

Lisa Cataldi

From: Emily Conklin <emzconklin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 9:25 AM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Opposition to H5688, H5739 and H5859

Good morning,

My name is Emily Conklin and I am a resident currently living at 3 Bull Street in Newport, RI. I am writing to express firm opposition to bills H5688, H5739, and H5859. It is my hope that you will share with your Committee why these bills are harmful and not in the spirit of Rhode Island's values, and not move the bills forward.

Bills that censor certain topics and histories from being taught, and prevent kids from being their full selves and participating fully in school life are actively harmful. We know that denying, minimizing, or debating the value of LGBTQ+ people increases depression and anxiety, as well as risk of suicide, for youth. Following in the footsteps of states like Florida will not improve our kids' education experience, but will instead limit their learning while fostering an environment of fear.

Learning LGBTQ+ history is not a threat to our children. Supporting trans kids and ensuring access to school activities for kids of all genders is not a threat. Bills that aim to divide and diminish are a threat- both to our kids and to our education system.

Please oppose these bills and ensure they do not move out of committee.

Thank you,
Emily

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Emily Conklin
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