

Dear Honorable {insert name of legislator},

I wanted to contact you regarding my concern on the recent decision by the Presidential Administration to rescind federal guidance protecting transgender youth. I feel it is important for you to fully understand the impact of such actions and would like to share information of which you may not be aware. I believe that through education and understanding, hurtful legislation such as the rescission of the Transgender Guidance can be eliminated to protect transgender youth in our institutions. I hope that you will share this information with your colleagues to avoid anti-transgender legislation in the future.

Here are some helpful facts to understand how transgender youth may be negatively impacted by this decision:

- According to the [GLSEN's 2013 National School Climate Survey](#):
 - More than 75% of transgender students report feeling unsafe in school.
 - Nearly 60% of transgender students have been forced to use a bathroom or locker room inconsistent with their gender identity.
 - More than 63% of transgender students avoid using public restrooms because of fears of harassment or assault.
 - Every student should have a fair chance to succeed in school. But when anti-trans policies single out transgender youth for isolation and harm, there are consequences that extend into their academic careers as well. According to the National School Climate Survey, the [hostile atmosphere](#) in schools can damage a student's self-esteem, hurt their GPA and ultimately make these students less likely to plan for college.
- According to a January 2015 study published in the [Journal of Adolescent Health](#):
 - Transgender youth are significantly more likely than cisgender (non-transgender) youth to face depression – 50.6 percent to 20.6 percent.
 - Transgender youth experience significantly higher levels of anxiety than their cisgender peers, 27.6 percent to 10 percent.
 - Transgender youth are more than three times as likely to contemplate suicide – 31.1 percent to 11.1 percent.
 - Restricting or outright denying transgender student's access to restroom facilities can cause serious problems for someone's physical health. Some transgender students will avoid eating or drinking, dehydrating themselves to prevent themselves from using an unsafe restroom. This can cause long-term health problems like urinary tract infections.

The facts above represent a dangerous environment for transgender youth in public schools. I ask that you share your support for these students by encouraging your colleagues and the executive branch to do what is right for our transgender students. The simple act of rescinding the previously set framework sends a loud and clear message to all youth that bullying of transgender students is "ok" and tolerated. Giving states the choice to target transgender youth will be emotionally damaging to students, especially in states with targeted anti-trans legislation in place or being proposed.

I look forward to your response and attention to this matter.

Sincerely your active voting constituent,

{Insert name}