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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

On the surface, this measure seems harmless and even beneficial. However, it becomes clear that it is really an effort to promote an agenda. I have witnessed the harm that comes from promoting the LGBTQ+ lifestyles on our students. In my son's middle school, EVERY classroom had a pride flag, there were posters in the hallway promoting and explaining the different LGBTQ+ flags, and staff encouraged students to embrace this lifestyle. They were shown videos, even in cartoon format, to encourage children to dress like their opposite gender. There has been a big push for students to experiment in that lifestyle. By the end of my son's first year of middle school (6th grade), he was depressed and exhausted from the relentlessness of the school pushing LGBTQ+ lifestyles. He witnessed the negative way students got treated when they respectfully voiced their disagreement with the LGBTQ+ lifestyle. Other students called them "homophobic" and other names. Even teachers would scold them. It made the students who were not affirming feel excluded, isolated, unsafe, etc. What happened to treating EVERYONE with kindness and love? Even to those who disagree with you? The students who were opposed to the LGBTQ+ lifestyle were never witnessed saying anything unkind, yet they were vilified. In the end, we were forced to put our son in private school so he could get away from this kind of environment, when all he wanted to do was get an education. He was so happy & relieved that he could have an alternative that he cried - he was that burdened by it, & he shouldn't have had to endure that.

This affects younger children too. At my daughter's elementary school, after being taught about LGBTQ+ lifestyles, the teacher bought a variety of books for their classroom that all had characters or themes of LGBTQ+ and students were encouraged to read them. In the school library there were more LGBTQ+ books telling the students that it is OK to be transgender, etc. After these classroom talks and books, etc. more and more students, especially the girls, have been saying they are now lesbian, or bisexual, or nonbinary, or asexual, etc. Instead of being kids and focusing on playing or studying math or any other typical school subject, they are having conversations with their peers about their sexuality. These kids are so confused. They don't fully understand what all these things mean, but now are left to wonder and doubt who they are. They are more insecure than ever and it has been incredibly sad to see.

Also, research has shown that transgender students tend to go back to their original birth gender — over 90% of them! So why are we pushing them to transition when most likely they won't really want to? If they have taken hormones, etc. at a young age and during puberty, there are some dramatic changes that can happen that can never be undone, like a girl taking hormones to be a boy and having her voice

change to be deep like a man's, then when she's older and wiser and decides to go back to being a woman, she is stuck with a man's voice for the rest of her life. These are serious life changes and choices that shouldn't be in the hands of children. Religion, science, and common sense backs this up. We know the amygdala (the part of the brain that helps us reason and make good choices) is not fully developed until age 25. Therefore, it makes sense that 25+ year olds should be the ones deciding these things for themselves, not children with the influence of teachers, administrators, and school staff. If a child naturally has these feelings, they should talk to their parents about it and it should be a family topic, not a school topic. After all, more and more psychologists are treating transgender people as those with body dysphoria, like people with eating disorders. It is a psychological issue. If it wasn't, than people wouldn't improve with treatment, but they do! This measure would do far more harm than good. It would be very irresponsible to pass it.