

Hello,

My name is Garrett Adams, I am a resident of South Western PA, and I identify within the LGBTQIA+ range. And I oppose, in great length, House Bill (HB) 183.

I am a stagehand, I build sets and stages all across the country for a variety of shows and performances. I have worked in Ohio many times and have friends and family who live there. I have worked in many educational settings as well. Teaching theatre and acting to young campers and students. I have seen children who are intentionally left out or ridiculed by policy and rules and the effect that has on both their learning and their health.

As an educator, I had to ensure that every child felt safe and welcomed in the space. Taking children whose very legitimacy is in debate everywhere in this country and further humiliating and alienating them is the quickest way to ensure that they fail, not just in the classroom, but in every aspect of life. They will not, cannot, have the motivation needed to strive for success and do great things if they are constantly bombarded by policy that singles them out and forces them into a spiral they can't pull out of. These children are already under attack, do not push this envelope further towards a dangerous brink.

You must reconsider this bill and take into account the grave consequences you will bring to both the education and health of these children.

Thank you for your time.