

**Lisa Cataldi**

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**From:** Sage O'Donovan <sageodonovan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 10:55 AM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** H7781, AGAINST

Hello,

I am a nonbinary Rhode Island resident and I am against this harmful bill that is built upon misinformation and does not have the safety or well-being of Rhode Island youth in mind.

Rather, this bill is a carbon copy of similar "parental rights" bills that have been surging across the country in the past couple of years. Anti-trans legislation does not protect vulnerable youth, however, it does cause harm by raising the risk of harassment, assault, abuse, and suicidality of trans youth (Das & Drolet, 2023, Schanzle et al., 2023). On top of it, it erodes a foundation of trust that is an important protective factor for children who may have unsafe or unsupportive home lives (Johns et al., 2018), the most vulnerable of a marginalized group, and those without support networks.

By posting these bills you are promoting hateful and harmful (Barbee et al., 2022) rhetoric toward a marginalized group largely against the will of Rhode Islanders. As a public official, you were elected to represent the interests of your constituency, not your prejudices. Please educate yourself with these cited references.

Best wishes,  
Sage O'Donovan (They/Them)

References:

Barbee, H., Deal, C., & Gonzales, G. (2022). Anti-transgender legislation—a public health concern for transgender youth. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 176(2), 125. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2021.4483>

Das, R. K., & Drolet, B. C. (2023). The true cost of antitransgender legislation. *Transgender Health*, 8(5), 405–407. <https://doi.org/10.1089/trgh.2021.0126>

Johns, M.M., Beltran, O., Armstrong, H.L. et al. (2018) Protective Factors Among Transgender and Gender Variant Youth: A Systematic Review by Socioecological Level. *J Primary Prevent* 39, 263–301. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10935-018-0508-9>

Schanzle, J., Kennedy, J., Rahman, F., & Hill, S. (2023). anti-trans legislation in the US: Potential implications on self-reported victimization and suicidality among Trans youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 72(3). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2022.11.01>