

Lisa Cataldi

From: Jen Lamoureux <jenlamoureux@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:52 AM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: H7781 - "Parents' Bill of Rights"

Hello,

My name is Jen Lamoureux. I am a registered voter and a homeowner in Pawtucket, RI.

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to H7781.

First, this bill is not written with the State of Rhode Island in mind. It is a boilerplate bill, the same used in state and local jurisdictions around the country in the ongoing legislative genocide against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in this country.

This bill stands to put our most at-risk students in Rhode Island in harm's way. It takes power away from individuals with backgrounds in education and childhood development to determine what might be the safest and most appropriate for students and instead gives parents almost limitless power to veto the curriculum taught to their children. It also potentially forces teachers to undermine students' trust and privacy to share sensitive information with parents before the student is ready or before it might be safe to do so.

This bill is crafted with the intention of making it more difficult for 2SLGBTQIA+ people to exist publicly, hiding us from sight as a shameful smirch upon the public face. It's time to discard these outmoded ways of thinking that keep us divided and start rebuilding our communities, broken by hateful rhetoric, mistrust, and sometimes outright violence.

I hope you will stop to consider the safety of students, as the more vulnerable population, over the need of some parents to control even private aspects of their children's lives.

Thank you for your time.
Jen Lamoureux

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