

I am here before you today, to demand that House Bill 68 die at your feet. Make no mistake, either this Bill dies, or it will result in the deaths of children. As a proud public school educator, I cannot be silent on this matter. Our queer youth needs you to protect them. Because regardless of your varied political stances, I truly hope we can all agree on the fact that all children deserve a future.

Before you say that I am dramatizing or catastrophizing this situation, allow me to provide you some data to back up my claims. The quote I am about to share, comes from a study that was published in 2022.

“In this prospective cohort of 104 TNB youths aged 13 to 20 years, receipt of gender-affirming care, including puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormones, was associated with 60% lower odds of moderate or severe depression and 73% lower odds of suicidality over a 12-month follow-up”

This information was procured from the National Library of Medicine– an official website of the United States Government, in case you were concerned about my sources.

73%.

73% lower odds of suicidality. This is an astounding number of young lives that have the potential to not be lost. And make no mistake, those lives will not simply have been lost– if this bill passes, they will have been TAKEN. These lives are in your hands, and should you decide that they are not worthy of your care when you make your decision on this Bill, their blood will be on your hands too.

I am here to remind you that when you agreed to take on this role, you agreed to serve the people. That did not and does not mean only the people whose existence you agree with.