camille Camacho

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Testimony Opposing Bills AB100 & AB103

My name is Kaycie Peck, from Stevens Point, WI 54481, and I'm writing to you under two hats. The first hat I wear is of a parent of two confident children, one of which is a transgender 7-year-old. The second is as a high school and middle school GSA advisor in rural Wisconsin.

As a parent of a trans child, I oppose both bills AB100 and AB103. We have been following our child's guidance on their gender journey since they were 3 or 4 years old. This is consistent with the American Pediatric Association's information that a child often solidifies their understanding of gender around 4 years old. It was then that our child started saying sometimes they felt like a girl, sometimes they felt like both, and sometimes they felt like neither. In 4K, when the school photographer asked the class to line up in a boys line and girls like, my child fell to the floor crying not knowing which line to go in. Every teacher my child has had has been incredibly supportive, loving, and respectful of my child's identity. They teach age-appropriate discussions of gender, that there are no boy or girl books, toys, jobs, etc. All the public school teachers my child has respect their pronouns, often check in on them and the family to ensure they are doing all right. My child also has a physical disability, Spina Bifida. Despite two very "othering" qualities of their identity, my child is confident, thriving, and proud of all of who they are. Why? Because they are surrounded by people in their life who support and love them for who they are. They are surrounded by love at school, where they are 8 hours a day.

If the bill passes and my child's teachers are stifled from supporting my child, what will happen? The data has shown that trans students who don't have a supportive adult at school have a higher likelihood of depression and suicide. These bills would harm children like my child. My child would no longer have the opportunity to benefit from youth sports. Youth sports teams are not about the competition and the winning. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA)'s mission statement is to organize an athletic program that will "maximize opportunities for member schools' participation" in interscholastic athletics, as well as "cultivate high ideals of citizenship and sportsmanship". How is a law that forces exclusion from sports supporting cooperation, teamwork, collaboration, common vision, and goal setting that youth sports in schools provide?

If I want my child to be a successful human in this world, these laws are setting them up to struggle if not fail. These laws will not give them the support they need to work within the school structures these laws are tearing down. These laws will also go against my parental wishes and parental rights, which they seem to be claiming to protect.

Under my second hat, I write to you opposing these bills as a GSA advisor to middle and high school students in a rural community outside Stevens Point for almost 10 years now. I have witnessed the struggles that trans and LGBTQ+ students face when they are finding themselves, expressing themselves, or just existing. I have witnessed their struggles, but I have also witnessed their bravery at advocating for what they need in a community that is not always supportive. These bills will close doors to students that work very hard to even reach those opportunities. As my role in education, our goal is NOT to hide things from families. Our goal is to work WITH families. All these laws will do will harm students who already have so many hurdles to jump to succeed.

Please, be on the side of supporting all students, including all students, not harming or excluding students. Do not pass bills AB100 & AB103.

Thank you for your time,

kp.

Kaycie Peck

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2023/>

www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Publications/WIAA-WhoWeAre22.pdf?ver=_htZQfi3Z4HHkhe8_1YvKQ%3d%3d

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Natalie Pelkey. I am a Wisconsin constituent of Kimberly. I am writing to encourage you to vote "no" on AB100 and AB103.

Enough is enough. The attacks on our trans kids and athletes is overwhelming and sickening. As a teacher, I am doing all I can to make my students feel safe and welcomed - and I'm asking you to do the same. Please vote against AB100 and AB103. Support our students, all of them. There are so many more pressing issues that should be attended to that can actually help your constituents, instead of these alienating tactics against our kids.

All the best,
Natalie Pelkey

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing to oppose AB100 and AB103.

I strongly believe that trans children should be included in school sports and athletics and they should be able to participate with whatever group or gender grouping they feel most comfortable playing with. AB100 will result in transgender and intersex children being excluded from school activities that would allow them to build friendships, developed social skills and learn about how to take exercise. I play a sport with at allows trans women. This inclusion has only positively contributed to my experience and that of my team and league.

Similarly children should have agency to determine what name they want to use and what pronouns they feel most comfortable with. AB103 will make children less safe and is a step backwards. Research shows that gender diverse youth experience best outcomes when parents, families, and communities use pronouns that align with a child's gender identity. Letting children use the pronouns and names that align with how they see themselves is an easy way to make kids safer.

Claire Heuckeroth
Middleton, WI, 53562

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hello, I'd like to submit a comment towards both AB100 and AB103 which are being heard tomorrow 03/06/25.

The comment is as follows:

I am registering my opposition to this bill, which proposes a damaging invasion of privacy into all children's lives. This bill serves only to increase surveillance and perpetuate stigma for private matters that real-life data and plenty of anecdotal evidence shows is not a problem for communities. There are already laws against actual crimes. We don't need this bill against kids who are just existing and minding their own business.

/End comment

Thanks!
Monica Strathman
Madison, WI 53716

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear representative,

My name is Emanuel Camacho, I am a constituent and resident of Oak Creek. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alternate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills. America should not take pride in excluding and alienating others- these proposed bills do exactly that.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,
Emanuel Camacho

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing, as a mom and an educator, to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bills 100 and 103, as I believe these proposed measures would harm Wisconsin students and undermine the inclusive and supportive environment our schools should foster.

Regarding AB 100:

This bill, which seeks to exclude transgender students from participating in sports teams consistent with their gender identity, is discriminatory and unfair. Transgender students, like all students, deserve the opportunity to participate in school sports to build teamwork, confidence, and a sense of belonging. Excluding them not only isolates these students but also sets a harmful precedent of inequality in our schools.

Regarding AB 103:

This bill, which would require parental consent for students to use preferred names and pronouns, disregards the importance of respecting students' identities. Schools should be a safe space where all students feel valued and accepted. Forcing students to obtain parental approval for something as personal as their name or pronouns could put vulnerable students at risk, particularly those who may not have supportive home environments.

Both of these bills fail to prioritize the well-being and dignity of Wisconsin's students. Instead of enacting policies that marginalize certain groups, we should focus on fostering inclusivity and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

I urge you to reject AB 100 and AB 103 and to advocate for policies that support all students, regardless of their gender identity or personal circumstances.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Katrina Daly Thompson
Madison WI 53711

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Alicia McQuade, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed amendments to AB100 and AB103. These amendments, which target transgender students by seeking to restrict their participation in school sports and limit the use of their correct names and pronouns, are harmful, unnecessary, and not supported by research or best practices.

Data clearly shows the harm that discriminatory policies inflict on transgender youth. According to The Trevor Project's 2023 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, over 50% of transgender and nonbinary youth seriously considered suicide in the past year. Importantly, trans youth who have their pronouns respected attempt suicide at half the rate of those who do not. Policies that invalidate students' identities—such as forcing staff to misgender them—put lives at risk.

Additionally, participation in school sports has well-documented benefits for all students, including improved mental health, increased school engagement, and social connection. The American Academy of Pediatrics has found no evidence that inclusive sports policies harm cisgender athletes, while excluding transgender students contributes to poor health outcomes, stigma, and social isolation.

Leading authorities in medicine and education—including the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, and National Education Association—oppose legislation that restricts the rights and dignity of transgender youth. The amendments to AB100 and AB103 are out of step with these expert recommendations and with the values of fairness, safety, and inclusion in our schools.

The proposed amendments are not protecting students; they are actively endangering some of our most vulnerable young people. I urge you to reject these amendments and stand in support of trans students who deserve to learn, grow, and participate in school without fear of discrimination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alicia McQuade

Milwaukee, WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am vehemently opposed to both Assembly Bill 100 and Assembly Bill 103. The only purpose I can see for either bills is to marginalize, punish and shame trans youth. The bills do not improve the educational environment or the health or wellbeing of children.

Competition in scholastic sports at the k-12 level should focus on fun, skill development and sportsmanship. Bill 100 advances none of those principles. Rather than discourage students from participating in sports that fit their perception of themselves and their interests, you should be encouraging them to grow and reach their potential. Medical studies do not support the misconception that any student will be damaged by the participation of trans youth on a sport team that does not align with their gender at birth. Athletes come in all shapes, sizes and abilities regardless of their gender.

I fail to see the harm in recognizing a child's identity by using the pronouns they prefer. Will you also pass a bill that demands teachers call students by their proper first name rather than a nickname or middle name? A teacher who reinforces a child's sense of self will increase that child's self-esteem and confidence, and therefore increase that child's chance of academic success.

If you are interested in increasing a child's self esteem and academic success, veto both Assembly bills.

Sincerely,
Barbara Jill Thomas
Madison, WI
53719

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Hi,

I am opposing bills AB 103 and 100 because of their negative impact on trans kids. I figured out that I was queer in my late 20s and that journey of self-discovery was difficult. I was worried people would judge me. I was sad that I didn't know about this part of myself sooner.

We can and should do better for our trans kids. We should listen to them, believe them and connect them to gender affirming care (if that's what they want). These bills are a giant leap backwards and are part of the wave of hate that LGBT communities face. I hope these bills fail and that many people speak out against them.

Thanks for your consideration,

Ben Ehler from Milwaukee

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

I whole-heartedly ask that you reject Assembly Bills 100 and 103. I work in secondary education and have seen first-hand that implementing affirming language and policies can save lives.

The Trevor Project reports that over 41% of LGBTQ+ young people have seriously contemplated or attempted suicide, including half of trans and nonbinary young people. My daughter was part of this statistic and we were thankfully able to save her. Two of my friends were not so lucky.

One of my LGBTQ+ students lost their life to suicide at 15 and another at 19. While these students were lucky enough to have supportive homes, they were not affirmed in their churches or with many peers. Every time someone is called by the wrong name or pronoun, it does damage.

If I were to force a member of this committee to go by a different pronoun and name every single day, they would not hold their head as high.

If I refuse to call Representative Dittrich by her name and instead refer to her as whatever I feel is best (Mr. Barnaby Dittrich, maybe), I guarantee she would not feel respected or valued.

If I refused to allow Senator Jacque to join a sports team based on his levels (or lack of) testosterone, questioning his gender-affirming beard and asking for physical proof of his masculinity, he might feel unsupported and question his worth.

It is a matter of life or death to allow kids to grow and figure out who they are. While they are growing, it is our utmost responsibility to support and respect students as people. They have lives that are worth saving.

Vote against these bills. They affect no one besides marginalized kids who need adults to protect and support them. What difference does it actually make to YOU to be respectful. Be brave and do the right thing.

Very sincerely and hopefully.

Jessica Rausch
Sun Prairie, WI
53590

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

As an ELCA pastor for over twenty years, and the founding chapter leader of PFLAG Washburn in the Chequamegon Bay area in northern Wisconsin (started in 2009), I am writing with strong opposition to AB 100 and AB 103.

These bills seek to strip the rights from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender and eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with in our schools.

As a pastor and PFLAG leader, I have met many transgender and gender fluid adults and youth. It is clear to me that they are being scapegoated by these bills. All people deserve to be their authentic selves. If bills like these become law, my personal friends will be devastated and have to move from the state of Wisconsin. These are families with professional parents who contribute so positively to our community.

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

PFLAG's membership of LGBTQ people, families and allies have united in love, embracing each other and people whose communities are often marginalized, erased or ignored. Unity and inclusion and a shared commitment to human dignity of all people are critical to fight discrimination and bigotry in any form so that all families can live free of fear. Now, more than ever, PFLAG's vision and mission are essential in this country.

Please vote for the dignity of all people and against AB 100 and AB 103.

Sincerely,

Rev. Nancy Hanson

Washburn, WI 54891

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Mansi Singh, I am a Wisconsin constituent and resident of Madison. I am submitting a written testimony against Assembly Bill 100 and 103 proposed in the Assembly Committee on Education meeting on March 6th.

AB 100 and 103 are clearly crafted as a trans athlete ban and to restrict name and pronoun changes for trans kids, respectively. These bans come at a time of unprecedented anti-trans legislation proposals across the US and do nothing but alienate transgender kids and create a climate of fear rather than cultivation.

As one of your constituents, I implore you all to vote against these proposed bills.

I am a school psychologist in Wisconsin and work closely with students who identify as trans. These students face high rates of mental health issues (such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts) when compared to their cisgender peers. Being able to express their gender identity freely and engage in activities such as athletics that promote mental health, can improve their sense of self-worth and well-being. Bills that limit these rights work towards worsening mental health outcomes. My job involves promoting inclusion and acceptance for all students, regardless of their identities. Discriminatory policies that restrict students' access to their chosen pronouns and athletics contribute to climates of exclusion and increase stigma amongst peers. This may lead to bullying, isolation, and less support for trans students. Trans individuals have a right to their autonomy and dignity. Discriminatory policies infringing on these rights are counterproductive towards ensuring that schools are safe and nurturing educational environments for all students. As policy makers, harm prevention should be an ethical commitment you strive for when making important decisions. These policies will undermine those efforts, leading to long-term effects on trans individuals mental and emotional health.

Trans people exist and will continue to exist at every age. To enact these bills is to enact violence upon trans people. As Representatives in Wisconsin, I ask that you acknowledge all of the trans people you represent, and in good conscience vote against AB 100 and 103.

Sincerely,

Mansi Singh, EdS, NCSP (she/her)
School Psychologist

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Kim Suhr, and I live in Wales, 53183. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my position on AB100 and AB103.

I encourage you to vote NO on AB100 the bill that would ban trans athletes from competing on sports teams that align with their gender identity. It seems most people aren't too concerned with trans boys (individuals who had been assigned female at birth but now identify as male) competing in boys' sports, but the thought of even the very small number of trans girls (individuals who had been assigned male at birth but now identify as female) competing in girls' sports makes many Republican lawmakers think they must "protect" cis-gender girls on these teams. This is paternalistic, unnecessary, and frankly, insulting.

I was a female athlete in middle and high school and played with and against lots of players who had what I could have thought of as an "unfair" advantage over me. I was a 5'0" player on a volleyball team who played with and against players who were 6 feet tall—these were non-trans girls who had the good fortune to have been born with different genes than I did. Should I have insisted they play on the boys' teams? Did I need anyone's "protection?" No.

It seems the people who want AB100 to become law are afraid that cis-gender males will fake being trans in order to dominate girls' sports. Huh? Exactly what kind of "winning" would that be? Is there proof that this has happened? Even if so, the cases would be vanishingly small compared to the good that would be done for the trans-athletes who are able to compete on the team that matches their identity. Will some trans-athletes be stronger than some cis-athletes? Of course. And the opposite will be true as well. Were there times I was a stronger athlete than other players who seemed to have a physical advantage and more height? You betcha.

As for AB103, this is a problem looking for a bill. People should be called what they want to be called. Period. They should be called by the pronouns they want to be called. Period. We can find thousands of examples of students being referred to by names other than their legal names across this state without anyone blinking an eye. What does it hurt? And what does it hurt to use pronouns that feel more comfortable to the student? If you have never been misnamed or misgendered by others, you can't know what it feels like. Why would you want to impose that type of insult to other people's children? Maybe you should try it: just for a day, have people call you something other than your name and use opposite pronouns. That would be a great exercise in walking in someone else's shoes.

We are better than this in Wisconsin. Please vote no on both of these bills.

Sincerely,

Kim Suhr
Wales, WI 53183

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To all members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Jill Nagler and I'm a resident of Madison, WI, 53719 and lifelong resident of Wisconsin.

I write to you in staunch opposition to AB 100/103.

Here we are with state politicians engaging in the manufactured outrage towards the transgender community and vulnerable transgender children.

Here we are with yet another set of violent and dehumanizing bills that attack transgender kids, their families, and their educators for no logical, sensible, rational, or ethical reason.

It is manufactured outrage for no other purpose than to deflect and place blame on transgender people as easy targets instead of actually addressing the issues that harm Wisconsin's children, such as gun violence, food and housing insecurity, lack of accessible extramural programs especially for poor families, bullying, and lack of funds to support the sports programs that these bills claim to be protecting.

Trans kids are not the cause of any of these issues, and allowing trans kids to play extramural sports and to be able to have their pronouns respected is protective against the violence they face from society and their peers.

If you want to truly protect kids, then stop these farcical attacks on transgender kids and the transgender community.

Put in the work to address actual social issues instead of falling into the cycle of fake outrage.

Let transgender kids play sports!

Use the name and pronouns that people choose, it literally does not hurt anyone to let people choose their name and pronouns. Especially kids who are exploring the world and their place in it.

Let kids be kids!

Stop the attacks on transgender children, let them live.

I implore you to oppose these abhorrent bills and all others that are cruel, unconstitutional, unethical, and seek to target vulnerable communities with manufactured outrage.

Please act with humility, ethics, sensibility, and compassion and end this assault on the transgender community in Wisconsin.

With gratitude,

Jill

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am a 57 year old woman, a Lutheran Christian, and I've lived in Dane County most of my life. I believe that all children are uniquely and wonderfully made by our Creator. It is the job of families, schools, and society to encourage, accept, and love them as they grow.

The two bills before you simply make trouble where there is none to be found; they are both unnecessary. I urge you to oppose them.

RE AB100: There is ample scientific evidence that transwomen and girls have no "advantage" over cisgender women and girls in sports. Youth should be allowed - and encouraged - to participate in sports with their peers and to use the locker room that aligns with their identity.

RE AB103, there is no good reason to make it difficult for students to use preferred names and pronouns in schools. Kids have enough trouble growing up and navigating school; they do not need the added burden of having to "provide paperwork," to request their preferred name be used. To honor the use of someone's preferred pronouns is to be courteous and kind. Why would I deny someone that?

These bills create barriers to learning, and I hope the Assembly Committee on Education is able to see that.

Respectfully,
Sue Martinson-Zyhowski
Madison WI 53716

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear Representative Stroud Education Committee Member Chair Representative Kitchens:

I am a constituent of Assembly Representative Stroud. My address: Dana Churness, 86495 Lenawee Rd, Herbster, WI 54844.

I am writing to register my strong opposition to AB 100 and AB 103. As you know, these bills seek to strip the rights away from transgender athletes to play sports or use locker rooms that align with their gender. They eliminate the right for trans students to use the name and pronouns they identify with.

This amounts to no less than State sanctioned discrimination. As the parent of a gender diverse child, who will be impacted directly by the trans athlete bill, I can speak personally to the harm that these bills cause. (Even by merely being introduced and considered.)

1 in 3 trans kids will attempt suicide by the age of 18. Bills such as these will create an even more hostile environment for our children to have to learn in. This is absolutely unacceptable. The attack on trans youth, initiated by unconstitutional Executive Orders and enforced by bills such as these amounts to ruthless, heartless bullying behavior by grown adults who should know better.

We are not asking you to believe in something that you don't. We are asking that you kill these bills which will actively harm (physically and mentally) our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dana Churness

I am writing in regard to the transgender legislation being considered for Wisconsin. I write as a community member, the interim President of the Board of the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, as well as a mental health provider. I write to request no anti-trans legislation be created for our youth or adults in the beautiful state of Wisconsin.

At our Center, we see youth and adults that land all over the gender spectrum. This is for many reasons: normal healthy self-discovery; multiple areas that place a person in both "masculine" and "feminine" categories; perception of themselves vs perception by others of birth body parts; full realization. Additionally, it is widely recognized that a person who is given the time and ability for self discovery is most likely to make healthy decisions and choices with less error. Whereas a youth who has been severely restricted from obtaining information and spending time in self reflection is most likely to self harm, make unhealthy and unsafe choices, increasing the likelihood of costly effects to society.

Neuroscience, genetics testing and studies, and psychosocial assessments have persistently and consistently revealed that a person who experiences more than one gender, or, identifies with a gender other than that specified at birth, actually match cognitively and emotionally with their DNA and genetic markers. We are increasingly aware that what a person believes is their gender matches what their bodies own code tells us, regardless of birth assignment. Amazing information when we stop and listen to the facts.

I will not address the bathroom and locker room challenge right now, except to say we know factually, by shutting people out of youth athletics, bathrooms doesn't make them safer, it makes them less safe. Safety has been almost 90% unsafe because of cisgendered straight males. Consequently, we do not see them at all interested in showing up in a bathroom dressed as a woman. Conversely, we do not see a "female" dressed as a "man" in a men's bathroom.

We have an opportunity right now to say that we can more for the health of our citizenry than we do for controlling a label. I challenge you to do so. The people of Wisconsin deserve it. You may deserve their vote for you. But you need to earn it.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak with me further, please feel free to contact me at kinzua@lgbtsewi.org

In kind regard,

Kinzua Le Suer, Policy & Public Admin.; M.S
Interim President of the Board
1456 Junction Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53403

Kinzua Le Suer, M.PPA, M.MFT
Interim Board President
Kinzua@lgbtsewi.org
1456 Junction Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53403

I am writing to ask you to do anything you can to speak against the anti trans bills today.

I am an adult athlete and have played along side trans athletes for the last ten years. I have never once felt it was unfair or that I was unsafe playing with trans athletes. I have seen how this marginalized group has been able to flourish and experience joy in competing in sports. There is no reason trans students should not be able to play sports with their identified gender.

I have teen aged children and would not be concerned if they were playing with or against trans athletes.

We should allow kids and teens to express themselves in the ways that they feel most comfortable. We use nicknames for cis people. We can use different names and pronouns for trans, non binary and gender non conforming youth. Especially if this prevents them from experiencing depression, anxiety or suicidal thoughts. It's a small act of seeing someone and there should be no rules against our schools supporting youth in this way.

Please do whatever you can to keep trans youth safe and vote or speak against the anti trans bills.

Thank you,
Lacy Germano

Anti trans rhetoric is harmful and cruel . Anti trans legislation is unnecessary and cruel. MTF athletes of any age do not have any kind of unfair advantage in any sport, especially as children. Both of these bills do nothing to protect anyone as every single fear-mongering talking point is completely fabricated. It's meant to further harm a small number of individuals that aren't like you. They are not confused. They are not groomed. They are not pushed into being trans. They are born trans due to the biological effects of genetics and endocrinology. You are legislating the the removal of their human rights over nothing but hateful, fear based lies spread among Republicans. It's wrong, and it's far past the time you stop dehumanizing people you refuse to learn anything about and accept.

Dawn Bankers
Madison WI 53719

I'd like to discuss my extreme dissatisfaction with the introduction of these bills into the Wisconsin legislature. Laws like this not only prevent trans youth from being able to express themselves, and respected as who they are, but opens them up to further abuse in a system that already does not care for them. The passing of these bills will undoubtedly result in more bullying and higher rates of depression, or worse in trans youth. The claim around these kinds of laws are that it's to protect children, but by forbidding them to express themselves as they are you're putting them in harms way.

These bills are vile attempts to isolate and punish trans people, and specifically children for merely existing as they are. As a Wisconsin citizen born and raised I abhor the thought of these bills passing and I cannot in good conscience stand by as this legislature furthers these hateful bills.

Thank you,
Shafiq

Hello, I am a transgender woman who is deeply alarmed by the bills being proposed today. I went through school not knowing about my gender, but I can say how deeply being treated as a man within that environment hurt me. Being forced into gym classes surrounded by boys who bullied and harassed me, since they could tell that something was different about me even if they didn't know what.

A lot of my friends have relatives who are in school right now, who are personally threatened by these proposals. I care about these people, and they deserve to be able to feel safe in their schools. A school refusing to support someone opens the door to bullying and even assault.

Disclosing this kind of information to a kid's parents against the kid's will is also dangerous. Abusive parents exist, and a lot of abusive parents are willing to do incredibly cruel things to a kid to punish them for being part of the LGBT community. I have friends who were abused by their parents for being trans, who barely survived that treatment.

Beyond the emboldening of cruel actions by trans kids peers or abusive adults, constantly being forced to exist in a space that denies you a basic part of who you are is incredibly disruptive to someone's mental health. That does not create an environment where a student can effectively learn, and I know that experience has caused me to want to die before, and that plays a serious role in the high rate of suicide in trans youths. This is a question of children's lives. Whatever harm you believe is caused by affirming their gender, is it really equal to the harm caused by losing a sibling or a child to suicide?

Victoria Ash
Sister Bay Wisconsin
54234

Would there be a bill forcing people to be left handed? Brown eyed? Let our people be their true selves and make room for them to live their lives peacefully amongst us.

I am a mother of two children, ages 7 and 9. My son told me the other day that he feels like he is both girl and boy. As he grows and discovers his identity, he should have equal access to play sports and use pronouns that match who he is. It doesn't make any sense to restrict our kids.

We all want our children to be safe and protected. That is why the adults show children how to protect others and care and support each other. By excluding and segregating, we show children that others are less than. That our differences are scary and to be pushed out.

Let's teach our children how to include, and how to protect each other. So that when they become adults they are welcoming, supportive, and caring members of our society.

Please don't target our trans, non-binary, and queer children. Learn more about them. Educate yourself before casting them out.

Thank you!

Marlo Darken

5221 Summer Ridge Dr, Madison, WI 53704

I am transgender and I knew that about myself when I was in middle school.

When I was in school trans people were not talked about, knowledge was hard to find and, because of this, being out or transitioning felt like an impossibility. It was a secret I kept until I met and talked to other trans people later in life.

Young people who have the courage to be themselves are miraculous to me, they deserve to be nurtured, protected and embraced by their communities. Their names and pronouns should be used and they should be able to participate in sports and access the same scholarships and opportunities as their peers.

I have been open about myself for over a decade now and I know that the moment I made the decision to embrace myself was where my my life diverged from a grey burden I endured to the rich and fulfilling life I lead now.

I sometimes wish I had had the courage young people have now back when I was their ages but the past can't be changed. What I can do is support them in the here and now and help make the future brighter for young trans people in Wisconsin going forward so the next generation never has to feel like I did.

Podkayne Miller, they/them

Dear Assembly Committee on Education ,

The vilification and dehumanization of trans people is dangerous and will lead to violence. We must protect our most marginalized communities and provide them with the care, compassion, and access they need to thrive. We demand that our elected representatives protect *ALL* their constituents - even those who are easy targets. Focus your energies elsewhere; on protecting our national forests and resources, the department of education, removing DOGE from gutting our agencies and violating our privacy, and building better relationships with the international community.

Do better!

Rachel Foster
2967 N 55th St
Milwaukee, WI 53210

Dear lawmakers,

Trans students and athletes should have the right to express whatever gender they are and to use whatever pronouns they choose. If an athlete identifies as male, they should play with other male athletes. And vice versa.

Sincerely,

Cassie Wyss

As the grandmother of a trans kid I am concerned about all the misunderstanding of our trans kids. Please consider what it is you are saying when you are taking so much time to "punish" these kids and their families. I would like to see more energy put into things that are really important, like caring "for the least of these" and what that really looks like....when Jesus proclaims his mission statement "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free...." - I believe that he is talking to all those who have no voice and he has come to give them voice. So, I implore you to make the right decision to recover your sight and see how all of us were created equal in the eyes of God.

From a grandma who loves her trans grandchild,

Peace,

Laura Hawkins, Fond du Lac, WI

--

Rev. Laura K. Hawkins, MDiv.

"When you have two choices, take the third". Zen Koan

The authors of this legislation have obviously never met any of the transgender adults they were elected to "represent". If they had, they would know that trans people are creative problem solvers. Having lived experience that what society tells you is impossible is in fact achievable frees the mind to solve any number of problems. Wisconsin has plenty of problems facing our children, lead, pfas, and other pollutants in our drinking water, the pressing need to adapt so that we can all thrive in a hotter world that produces more violent storms and greater risk of forest fires. I believe Governor Evers addressed the needs of Wisconsin's children at some length so you can refer to that address for a more exhaustive list.

The aim of this legislation is to bully a tiny fraction (1%) of the population. Bullying is not a show of strength. Bullying is a confession of weakness. These bills, if passed, would show the State of Wisconsin legislature to be so pathetically weak that they attack the most vulnerable fraction of a percent of their own population in a flamboyant display of impotence.

How about trying this instead. Don't pass these bills. Keep Wisconsin a marginally safer place for a tiny number of creative problem solvers to call home. This state does not need more bullies. It needs more creative problem solvers.

Kye Richards
Monona, WI 53716

My name is Ryan and I am an uncle and educator in Wisconsin.

I just want to say that our kids - ALL kids - deserve as much support as possible. Especially in dark times like these, we adults have a responsibility to be the guiding light and set a good example for the children in our community. These bills do the opposite of that. There are several, ongoing issues that directly impact children's health and safety. Examples include things like ensuring that all children have access to healthy food without shame; creating safe and affordable solutions for the housing crisis; supporting students and educators through sufficient funding for ALL public schools; taking REAL measures to prevent gun violence in schools and other places. Instead of putting their efforts behind these things, the instigators and supporters of these bills are choosing to focus their attention on children's genitals. To me, that is creepy and criminal - and it doesn't "protect" anybody. In fact, engaging in active bullying of already vulnerable populations via legislature has been proven, time and again, to cause further harm. Schools should be safe, inclusive places for children to learn. They should be part of the support system for families. Sports should be fun and inclusive opportunities for ALL children. If we teach our children that bullying is wrong, then schools and sports should be bully-free zones - and it's difficult to do when bullies are implementing unnecessary and harmful laws. So, please, don't be a bully: do better, so that ALL of our kids are safer.

Thank you,
Ryan Cappleman

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Here is my testimony,

Most of my life I had to hide myself to get by. I am a minority in many different ways, through the color of my skin or my sexuality. My racial background and immigration status made me the target of many jokes and stereotypes. I found myself miserable and longing for belonging. I didn't dare to reveal another part of me that would just be the target of bullying. That is exactly the struggle posed by trans youth today. These bills would only compound their struggle and further isolate them. Being trans is a part of who they are, it is not just a phase or something that can change.

Recognition of someone's new identity should not be restricted by unreasonable obstacles. For many people, being addressed by their preferred name is a sign of dignity. It's frankly the least that someone could do. You wouldn't address a divorcee by their previously held last name?

Trans athletes make up an incredibly small portion of the total athletes in the state. This is not a "rampant" issue. There are many other things that the legislature should be focusing on. In addition, sports are inherently unequal in that they prefer body types that are a few standard deviations from the norm. There's a reason that I had no hopes for the NBA being under 6ft. Would it be reasonable to restrict players over a certain height to make it "fair"? In many sports there is not biological advantage to being born male or female. Frankly the gap in performance comes from underfunding, a lack of infrastructure, and unskilled staff for women's sports. Where is the support for that?

I doubt the legislature will heed my words, but go out and meet a trans person. I guarantee you, it will be like meeting any regular person. These are not any different in the way they think or act. They desire the same human things. They are our friends, family, co-workers, and fellow human beings. There is no reason to deny their right to free expression and existence. It does not impede on the rights of anyone else. Let trans youth live their lives, it's difficult enough being a kid.

Thank you,

Bis Mishra

4th year engineering student, Milwaukee native

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

it is a simple act to see a child for who they are, and many agree that it takes a brave child to insist on being seen for their truest selves even when it can cost them so much. while I do not refute their bravery, I also know that often these children do not themselves believe they are brave - they simply have no other choice. to not be who they are openly and fully would cost them even more - their sense of self, their hope for a future, their feelings of safety and bodily autonomy, their self-determination, their agency, I could go on for pages. across the country children are being denied the right to access medical treatments that would affirm their existence and alleviate much personal suffering. so why also take away the small, every day ways they can simply be seen and uplifted until they reach an age when they have those medical choices available to them? why refuse to use their pronouns, their new name, why refuse them to use a toilet, why turn them away from the sports that bring many enrichments into an athlete's life? (I mean, why are any sports, but especially childrens', even separated by sex anyway - but I digress)

these children are not asking for anything more than to be seen, accepted, and left in peace to learn and grow.

why take that away from any child, trans or not? why risk wisconsin families losing their children to depression, suicide, or other such atrocities that can happen to children who are repeatedly put into these positions? trans children deserve a future, and they also deserve a present.

thank you

alma horlock, madison resident & voter

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Allowing respect toward trans folks requires so little. I fail to understand why bills like this work against that.

Don't tell me it's because you're trying to protect our youth. For ages, we have cultivated a culture of bullying and harassment across the board; I, as well as countless others, have been teased, harassed, bullied, and beaten, in both coed as well as traditionally separated bathrooms and locker rooms.

Don't tell me it's because your religion tells you to do so; for just about every religion has a variation on the Golden Rule, to love one another as God loves us.

You mean to tell me you would rather enforce a hostile environment that pushes already fragile trans teens ever closer to killings themselves, as they feel there is no place in this world for their true selves? Better to have a bunch of depressed, numb kids than to ask ourselves to explore our discomfort and grow a little?

Try again. The trans people in my life are some of the most beautiful, creative souls.

-Monica

--

-Monica A. Steger

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Sara MacDonald and I reside in the Appleton area. I want you all to consider the well-being of our children when reviewing this bill. It is already so difficult for trans children and this bill would make it even harder for them.

When my mom was alive she was a staunch conservative. At the time we would go round and round about gay people as she thought they were misguided and needed electro shock therapy. We were in a particularly ferocious argument one day when I screamed at her that if a person had a CHOICE they would never CHOOSE to be gay but it is hard, and people are judgmental. Gay people risk their lives every day to be their authentic self. My mom finally paused and it was in that moment that she finally understood what was being said to her.

Trans is the new gay. People who are trans don't CHOOSE to be trans, they simply are. People think it's this scary thing, but it literally just means that the persons spirit doesn't match the body they are in. That's it. That's all it is.

If people on the far right keep trying to deny that trans people exist, it is going to result in more mental health concerns as well as likely more suicidal ideation. I hope you will consider all of this and will allow trans people the same freedom that cisgender people have. Thank you.

Sara MacDonald
Little Chute, WI 54140

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Anna Knapp and I am a resident of Liberty Grove. I've lived in Wisconsin for the last 15 years and grew up right here on the family farm where I currently live with my husband and 2 daughters. I am a parent of a transgender teenager. My daughter has the support of our entire family of 4 as well as extended family--aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins who also live and vote here in Wisconsin.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100, 102, and 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to these bills because these bills discriminate against transgender individuals. I can tell you from a family who lives this reality that my daughter is able to participate in 3 seasons of school sports--volleyball, basketball, and softball. In all cases, she is on the team that matches her gender identity. She has ALWAYS played on these teams. She gains great confidence and self-esteem from being included in our small school sports teams. Her mental and physical health is excellent because she is an athlete on these teams. She is definitely not the best athlete on the team, but she's a part of the school spirit and camaraderie that comes from being part of the team.

The support our community has for my daughter participating on these teams has built a strong social support for her. She has great attendance in school, gets almost all As in her classes, performs well on State and District tests and LOVES school. She is a part of many other organizations and as a Girl Scout, provides valuable community service to our local area. It is because she is accepted by her school community that she is able to be so successful.

Our small school district would not be able to support having multiple teams divided by gender. There are just not enough kids in our school to support this. What will this mean for a kid like my daughter? Exclusion is what it means. Being told that even though you are one of the most "girly" girls in your grade (by appearance and actions), you don't belong on the girls' volleyball team.

Why would our state government support this kind of discrimination? Let's be inclusive and show support for all kids. There are a lot of different types of kids on every team--as I watch our school's football or basketball team, whether it's middle school or high school level--I see all types of bodies and maturity levels even on the same team. Some of those kids are over 6 feet tall and some are under 5 feet tall. Some are extremely muscular and some are not. It doesn't matter what their gender expression is. These differences exist in all situations. And let me tell you, my daughter gets hurt on the court--by girls that are not

transgender, girls that are bigger and also smaller than her have caused various injuries to her over the years of intense basketball games.
Let's support all of them and let them play.

If passed, these bills will cost lives. At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin.

--

Anna Grasse Knapp (she/her/hers)
Ellison Bay, WI
Township of Liberty Grove

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

For the love of God, please do not go after vulnerable children. Do not restrict the ability of trans girls to participate fully in their school as a girl. They need our support and inclusion. Do not restrict the pronouns that can be used for children. Let them be who they are. Let them be called what they want to be called. Controlling language sounds like George Orwell's Animal Farm. Please step up and demonstrate what leaders in education should do: affirm and support these children.

Julie Hladky

Stevens Point 54481

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Trans kids deserve the right to be kids. They deserve to express themselves, be respected and engage in activities that they enjoy.

Trying to pass bills that belittle trans kids aren't going to make them disappear. There has always been transgender people and if that makes you uncomfortable then educate yourself and worry about yourself.

Thank you,

Erynn Hoff
715-419-2296

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Knowing a female to male trans kid, I have seen first hand the harm that alienating these children and young adults causes their psyches. They already have too much on their plates trying to sort out their feelings. Let them choose their own names and pronouns, period. Let them play sports.

Imagine a legislature trying to make heterosexuality illegal. How would that make straight people feel? (I'd be against that bill too!) We are who we are. These bills are hurtful to these children, hurtful to the community, hurtful to the country!

The hallmark of how far a society has advanced is its treatment of its outcasts. History will not be kind to us.

Thank you,
Mike Grindemann
Muscodia WI 53573
(608) 739-3381

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing in opposition to these bills banning transgender athletes from participating in sports with teams that align with their gender identity, and disallowing students from using their preferred name and pronouns.

- These are bills that, in effect, tell trans students and athletes not to exist. Consider the logic: If an athlete has transitioned to being female, and then has to choose between playing on a team with male athletes or not playing at all, what do you think will be safe or comfortable for them? Neither choice. You're telling them you don't want trans athletes to exist.
- By disallowing students from social transitioning (referred names and pronouns), we are taking away their freedom to choose their social identity. That's something that is shown to lead to higher rates of depression and suicide. You're telling them you don't want trans students to exist.

These bills would lead to more transgender children dying. We can't allow that. Don't tell children their government doesn't want them to exist.

Kristi Leach
Mequon, WI 53092

Good Morning,

On my son's 17th birthday, he left my husband and I each a card to open. The cards read "It's a boy!". His wish for his birthday and everyday going forward was to be called Jay and to leave Katie behind. He sobbed as we hugged him and told him we loved him unconditionally. To imagine that your child was worried that you wouldn't give them the same support as the previous day because of who they felt they were meant to be, broke my heart. The catholic school system he was enrolled in accepted Jay and nearly all the staff used his chosen name and pronouns. There are always people to this day who struggle with using the pronouns he/him but that is their personal struggle-not his. It is such an easy thing to make people feel seen and accepted. School is where we send our kids to grow and learn. To become confident and feel safe. Trans kids can't thrive if they aren't accepted for who they are at the most basic level. Dictating pronouns would be devastating.

A person should get to choose their pronouns. It makes a difference. It makes them feel accepted and seen. It is personal to them, and we should respect who they are completely. My wish is for everyone to feel respected and seen. My son is so happy and overcomes other obstacles everyday as a college student. His journey to feeling accepted started with the use of he/him. It saved his life.

Sincerely,
Jenny Julius
Proud Mom of Jay

My name is Gwen Firmin, and I am a lifelong Wisconsin resident and former Head Start Teacher.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to these bills.

We are living in a time of crisis. Our state's children are facing increased poverty, food insecurity, gun violence, and racial and religious discrimination. The current federal Regime is actively trying to cut Medicaid, WIC, TANF, and SNAP.

Instead of focusing on these real issues that are adding stress and trauma to our students' lives, the proponents of these bills want to single out a very small portion of our population and demonize them.

These bills do nothing to make our students feel safe loved and welcome in our schools. They do nothing to fill their hungry bellies or make sure they receive proper medical care.

All those who contributed to advancing these bills should feel ashamed. Instead of protecting our children and feeding them, you are separating and bullying them.

These bills must not pass. All they will do is cause harm to children who desperately need to be loved and accepted.

Spend your time on legislation that will actually help them instead.

Gwen Firmin

As a healthcare provider I see the youth of America at all stages and in all shapes and sizes and expressions of self.

I am a cisgender woman- meaning I was born with female sex parts and identify as a woman in my gender though it's no one's business in my opinion.

I have a privilege of being aligned with both my sex and gender but my job is empathy so I see the pain of many who feel and sometimes physically are misaligned. Because of the privacy and confidentiality of my job I won't give names or identifying information. I will take you on a journey of a story of a young eight year old person. They were born with physical attributes of the sex assigned at birth- feminine —a girl—but always knew they were a boy. When they were told “No you are —” they began to question themselves, their identity and when they finally were seen for who they were a light went on. They asked that their hair change and the way they were dressed altered a bit. They then asked to be called by the correct pronouns. This helped this child find inner solace and joy. My job is empathy and joy especially for youth and families. I understand that what we don't understand can sometimes scare us. Imagine if you were told you weren't the gender you know yourself to be. If you were told you must stop using pronouns because someone outside yourself and your family has a judgement on you.

I know girls who are stronger, faster and tougher than boys. I know boys who are effeminate, sensitive and aren't into athletics. These attributes don't belong to just one gender. They belong to all.

As for locker rooms. Boys and Girls and all in between need to understand about privacy and protection of themselves and each other. If it ain't yours- it don't pertain to you.

As a former coach the rule is get in, get changed, get out and let's get this game started.

This isn't about honoring tradition or the protection of people. This is about being scared that the feminine could be as strong or stronger than the masculine and that is something to be worked out in a therapy room not in congress or legislation. Make an appointment.

Thanks for the time.

In Service to Families,

Simone D. LaPierre, Masters of Marriage and Family Therapy

Professional Training License in the Field of Marriage and Family Therapy

Member of WPATH

(Pronouns: She, Her, Hers)

To members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Brenna Gladding, and Madison, Wisconsin is the community that I am proud to call home. I was born and raised in Dane County, attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for my undergraduate education, have worked many years in the state supporting children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities, and currently work at a public high school in Special Education. At the high school, I work with students who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community, and they are some of the most thoughtful, caring, and creative students I know. They show up authentically as themselves and in doing so inspire others to do the same. It would be wrong to put into effect legislation that would prevent these students from existing as their true selves, and would go against what we ought to stand for as Wisconsinites.

Growing up, I had the opportunity to join social clubs in and outside of school and play sports like softball and hockey from the time I was little, until I graduated high school. Because of these sports and clubs, I learned how to be a friend and a teammate. I made valuable friendships, learning important life lessons, and grew stronger both mentally and physically. These moments in my early life were essential to my personal growth and development, and in each of these settings I have had the opportunity to be my true and authentic self. Something so simple, something many of us take for granted, and something that every single child deserves.

The proposed anti-LGBTQ legislation is harmful to young people both who identify with the community and those who do not. It is important that all people, children especially, feel comfortable, safe, and empowered to be their true authentic selves, and have the opportunity to do so, whether they want to compete for their school's sports team, join the robotics team, compete in Model UN, or whatever else. To prevent children from being themselves during a time where they are simply trying to figure out who they are and what brings them joy and fulfillment, is wrong and unjust, and the proposed legislation would do just that. We owe it to the young people of Wisconsin to support their right to be themselves, and to celebrate our similarities as well as our differences.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brenna Gladding
She/her/hers
2187 Colladay Point Drive
Stoughton, Wisconsin 53589

Here is my testimony against the Anti-trans Bills:

It is appalling to me that our government is trying so hard to injure children. Since that is exactly what these bills are hoping to do. They are excluding children from participating in activities that are good for their physical health and mental well-being. Additionally, why are we trying to make school even worse for children to attend? The purpose of a school is to educate our students and make them feel like they can be at peace. Creating an unsafe and hostile environment is only going to push them further away from wanting to be at school. Children should be allowed the freedom to explore themselves and express their identities freely. Do you think that these laws are going to keep kids safe? No. These laws will only harm children. As a person who works with a lot of kids who identify outside of the gender they were assigned at birth I can tell you right now that these laws will only need to more children harming themselves and potentially taking their lives. Just last week, I had a student come up to me apologizing that they weren't going to be fully present because a friend of theirs had committed suicide because he was constantly being dead-named and the people around him refused to use the correct pronouns. Children are dying and we are doing nothing to prevent it. In fact, we are encouraging children to isolate themselves and hide their true identities. These bills disgust me and they should disgust anyone who believes in freedom of expression. We should protect children. Not cause them more undo harm.

Let me know if you need anything else!

Suze Falk (they/them)

I am writing to emphatically support Wisconsin legislators in resisting anti-trans legislation (related to athletics and pronouns).

Our trans community members and neighbors deserve our fierce support and protection. These proposed laws do not make people safer - instead, they will embolden violence against trans folks, raise rates of mental health struggles within the LGBTQIA+ community, and open the door to more oppressive measures that affect all gender-marginalized people, including women.

Now is a time for bold, decisive, and principled action in defense of those who are most vulnerable.

Thank you for your consideration,
Stepha Velednitsky
53703 zip code

My name is Russ Faulkner. I'm a cis gendered white male who grew up Republican in Mississippi. As a conservative growing up, I always thought of Republicans as being for personal freedom, liberty, pursuit of happiness. I'm not quite sure how restricting the freedom of children to be themselves is promoting core American values.

I have a six year old son in the public school system in Sun Prairie and I want him to know that all types of folks are valid and should have the space to exist and not be discriminated against. I also want him to be comfortable being himself without having to mask or hide.

If you want to protect children, you should create a space where they feel like they can grow and discover themselves rather than be ashamed of who they are.

Medical decisions should be made between families and doctors. As long as the child's care team is following the law and their hippocratic oath, it's nobody else's business what decisions are made.

So, I hope you stand against this un-American legislation, and realize that oppressing others doesn't make you freer or protect children. Especially since there's no data that shows that trans people pose a threat to anyone else just for existing.

Thank you for your time.

—
-Russ Faulkner

I am a constituent of Wisconsin. I urge that these Anti Trans bills do not pass. These students are children just trying to live their lives and survive. It is disgusting the discrimination that has come to threaten the LGBT+ Community since Trump took office.

I have friends and family who are part of the LGBT community, as am I. We just want to live our lives in peace. Transgender people deserve respect and to be called by their correct name and pronouns. There is a very small number of trans students, especially those who play sports. All children deserve to grow up playing sports if they wish. All children deserve to go to school and feel safe.

Human gender and sexuality vary greatly. This is well understood by the medical and scientific world. LGBT+ people have been historically discriminated against both in violent and nonviolent ways.

The LGBT+ community is a minority that already struggles with anxiety, depression, and suicide, as well as being at a high risk for violent hate crimes.

Again, all we want is to be able to live our lives. We cannot and will not be erased. I am against these bills and any future Anti LGBT bills.

Logan Sarge

To the Assembly Committee on Education,

What on God's green earth is the matter with you? As if growing up trans isn't hard enough, you want kids to also have to endure government-endorsed harassment?

Trans kids already experience such hardship that they have higher suicide rates. Nobody's committing suicide because they had to share a bathroom with a trans person. Do you have no sense of perspective?

How many of you are named Susan, but like to be called Sue? Or Robert but want to be called Bob? Is THAT going to be illegal, too? Or only illegal if you are Sue but want to be called Bob? Is it OK if your name is Sue but want to be called Bobbie? What if they use a foreign name that sounds like a name in the opposite gender? Why are you wasting any legislative time on this baloney?

Sports are for everyone. They build friendships and fitness. They are a tool for our youth to develop discipline and grit. My daughter was on a cheerleading team alongside a trans boy, and you know what? Nobody died. Nobody gave a hoot. You know what gives kids unfair advantages in sports? MONEY for personal training, private sports clubs, costly traveling teams, sports medicine therapy. THOSE kids have an unfair advantage when competing in sports, but nobody has a problem with that.

My darling niece - sorry - now NEPHEW, is a bright jewel in this world. They are loving, brilliant, nurturing, kind, and talented as all heck. They don't care much for sports, so you can get your knickers out of their twist. When they decided they wanted to change their pronouns and name, our entire family, end to end, generation to generation, got on board and supported them with LOVE. And if they decide later that they want to change that again, why is that any of the government's business? Our family will still love them and support them because that's what good people DO.

America USED to be about freedom to do what you want and keeping the government and religion out of people's private lives. These anti-trans bills are the absolute antithesis to freedom... and petty and repressive and small-minded and... Lord, I could go on. Just fill in the rest for yourself.

Very sincerely indeed,
Jen Hadley
Madison, Wisconsin
53715

Representatives Ditrich, Dehnke, B. Jacobson, Kreibich, Maxey, O'Connor, Tusler, Mursau, Senator Jacque, and the Assembly Committee on Education:

I strongly oppose 2025 AB 100, AB 102, and AB 103 and condemn any and all attempts to restrict the rights and liberties of the people of Wisconsin, including our youth. These bills only serve to appease the current scapegoat narrative by directing hate against some of our more vulnerable Wisconsinites. These bills are simply a way to virtue signal and distract us from the lack of action taken to address real issues that impact Wisconsin. They do nothing to address the rising housing costs, increased grocery prices, stagnating wages, and inflated healthcare premiums that impact all Wisconsin families. In addition, the First Amendment of the Constitution protects all free speech, one of the most important tenets of our country's founding.

As a healthcare provider, I understand that exploration of identity, among many other things, is a normal and healthy part of human development. Discouragement of this or infringement upon people's individual rights to express themselves is harmful to that development. Numerous studies have demonstrated this and leading health care experts and medical and psychological boards (including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics) all agree.

This legislation is not "efficient" nor is it "common sense", it would simply require more bureaucratic paperwork, more angst for those targeted, and is a distraction from enacting real policies that help our people and families. I urge you to focus your time and effort on legislation that will actually solve real issues that your constituency of Wisconsin faces on a daily basis.

Andrea Liptack
Madison, WI 53715

The trans community has every right as we all get. Just because they don't they feel they are associating with the gender in which they were born doesn't mean they don't deserve the same respect as the rest of us. Make accommodations for those that are transitioning and they can be like the rest of society. This would be considered discrimination according to our for fathers!

Theresa Bartosik

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear committee members,

I Alil P. Siamof residing in Mt Pleasant, WI 53406 implore you to protect the rights of trans youth by opposing bills introduced by the state legislator. That is AB 103, 102 and 100. These bills are grossly targeting an already marginalized and heavily targeted demographic of people just trying to be themselves. Forcing teachers to ask permission from parents to use their students correct pronouns strips away the rights of these youths own autonomy. It also puts youth at a significantly higher risk of abuse, unhousing and suicide. It's your duty as our representatives to represent everyone regardless of their identity. Protect our youth by opposing these draconian bills. If passed, these bills will only cause suffering and future suicides. Do what is right. You must

Alil Siamof

Morning,

As a former college athlete (UW Oshkosh Tennis player 2002-2006), I am asking for a rejection of the anti trans bills. Boys are NOT saying "I really want to play a sport but I'm not good enough, so I'm gonna pretend to be a girl just to play." Any transwoman who decides to move forward with transitioning is going to be subjected to some of the most insane bullying and verbal (and probably physical) torture by classmates and adults alike.

These bills also hurt girls. Girls can look masculine, especially athletes. How masculine appearing is too masculine before a girl is subjected to "you're a dude" taunts? And how are you going to prove it? Make her show someone in the bathroom? Girls will feel pressured to prove they are a girl all just to play sports. And we all know there are evil evil men who will use this to their advantage to "inspect" a female athlete. Larry Nassar was the gymnasts' doctor and he was able to sexually assault multiple girls.

Kids have it hard enough growing up with being insecure about everything. Allowing them to use the name and pronouns they are most comfortable with at school will help give them confidence in who they are. Don't make things unnecessarily harder for these kids than they need to be.

Thanks.

Michelle Miller
3218 Glendale Ave
Green Bay, WI 54313

To whom it may concern,

Below you will find my testimony in support of trans youth. Although I wish to remain anonymous to protect both myself, the school I work for and the children who attend-- I would thank you for sharing my testimony.

Dear legislators,

There is (and always has been) an alarming degree of misinformation surrounding the LGBTQIAA+ community. I could throw statistics at you to refute numerous bullet points, but instead I would like to let me own human experience speak for itself.

I work in education, serving a small school in rural Wisconsin. We host less than 100 students, but around 75% of our population identifies as being apart of the queer community. Among that 75% are transgender and other youth whose identity falls under the trans umbrella. No one is telling these children how to be or feel. My co-workers and I simply allow them a place to exist and explore themselves.

These children are full of love. They amaze me every day with their compassion for one another. At the beginning of last year, one of their peers suddenly announced they wanted to try out a new name. None of them asked questions, no one pried or made fun. They just switched gears. Half way through the year, the same student announced they would like to be addressed by he/him pronouns. Again. Acceptance without question.

These children advocate for one another and have even shown immeasurable patience and kindness when correcting my coworkers and I if we slipped up and use the wrong pronouns.

Not one adult in our building influenced them or asked them to do that.

At their age, I had joined my much larger school's Gay Straight Alliance. Although this was largely a positive experience, that helped me discover who I am, I remember the infighting. Back then it was "The LGB" community. The B was new and controversial. The "T" was fighting for space. I had same aged peers who felt "the trans kids needed their own club."

The marginalized making their own peers feel smaller than they already felt.

I could never imagine that happening with these children. And by allowing them to exist and find themselves with our fear of judgement, we are saving lives.

Since coming to work at this school 3 years ago, I have often heard the unprompted sentiment, "This school saves lives."

A student once wrote me a letter that said, "You are one of the reasons I am still here."

Aside from concerned, I was confused as this was not a student I interacted with all that often. When I followed up with them, they told me it was because I made them feel accepted.

I had not actively done anything besides respect what that child asked me to call them and let them be themselves.

There are a small handful of children who are thriving and alive in Wisconsin at this very moment, in large part because of their school environment.

Under the legislation that is being proposed, these children might not exist. This legislation creates a hostile environment in which children make the choice to commit suicide.

Trans people have always existed. Trans people have often had to hide. The fact that we are at point in our history where folks can be open and live authentically is amazing!

Our children are brave and they are generation which will usher forth a society wherein people can exist without judgement-- but only if we continue to foster and encourage that loving energy.

Please, do not support the legislation which would make it otherwise. Please do not pass legislation which force people back into the closet and foster an environment of fear.

Thank you and sincerely,

A rural Wisconsin educator,

Hello!

My name is Mandy, and I am a WI parent.

I just want to say that our kids - ALL kids - deserve as much support as possible. Especially in dark times like these, we adults have a responsibility to be the guiding light and set a good example for the children in our community.

These bills do the opposite of that.

There are several, ongoing issues that directly impact children's health and safety. Examples include things like ensuring that all children have access to healthy food without shame; creating safe and affordable solutions for the housing crisis; supporting students and educators through sufficient funding for ALL public schools; taking REAL measures to prevent gun violence in schools and other places.

Instead of putting their efforts behind these things, the instigators and supporters of these bills are choosing to focus their attention on children's genitals.

To me, that is creepy and criminal - and it doesn't "protect" anybody.

In fact, engaging in active bullying of already vulnerable populations via legislature has been proven, time and again, to cause further harm.

Schools should be safe, inclusive places for children to learn. They should be part of the support system for families. Sports should be fun and inclusive opportunities for ALL children.

If we teach our children that bullying is wrong, then schools and sports should be bully-free zones - and it's difficult to do when bullies are implementing unnecessary and harmful laws. So, please, don't be a bully: do better, so that ALL of our kids are safer.

Thank you,
Mandy Cappleman

Robert Petz, Madison WI, 53703

To the members of the committee here gathered,

Due to the unusually swift treatment of this legislation, I do not have the time to write as eloquently as I wish. But I do have people in my life who have expressed how frightened they are for bills like these to pass, and how unsafe they and their high school peers would feel daily if it passed. Therefore let it stand that I oppose this bill on the grounds that it needlessly restructures public school systems to protect children from ambiguous psychological threats that have not, to my knowledge, been proven to exist.

I believe we should spend our time and energy solving problems that are proven to cause harm to children, such as cuts to school lunch programs, rather than draft legislation that serves to erase lgbtq people and bog down already understaffed and overwhelmed public schools.

Thank you for your time.

I am writing in opposition to your proposed ignorant, hateful bills. I can only think of two reasons you would waste time writing these bills. Either you are ideologically opposed to trans people or you need a boogeyman to distract from your inability to govern and craft bills that would actually benefit Wisconsin. Both cases are equally shameful. Despite every attempt you make to legislate someone's identity, people will be who they are and will not conform to your very narrow view of society. You cannot legislate people out of existence. As the world becomes more understanding and accepting, and you continue to attack one of the smallest segments of our society, you will be recognized only for your harmful, hateful legacy.

Thank you for your time

Jason Reid

Sophia Everett
1501 Monroe st apt 305, Madison Wisconsin 53711
In opposition of bills

To members of the assembly,

I have lived in Wisconsin for over 12 years, and for every moment that I have lived here trans people have made it better. I have been very lucky to call them my friends, my loved ones, and my teammates. To go through with these bills is to restrict and deny their existence, and it is gut wrenching. It is gut wrenching to see trans people who have given so much to community to be attacked through these bills. It is unfair that such kind people have to argue for their right to simply exist, and after spending most of my life in Wisconsin I know we are better than this. I know that we are better than being afraid of pronouns or different names, or kids simply wanting to play sports with friends. I am honored by my trans teammates and I want them to stay as they are, to be called by their chosen name, and to be referred by their chosen pronouns.

Sincerely,
Sophia Everett

Hello,

I am writing this as a citizen of Madison Wisconsin to show my unabashed support of queer and trans students. I am vehemently against any and all restrictions on trans athletes in sports and any restrictions on the right of a child to determine their own pronouns. Children deserve to be uplifted as they journey through self discovery. Any attempts to block trans children from living and expressing themselves is not only discriminatory but it drags down the rights of ALL students. Anti-trans bills violate their bodily autonomy, subject them to unreasonable search, and are emotionally scarring. Please protect and embolden the rights of trans children across Wisconsin for the betterment of us all.

- Avery Sun Honn

My name is Heather Thiele and I've lived in Wisconsin for over 20 years. I'm asking you to stop proposing laws against my loved ones. My trans family members, our family friends who are trans, our trans community members all are having to fight continuously against laws that are trying to strip away their rights to live as themselves and as full members of society. Remember that they are your neighbors and community members too, not hypothetical problems to be solved or erased.

I keep hearing that these proposed laws are for protecting children, particularly girls, but if that's the case, then these laws should also be protecting transgender girls, but instead they demonize and harm them.

Any student should be allowed to play sports. If you're dividing by gender, then transgender girls play on the girl's teams and transgender boys play on the boy's teams. If you think that would give trans girls the overall advantage, despite what the research says, then divide your teams by skill set and capabilities and not gender. Some students are always going to be top athletes. I was always one of the worst players on my teams and it wasn't because my teammates were trans, I was just bad at sports. Trans kids aren't villains, they just want to participate like everyone else.

Allowing students to go by a chosen name and preferred pronouns allows them to feel more at ease as themselves. Kids have gone by nicknames that they identify more with as long as I've been alive and I've never heard of that being an issue that needs a law made about it.

I'm the parent of 2 trans adults, both had distinctly different personal journeys, but the one thing they had in common was that when they were in a safe space to be fully out and able to use their correct pronouns and their chosen names, they flourished. When they had to conceal parts of who they were, it interfered with their ability to be present, to fully participate in the activity or the event, it impacted their mental health and overall took energy that could've gone towards learning or creating.

As a parent, there's nothing I want more than my kids to feel safe, to be supported and to have the same opportunities as others. If for some reason my child had not felt comfortable sharing their gender identity with me, I wouldn't be angry or upset at the school for creating an environment that included them, I'd only be disappointed in myself for not making our home that same type of place.

Whether they're kids or adults, trans individuals deserve the same dignity and respect afforded to fellow citizens. We're all humans and as such we all should have the opportunity to live the full human experience of being ourselves without being punished or ostracized for it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Good Morning!

Thank you for taking testimony today.

I have been trying to educate myself for awhile about transgender people. There is a lot to learn. Despite this fact, I will attempt to speak my views in defense of transgender people.

Fact checks reveal that very few incidences throughout the world have occurred where a trans woman appears to have won an athletic competition and caused a cis-gender woman to lose. These facts have been reported on news media and need to be acknowledged to destroy the lies and hysteria regarding transgender people.

There is a real lack of understanding and empathy regarding transgender people being promoted and encouraged for the sake of political gain. It seems, that in these times, any amount of ignorance is acceptable to meet one's political goals. Death and destruction are no obstacles. One study indicates, that transgender people have a 75% rise in suicide as laws against them are discussed and passed.

As a former mental health provider, who handled a crisis response system for suicidal clients, I don't feel this is a good time to remain silent. There is no need for this escalation of deaths and psychological punishment to people who just want to live their lives like any other human being.

Belonging is a very significant need for all humans. Who among you, who are conducting this hearing, could withstand being stripped of their medical care, their respective collegial sports groups, their jobs, their rights to be part of society because of their gender presentation?

I would ask you to perform those basic exercises in thought and emotion that amount to an addage called, "Walk a mile in my shoes".

An attack against the transgender people is really an attack against all. It causes shame and pain to anyone who doesn't confirm to rigid roles of behavior.

Please don't pass these destructive laws proposed against transgender people.

Thank you,

Carolyn M. Schueppel

I'm honestly sick of and disgusted by this perverted and sadistic terf agenda and I want to see it stop. We have the republican party demanding to know and inspect the genitals of children, force them to give birth, and allow old men to marry them? It's grotesque, absurd, and evil. What is the end goal, how far does it go?

Gryphon Steberl
Mt Pleasant 53406

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

March 5th, 2025

My name is Ashley Hong (she/hers) and I am a concerned Wisconsinite and educator. Today, I am submitting my testimony in dissent of the Wisconsin Assembly bills number 100, 102, and 103. As a middle school math teacher for 7 years in the Madison school district, every positive relationship I had with students was built on them knowing I was a safe person with whom they could be their truest selves. I've had a number of students either come out to me as LGBTQ+ or seek support in understanding this part of themselves. Any education professional will tell you that earning the trust of students is the number one way to create more positive outcomes for them both academically and social-emotionally.

Too many children are taken from us at a young age by suicide due to the exclusion, ridicule, and ostracization they feel from just trying to be who they are. According to a study done by the Trevor Project, 45% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. Additionally, 68% LGBTQ+ students felt unsafe in school because of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression characteristics. To be clear, the startling and negative impact of discriminatory practices on LGBTQ+ youth and their mental health is not due to the presence of their identities, but rather the hatred and exclusion experienced in response to them.

I cannot stand idly by and watch yet another systematic erasure of trans and LGBTQ+ students stand in our state. These bills take the power away from individuals to determine their identity and participate in self-affirming activities and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

I urge you to take steps to actually support students rather than adding to the reasons for the statistics I listed above. According to that same study by the Trevor Project, LGBTQ+ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ+ people reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide than those who do not. This means allowing schools to support students in the ways that affirm them, including, but not limited to, using their preferred pronouns and name, allowing them to compete in the sports in which they identify, protecting their rights as a marginalized group, and much more. You all have an opportunity to directly impact the futures of youth in our state, including whether they have one or not.

Thank you for reading my testimony and giving it serious thought as you consider these bills. I hope you all will do the right thing for the well-being of all young people in Wisconsin.

In community,

Ashley Hong

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly,

My name is Alicia Ward, I am a young woman who lives in Baraboo (Zip 53913) and I vehemently oppose Assembly bill 100-103 and I urge the members of the Assembly to vote down these bills.

These bills will not change the threat of injury incurred by playing school sports, on the contrary they will make schools a more dangerous place. Politicizing children is not the path to happy healthy environments for education. Children should be free to explore their identity in a way that is safe and free of harmful persecution, especially by adults. Not using the pronouns that children wish to use, and excluding them from sports, is legally sanctioned bullying of children by adult politicians. This spirit of hate towards people that do not fit a vision of "normal" gender identity will trickle down and lead to more bullying, harassment, and abuse in the classrooms.

The push to exclude transgender students from sports will not make children's sports safer. I understand that this push is done in an effect to make girls sports "safer from men" but this is based in a fallacy as men do not play women's sports and the transgender women that play women's sports do not have advantages based solely on their assigned gender at birth. To demonstrate, I was assigned female at birth and when I played tennis in high school there were other girls on my team, assigned so at birth, that were stronger, bigger, and faster than me. On the other hand, there were girls I was stronger than. On the mens team, there was similar variation and there were certainly men that I was bigger and stronger than. The fallacy this bill is based on is disrespectful to female athletes who don't need the government to stand up for them in sports. Discriminating against transgender students is no different than discriminating against any student on the basis of physical characteristics, which is inherently unfair and controlling.

Putting restrictions on what students will be called in school and making it harder for students to be called what they wish based on medical information restricts children's freedom. It's a simple issue of free speech but regardless of the blatant infringement of rights, it is known that using individuals chosen pronouns improves mental health outcomes and decreases suicide risk.

I implore the members of the Assembly to consider how this bill will impact the daily lives of students in Wisconsin. Many gender conforming students will not notice the effects of this bill, but for the minority of students that do not conform to the binary, these bills will have devastating consequences. I graduated from high school in 2019 and these bills would not have negative effects on how safe I felt in school. Please vote no on these bills and protect ALL of Wisconsin children.

Sincerely,

Alicia Ward

Jake

Regarding Wisconsin Assembly Bills 100, 102, and 103

March 5th, 2025

My name is Jake (he/him) and I am a concerned Wisconsin voter and educator. Today, I am submitting my testimony in dissent of the Wisconsin Assembly bills number 100, 102, and 103. I am a resident of assembly district 76 and senate district 26.

For the past 7 years, I have been an educator in the state of Wisconsin. I have worked in three different districts and in each district I have had the chance to work and teach our brilliant LGBTQ+ youth. I have seen the power in honoring and respecting who they are as they navigate their identity and how they are just trying to figure themselves out just like the rest of us. I have seen how LGBTQ+ students support each other and provide meaningful and supportive spaces to process emotions and feelings. I have seen how they do this in light of a country and a state that doesn't believe they should exist.

Not honoring a kid for who they choose to be, is cruel and inhumane and I am strongly imploring everyone to vote no on Assembly Bills 100, 102, and 103. Instead of trying to erase our students and who they choose to be, let's instead focus on creating supports and environments where are LGBTQ+ students can actually thrive.

In community,

Jake Rodgers, Madison

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear committee members,

I Alil P. Siamof residing in Mt Pleasant, WI 53406 implore you to protect the rights of trans youth by opposing bills introduced by the state legislator. That is AB 103, 102 and 100. These bills are grossly targeting an already marginalized and heavily targeted demographic of people just trying to be themselves. Forcing teachers to ask permission from parents to use their students correct pronouns strips away the rights of these youths own autonomy. It also puts youth at a significantly higher risk of abuse, unhousing and suicide. It's your duty as our representatives to represent everyone regardless of their identity. Protect our youth by opposing these draconian bills. If passed, these bills will only cause suffering and future suicides. Do what is right. You must

Alil Siamof

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Education on the topic of trans student athletes and the use of gender affirming practices in schools.

My name is Emma Hood, I live in Wisconsin, I am a nurse, and a mother of three children. I am also the proud parent of a transgender child.

Importantly, before I share more, I want to address the vulnerability inherent in sharing my story. I have seen parents in these situations be demonized and the children mocked. And at the same time, I think sharing is necessary right now more than ever. I believe every elected official here has an obligation to try to listen when someone takes risks to write or speak publicly.

I am deeply concerned about the current social and political climate surrounding transgender people, and the degree to which it has been forced into my life and others. These stereotypes have the potential to shape laws and policies in ways that may be difficult to understand, unless you are or love someone who is transgender.

My child was assigned male at birth, and up until three years old, this is what we thought he was. Right after she turned three, she showed a clear interest in dressing in girls' clothing and wanting to grow her hair long. Many of the people around her at this time speculated it was a phase that she would grow out of. But she didn't. It has persisted without change for over 5 and a half years.

One of the myths surrounding parents of trans children is that we are "teaching our children to be trans". And I think this comes from the premise of having limited experience or knowledge on gender expression. I can assure you; I spend more time thinking of ways of trying to keep my child's world as simple as possible these days. Most of the time, parenting her is like parenting any other child except there are certain events or situations that have called on me to really listen and learn more about who my child is. Once, when my daughter was about 4 or 5 years old, I offered her some boys' clothing for her to wear, just to see if she showed interest. It resulted in her crying in my arms for over ½ an hour while she fell asleep. That night she so clearly told me she was a girl. At that age, she did not have words for transgender or even what pronouns were. She just knew who she was. I did not teach her anything. For me, it was clear that I would choose to listen and love my child.

When my daughter was 6 years old, she asked to change her name to a girl's name and said she wanted to be a girl, at home and at school. I was so fortunate to have the support and the expertise of the staff and teachers at the school. Who she is now, secure in herself, is undoubtedly a result of her community. She is a bright, caring and creative child.

Last week, I asked her, what if mom had told you had to be a boy when you told me you were a girl? What would that have felt like? She answered, "I wouldn't feel good, I wouldn't feel free". Trans children have been telling us what it feels like to be in their bodies, and what it feels like to be recognized and supported for a long time.

School policies that support and affirm trans students save lives. It is that simple. There is clear evidence that affirming practices, and the support of caring adults is protective in reducing the risk of suicidality and suicide attempts in trans youth. Additionally, school cultures that allow for harassment

and bullying of any student, for any reason, contribute to a higher risk of anxiety and depression, as well lower academic performance. But we know without me even naming it here, which students are more often the target of bullying and harassment. We cannot talk about the use of pronouns and preferred names without speaking to the growing evidence that deals directly with this topic. Schools have the ability to ensure an environment that is respectful of all students and their families.

Finally, I want to say that I have sympathy for the parents who might feel fearful that their child will transition socially at school without telling them or having knowledge about it. I think it can be hard for any parent to feel like their child isn't as close as you had hoped.

For those parents, I would encourage any parent who has a trans or gender non-conforming child to find other parents and seek support if you need it. Especially if you don't feel like your community or church has been able to. The most protective and loving thing a parent of a transgender child can do is be their safe-haven and the person they trust to be themselves.

There is room in our humanity, within our faith communities and our schools for transgender people, and I hope you are all fortunate enough one day to know and love a transgender person or child. I urge you to support policy and practices that affirms transgender people and oppose bill AB100 and AB103.

Thank you

Emma Hood

Viroqua, WI

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly,

My name is Alicia Ward, I am a young woman who lives in Baraboo (Zip 53913) and I vehemently oppose Assembly bill 100-103 and I urge the members of the Assembly to vote down these bills.

These bills will not change the threat of injury incurred by playing school sports, on the contrary they will make schools a more dangerous place. Politicizing children is not the path to happy healthy environments for education. Children should be free to explore their identity in a way that is safe and free of harmful persecution, especially by adults. Not using the pronouns that children wish to use, and excluding them from sports, is legally sanctioned bullying of children by adult politicians. This spirit of hate towards people that do not fit a vision of "normal" gender identity will trickle down and lead to more bullying, harassment, and abuse in the classrooms.

The push to exclude transgender students from sports will not make children's sports safer. I understand that this push is done in an effect to make girls sports "safer from men" but this is based in a fallacy as men do not play women's sports and the transgender women that play women's sports do not have advantages based solely on their assigned gender at birth. To demonstrate, I was assigned female at birth and when I played tennis in high school there were other girls on my team, assigned so at birth, that were stronger, bigger, and faster than me. On the other hand, there were girls I was stronger than. On the mens team, there was similar variation and there were certainly men that I was bigger and stronger than. The fallacy this bill is based on is disrespectful to female athletes who don't need the government to stand up for them in sports. Discriminating against transgender students is no different than discriminating against any student on the basis of physical characteristics, which is inherently unfair and controlling.

Putting restrictions on what students will be called in school and making it harder for students to be called what they wish based on medical information restricts children's freedom. It's a simple issue of free speech but regardless of the blatant infringement of rights, it is known that using individuals chosen pronouns improves mental health outcomes and decreases suicide risk.

I implore the members of the Assembly to consider how this bill will impact the daily lives of students in Wisconsin. Many gender conforming students will not notice the effects of this bill, but for the minority of students that do not conform to the binary, these bills will have devastating consequences. I graduated from high school in 2019 and these bills would not have negative effects on how safe I felt in school. Please vote no on these bills and protect ALL of Wisconsin children.

Sincerely,

Alicia Ward

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

March 5th, 2025

My name is Ashley Hong (she/hers) and I am a concerned Wisconsinite and educator. Today, I am submitting my testimony in dissent of the Wisconsin Assembly bills number 100, 102, and 103. As a middle school math teacher for 7 years in the Madison school district, every positive relationship I had with students was built on them knowing I was a safe person with whom they could be their truest selves. I've had a number of students either come out to me as LGBTQ+ or seek support in understanding this part of themselves. Any education professional will tell you that earning the trust of students is the number one way to create more positive outcomes for them both academically and social-emotionally.

Too many children are taken from us at a young age by suicide due to the exclusion, ridicule, and ostracization they feel from just trying to be who they are. According to a study done by the Trevor Project, 45% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.

Additionally, 68% LGBTQ+ students felt unsafe in school because of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression characteristics. To be clear, the startling and negative impact of discriminatory practices on LGBTQ+ youth and their mental health is not due to the presence of their identities, but rather the hatred and exclusion experienced in response to them.

I cannot stand idly by and watch yet another systematic erasure of trans and LGBTQ+ students stand in our state. These bills take the power away from individuals to determine their identity and participate in self-affirming activities and instead gives it to another just because they are in a position of power in the school. No one should be allowed to tell anyone who they are.

I urge you to take steps to actually support students rather than adding to the reasons for the statistics I listed above. According to that same study by the Trevor Project, LGBTQ+ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ+ people reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide than those who do not. This means allowing schools to support students in the ways that affirm them, including, but not limited to, using their preferred pronouns and name, allowing them to compete in the sports in which they identify, protecting their rights as a marginalized group, and much more. You all have an opportunity to directly impact the futures of youth in our state, including whether they have one or not.

Thank you for reading my testimony and giving it serious thought as you consider these bills. I hope you all will do the right thing for the well-being of all young people in Wisconsin.

In community,
Ashley Hong

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

To the members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

My name is Lex Williams Page, and I live in Cross Plains, Wisconsin, 53528. I oppose bill AB100.

I attended high school at Middleton High School in the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District as a teenager, and I have now resided in Wisconsin for seven years. I am a proud member of Madison's community and currently work at a local nonprofit, although I have also worked in public schools and programs serving youth in Dane County. I have several siblings who still attend school in Wisconsin, and I have worked with many children and teens, several of whom are gender non-conforming or transgender students. The trans youth I have worked with, and all trans youth, are normal children - they want to be included by their peers, recognized for who they are as they work to figure out their identities, and to spend time thinking about schoolwork, their friends and families, and all of the other complex and simple parts of life that make up being a child. These children do not want or need to go to school every day worrying about whether they are given the same rights as their peers or allowed to exist in the spaces and roles they most identify with and feel comfortable in. Trans youth are also acutely aware of societal attitudes around transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. They are aware that joining gendered sports will subject them to scrutiny, harassment, and people in positions of authority over them questioning their identities. The choice to join a gendered team sport is likely not a lightly taken or easy decision for these youth. I want to ask the Assembly Committee members what they hope this bill will accomplish. What are we worried will happen if the tiny minority of trans students who wish to play team sports, who identify as female and are comfortable enough in that identity to join a sport and play it competitively, are allowed to participate in an activity that helps them form social bonds and contribute to their communities.

Transgender people make up less than 2% of the US population, and trans women - who this bill specifically targets - make up even less than that. The amount of transgender girls in Wisconsin who participate in team sports is likely an inconsequential number, hardly worth spending legislative time debating and the time, resources, and energy it will take to enforce this bill, except for the fact that this bill joins an onslaught of bills throughout the United States that seek to vilify and persecute a small, already incredibly marginalized community.

Under the guise of 'protecting women and girls,' this bill perpetuates harmful negative stereotypes not only about transgender women, but it also assumes that there is an easy way to identify and persecute trans women that will not have any harmful effects on other students, particularly cisgender women and girls. We have seen cisgender female athletes be persecuted, shamed, and bullied for being suspected of being trans - for seeming 'too strong' or 'too masculine' - not only re-enforcing negative stereotypes about the capabilities and talents of women and continuing to restrict how women are able to express and identify themselves, but also making it more acceptable for people in positions of power to feel comfortable harassing, invading the privacy of, and questioning the identity of women and girls of all identities. Let's be clear: the real threat to women is not trans children. It's people who want to police women.

I encourage all members of the Assembly Committee on Education who care about youth, women and girls, and transgender people in Wisconsin to remember that your duty is to serve your

constituents, ensuring we have continued access to our civil rights and protections and a good quality of life. Persecuting trans children is an affront on our right to privacy, discriminatory, and does nothing to help families and youth in Wisconsin. Vote against this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Lex Page

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Here is my testimony,

Most of my life I had to hide myself to get by. I am a minority in many different ways, through the color of my skin or my sexuality. My racial background and immigration status made me the target of many jokes and stereotypes. I found myself miserable and longing for belonging. I didn't dare to reveal another part of me that would just be the target of bullying. That is exactly the struggle posed by trans youth today. These bills would only compound their struggle and further isolate them. Being trans is a part of who they are, it is not just a phase or something that can change.

Recognition of someone's new identity should not be restricted by unreasonable obstacles. For many people, being addressed by their preferred name is a sign of dignity. It's frankly the least that someone could do. You wouldn't address a divorcee by their previously held last name?

Trans athletes make up an incredibly small portion of the total athletes in the state. This is not a "rampant" issue. There are many other things that the legislature should be focusing on. In addition, sports are inherently unequal in that they prefer body types that are a few standard deviations from the norm. There's a reason that I had no hopes for the NBA being under 6ft. Would it be reasonable to restrict players over a certain height to make it "fair"? In many sports there is not biological advantage to being born male or female. Frankly the gap in performance comes from underfunding, a lack of infrastructure, and unskilled staff for women's sports. Where is the support for that?

I doubt the legislature will heed my words, but go out and meet a trans person. I guarantee you, it will be like meeting any regular person. These are not any different in the way they think or act. They desire the same human things. They are our friends, family, co-workers, and fellow human beings. There is no reason to deny their right to free expression and existence. It does not impede on the rights of anyone else. Let trans youth live their lives, it's difficult enough being a kid.

Thank you,

Bis Mishra

4th year engineering student, Milwaukee native

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing in opposition to these bills banning transgender athletes from participating in sports with teams that align with their gender identity, and disallowing students from using their preferred name and pronouns.

- These are bills that, in effect, tell trans students and athletes not to exist. Consider the logic: If an athlete has transitioned to being female, and then has to choose between playing on a team with male athletes or not playing at all, what do you think will be safe or comfortable for them? Neither choice. You're telling them you don't want trans athletes to exist.
- By disallowing students from social transitioning (referred names and pronouns), we are taking away their freedom to choose their social identity. That's something that is shown to lead to higher rates of depression and suicide. You're telling them you don't want trans students to exist.

These bills would lead to more transgender children dying. We can't allow that. Don't tell children their government doesn't want them to exist.

Kristi Leach
Mequon, WI 53092

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Knowing a female to male trans kid, I have seen first hand the harm that alienating these children and young adults causes their psyches. They already have too much on their plates trying to sort out their feelings. Let them choose their own names and pronouns, period. Let them play sports.

Imagine a legislature trying to make heterosexuality illegal. How would that make straight people feel? (I'd be against that bill too!) We are who we are. These bills are hurtful to these children, hurtful to the community, hurtful to the country!

The hallmark of how far a society has advanced is its treatment of its outcasts. History will not be kind to us.

Thank you,
Mike Grindemann
Muscoda WI 53573
(608) 739-3381

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Trans kids deserve the right to be kids. They deserve to express themselves, be respected and engage in activities that they enjoy.

Trying to pass bills that belittle trans kids aren't going to make them disappear. There has always been transgender people and if that makes you uncomfortable then educate yourself and worry about yourself.

Thank you,

Erynn Hoff
715-419-2296

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing as a life long Wisconsin resident and a parent with kids in Wisconsin public schools for the last 9 years. Trans kids play sports and using the correct pronouns for people hurts no one. Doing the opposite hurts everyone. How can we claim that Wisconsin is "moving forward" when issues like this are so behind the times. I am against my kids being in a school system that would not protect them if they were trans!

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Welsh

53704

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

For the love of God, please do not go after vulnerable children. Do not restrict the ability of trans girls to participate fully in their school as a girl. They need our support and inclusion. Do not restrict the pronouns that can be used for children. Let them be who they are. Let them be called what they want to be called. Controlling language sounds like George Orwell's Animal Farm. Please step up and demonstrate what leaders in education should do: affirm and support these children.

Julie Hladky

Stevens Point 54481

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Anna Knapp and I am a resident of Liberty Grove. I've lived in Wisconsin for the last 15 years and grew up right here on the family farm where I currently live with my husband and 2 daughters. I am a parent of a transgender teenager. My daughter has the support of our entire family of 4 as well as extended family--aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins who also live and vote here in Wisconsin.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bills 100, 102, and 103. As a Wisconsinite, I am opposed to these bills because these bills discriminate against transgender individuals. I can tell you from a family who lives this reality that my daughter is able to participate in 3 seasons of school sports--volleyball, basketball, and softball. In all cases, she is on the team that matches her gender identity. She has ALWAYS played on these teams. She gains great confidence and self-esteem from being included in our small school sports teams. Her mental and physical health is excellent because she is an athlete on these teams. She is definitely not the best athlete on the team, but she's a part of the school spirit and camaraderie that comes from being part of the team.

The support our community has for my daughter participating on these teams has built a strong social support for her. She has great attendance in school, gets almost all As in her classes, performs well on State and District tests and LOVES school. She is a part of many other organizations and as a Girl Scout, provides valuable community service to our local area. It is because she is accepted by her school community that she is able to be so successful.

Our small school district would not be able to support having multiple teams divided by gender. There are just not enough kids in our school to support this. What will this mean for a kid like my daughter? Exclusion is what it means. Being told that even though you are one of the most "girlie" girls in your grade (by appearance and actions), you don't belong on the girls' volleyball team.

Why would our state government support this kind of discrimination? Let's be inclusive and show support for all kids. There are a lot of different types of kids on every team--as I watch our school's football or basketball team, whether it's middle school or high school level--I see all types of bodies and maturity levels even on the same team. Some of those kids are over 6 feet tall and some are under 5 feet tall. Some are extremely muscular and some are not. It doesn't matter what their gender expression is. These differences exist in all situations. And let me tell you, my daughter gets hurt on the court--by girls that are not

transgender, girls that are bigger and also smaller than her have caused various injuries to her over the years of intense basketball games.
Let's support all of them and let them play.

If passed, these bills will cost lives. At a time when LGBTQ+ youth are already struggling with harassment and discrimination, we should be making it clear that they are safe and welcome in Wisconsin.

--

Anna Grasse Knapp (she/her/hers)
Ellison Bay, WI
Township of Liberty Grove

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Sara MacDonald and I reside in the Appleton area. I want you all to consider the well-being of our children when reviewing this bill. It is already so difficult for trans children and this bill would make it even harder for them.

When my mom was alive she was a staunch conservative. At the time we would go round and round about gay people as she thought they were misguided and needed electro shock therapy. We were in a particularly ferocious argument one day when I screamed at her that if a person had a CHOICE they would never CHOOSE to be gay but it is hard, and people are judgmental. Gay people risk their lives every day to be their authentic self. My mom finally paused and it was in that moment that she finally understood what was being said to her.

Trans is the new gay. People who are trans don't CHOOSE to be trans, they simply are. People think it's this scary thing, but it literally just means that the persons spirit doesn't match the body they are in. That's it. That's all it is.

If people on the far right keep trying to deny that trans people exist, it is going to result in more mental health concerns as well as likely more suicidal ideation. I hope you will consider all of this and will allow trans people the same freedom that cisgender people have. Thank you.

Sara MacDonald
Little Chute, WI 54140

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

I am writing to support all of our youth. Students should be allowed to use the pronouns of their choice and names that they feel represent them.

Youth should be able to seek gender affirming care. These are decisions to be made between families and health care providers. Not to be dictated by the government.

Regards,

Amy Skoug
Pewaukee, WI

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Allowing respect toward trans folks requires so little. I fail to understand why bills like this work against that.

Don't tell me it's because you're trying to protect our youth. For ages, we have cultivated a culture of bullying and harassment across the board; I, as well as countless others, have been teased, harassed, bullied, and beaten, in both coed as well as traditionally separated bathrooms and locker rooms.

Don't tell me it's because your religion tells you to do so; for just about every religion has a variation on the Golden Rule, to love one another as God loves us.

You mean to tell me you would rather enforce a hostile environment that pushes already fragile trans teens ever closer to killings themselves, as they feel there is no place in this world for their true selves? Better to have a bunch of depressed, numb kids than to ask ourselves to explore our discomfort and grow a little?

Try again. The trans people in my life are some of the most beautiful, creative souls.

-Monica

--

-Monica A. Steger

March 4th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

My name is Barbara Mcdaniel. My address is in Mineral Point WI.

I am writing this email to let you know that i oppose the LGBTQ bill you are discussing today. Every person, regardless of their gender and race should be entitled to equal rights in my opinion. To discriminate is of the most opposition to our common rights as human beings.

There's so many reasons beyond our scope, that friends and family that are LBGTO that are having their rights taken away. Please stop this and find a solution where our voices are heard and a way equally to honor all.

Thank you
Barbara McDaniel

March 5th, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Education; Representatives Kitchens, Goeben, Mursau, Duchow, Snyder, Dittrich, Penterman, Melotik, Brill, Hong, Cruz, Phelps, and Sheehan.

Dear committee members,

I Alil P. Siamof residing in Mt Pleasant, WI 53406 implore you to protect the rights of trans youth by opposing bills introduced by the state legislator. That is AB 103, 102 and 100. These bills are grossly targeting an already marginalized and heavily targeted demographic of people just trying to be themselves. Forcing teachers to ask permission from parents to use their students correct pronouns strips away the rights of these youths own autonomy. It also puts youth at a significantly higher risk of abuse, unhousing and suicide. It's your duty as our representatives to represent everyone regardless of their identity. Protect our youth by opposing these draconian bills. If passed, these bills will only cause suffering and future suicides. Do what is right. You must

Alil Siamof

Jake

Regarding Wisconsin Assembly Bills 100, 102, and 103

March 5th, 2025

My name is Jake (he/him) and I am a concerned Wisconsin voter and educator. Today, I am submitting my testimony in dissent of the Wisconsin Assembly bills number 100, 102, and 103. I am a resident of assembly district 76 and senate district 26.

For the past 7 years, I have been an educator in the state of Wisconsin. I have worked in three different districts and in each district I have had the chance to work and teach our brilliant LGBTQ+ youth. I have seen the power in honoring and respecting who they are as they navigate their identity and how they are just trying to figure themselves out just like the rest of us. I have seen how LGBTQ+ students support each other and provide meaningful and supportive spaces to process emotions and feelings. I have seen how they do this in light of a country and a state that doesn't believe they should exist.

Not honoring a kid for who they choose to be, is cruel and inhumane and I am strongly imploring everyone to vote no on Assembly Bills 100, 102, and 103. Instead of trying to erase our students and who they choose to be, let's instead focus on creating supports and environments where are LGBTQ+ students can actually thrive.

In community,

Jake Rodgers, Madison

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I know trans people; I love trans people. I have trans students, trans friends, members of my community who are gender diverse in many ways. Trans people are deeply unfairly under attack, and you cannot legislate trans people out of existence. Our trans community members belong in ALL spaces, with their chosen names, as they are, without question or apology. It is well past the moment when we should be loudly and unwaveringly standing up for and advocating for trans inclusion and liberation.

These Assembly bills are an egregious attack on people who have every right to participate in activities for which cis counterparts face no barriers. An attack that tells people how they should identify because we feel...fear? Hatred? Threatened? Ridiculous, baseless beliefs that fuel violence towards members of our community that just want to exist in peace.

Please vote NO on AB 101 and 103. Do not allow this to happen. We can be better than this. And we ARE better because of our trans and gender diverse communities.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kate Phelps

From: Sager Smith <sager.666777.smith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 1:05 PM
To: Rep.Kitchens <Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Written Testimony for AB100 and AB103

Dear Rep. Kitchens,

My name is Sager Smith, I am a concerned citizen with many close loved ones that could be or would have been significantly negatively affected by the proposed bills. My testimony will concern primarily the harm that could be done by AB100 and AB103, especially in regard to the mental health, safety, and wellbeing of those that are gender nonconforming or transgender.

My little brother is trans, and went through his transition during high school. One of the most crucial parts of transitioning for him was changing his name and pronouns, freeing himself from some of the dysphoria that his deadname and incorrect pronouns caused. Being able to change them at school, with his peers and teachers was an incredibly positive change for him, and that is an extremely common story for other transgender people. My brother first came out to his friends at school, and that space was where he felt most comfortable beginning that change. He deserved to have that decision respected in that space, regardless of what my parents thought about it. His story is one of success, the support he received from peers, teachers, and other loved ones was integral in improving his mental health. My parents were and are supportive of him; but many parents are not, and the parental power to force a name and pronouns in a school setting risks trans children being unable to receive support in a place where they spend the majority of their waking hours. The decision should be up to the child, like in my brother's case, because children deserve agency and to have their personal identity decisions respected regardless of what their parents think about their name and gender.

I wanted to share this example because it affirms that the parents should not be involved in every decision in every space in their lives. These bills will only serve to make harder the lives of trans and gender nonconforming youth. The main thing that the bills do is allow parents that are bigoted or hateful of trans children to do harm to their children, and prevent those children from participating in spaces that affirm their gender identity.

The only reasonable thing to do in this situation is to stop these bills at this committee, as they do not solve any actual issues, and only serve to allow hateful parents to more easily harm their trans children, which wastes the time and energy that could be better spent helping these kids and other children in the Wisconsin Education system.

Thank you Representative Kitchens very much for considering my words on these bills, and I hope that this will help convince you to vote against these harmful bills.

Sincerely,

Sager Smith

Assembly Committee on Education

Thursday March 6th, 2025.

Written testimony for Assembly Bill 103 hearing today

My name is Dr. Kathy D. Hartke Address 19655 Birmingham Ct Brookfield, WI 53045. I am a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist, graduated from the Medical College of WI, completed residency at Mount Sinai in Milwaukee and practiced in Wisconsin for 40+ years. I am a mother of 7 children and grandmother of 9 children. I am also a member of the United Methodist Church which urges members to speak up for persons who face marginalization of any kind, including because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. "The United Methodist Church commits to befriending and caring for all persons, including LGBTQ persons in our churches and communities".

I am strongly opposed to AB 103 and I urge you to vote against this bill. It is a harmful bill that will have very negative impact on our students. **Conversely**, using a student's chosen pronouns is linked to lower rates of depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation and suicidal behavior

Not only do I have a brother and a son who are gay who have experienced injustice and hatred, but also have an 11-year-old grandchild who for the past year has stated their pronouns are "they/them". Maisie is a well-adjusted, well read, very intelligent, happy 5th grade student who attends a school that does not ban chosen pronouns, rather supports and respects them. The other students have NO problem with non-binary pronouns or those chosen by the youth . This is not unusual as adolescents often question their gender identity and expression and we must honor this and respect their dignity! Showing approval fosters a positive sense of self in a child and allows them to express preferences. It also helps keep lines of communication open and brings them joy and security!

PLEASE become educated on these issues and DO NO HARM!!!

I am including some materials and inviting you to the virtual WI United Women in Faith Social Action Day on April 12, 2025.

Sincerely,

Kathy D. Hartke, MD

Past Chair WI American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Social Action Chair WI United Women in Faith

Member of the UMC Church and Society Committee on Women and Girls

Member of WI Conference UMC Church and Society Committee

“Pronouns are important because they help us acknowledge and affirm someone’s identity.”

<https://www.childrensmn.org/blog/parents-know-pronouns/>

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

“Health Care for Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals” Committee Opinion Number 823 March 2021

Pronouns

Obstetrician–gynecologists should ask patients about their name and which pronouns they use. Asking all patients routinely for their gender identity and gender pronouns normalizes the interaction and allows patients to disclose without being targeted; good practice includes reciprocal disclosure (eg, “Hello, I am Dr. X and I use she/her pronouns. Is the name on your chart what you would like me to call you? What pronouns do you use?”).

The patient’s pronouns should be documented in the patient chart.

Common choices include (note: this is not an exhaustive list):

- She/her/hers
- He/him/his
- They/them/their: Neutral pronouns used by some who have a nonbinary or diverse gender identity.

Other gender-neutral pronouns include zie (ze) or hir.