



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 7882 • MADISON, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2024

Contact: Sen. Mark Spreitzer, 608-266-2253

Sen. Tim Carpenter, (608) 266-8535

Rep. Greta Neubauer, (608) 266-0634

Rep. Lee Snodgrass, (608) 266-3070

Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus Submits Testimony Against Bill Harming Transgender and Nonbinary Youth and Their Healthcare Providers

MADISON – Today, legislative Republicans in the State Assembly are holding a public hearing in the Committee on Judiciary on Assembly Bill 502. The Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus submitted the attached testimony in opposition to AB 502, and released the following statement:

“We are disgusted and dismayed that our Republican colleagues continue to move forward legislation intended to harm transgender and nonbinary youth by restricting access to, and politicizing, lifesaving medical care.

“AB 502 would create a civil cause of action against healthcare providers if a patient is alleged to have suffered an injury resulting from gender-affirming care, including puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormones. Wisconsin state law already provides recourse for patients who suffer injury as a result of medical procedures if healthcare providers fail to meet the standard of care. This bill attempts to scare families with propaganda and to threaten healthcare professionals with frivolous litigation in the hopes that they will stop providing gender-affirming care.

“AB 502 is one of four bills that Wisconsin Legislative Republicans have introduced this year that would harm transgender and nonbinary youth, and Governor Evers has made his position on these bills abundantly clear. AB 502 will not become law in Wisconsin.

“Over the past several months, we have implored our Republican colleagues to listen to the science – including the repeated testimony of doctors, medical professionals, and major medical organizations in committee hearings just like today’s. Gender-affirming care is safe, medically necessary, and saves lives. The introduction and continued movement of bills like this are deeply harmful to our community and to our state.

“Republicans in the Assembly still have the opportunity to do the right thing and not schedule AB 502 for an executive session. We hope that this time, they will take it.”

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Attached to this release is testimony submitted by the Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus opposing Assembly Bill 502.



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To: Assembly Committee on Judiciary
From: Senator Mark Spreitzer, Senator Tim Carpenter, Representative Greta Neubauer, Representative Lee Snodgrass, and Representative Marisabel Cabrera
RE: Assembly Bill 502
Date: January 24, 2024

Chair Tusler and committee members:

As the members of the Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus, we are submitting written testimony today in opposition to Assembly Bill 502. We ask that our testimony be shared with all members of the committee, and be entered into the committee record for this bill.

Gender-affirming care includes a range of services for nonbinary and transgender people, including puberty blockers, gender-affirming hormones, and surgery. Gender-affirming care reduces gender dysphoria – the clinically-significant psychological distress that results when one’s gender identity does not match their sex assigned at birth – and helps people live healthy and authentic lives.

Gender-affirming care is safe, medically necessary, and saves lives. This is the position of every major medical organization in Wisconsin and across the nation, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Counseling Association, the American Nurses Association, the Endocrine Society, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, and the World Medical Association.

The Republican party is attacking our transgender and nonbinary neighbors by politicizing medical care. By forcing doctors to deliver canned and inaccurate propaganda both orally and in writing at every medical visit, Republican politicians are inserting themselves into medical consultations that should be private between patients and their doctors.

This bill would create a civil cause of action against healthcare providers if a patient is alleged to have suffered an injury resulting from gender-affirming care, including puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormones, and does not require that the patient receiving gender-affirming care consent to any lawsuits brought by their parents or legal guardians. Our state law already provides recourse for patients who suffer injury as a result of medical procedures if healthcare providers fail to meet the standard of care. This bill is a disgusting attempt by Republicans to scare families with propaganda and to threaten healthcare professionals with frivolous litigation in the hopes that they will stop providing gender-affirming care.



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In other states where legislation with the goal of restricting access to gender-affirming care has passed into law, costly court challenges have resulted in those bans being temporarily or permanently blocked. This committee can take action to prevent our state from going down the same misguided path resulting in the waste of taxpayer dollars on unnecessary litigation.

Although this bill will not become law in our state, its introduction alone is harmful. Recent national surveys have shown that 86% of transgender and nonbinary youth reported negative impacts to their mental health from the introduction of anti-transgender bills, with nearly 1 in 3 LGBTQ+ young people stating that their mental health was poor “always” or “most of the time” due to anti-LGBTQ+ policies and legislation.

We ask that you not schedule Assembly Bill 502 for a vote. If AB 502 comes before you for a vote in this committee or on the Assembly floor, we ask that you vote no. We hope that you will join us in telling transgender and nonbinary youth in our state that they are seen, are loved, and that they belong here in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Mark Spreitzer
State Senator
15th Senate District

Tim Carpenter
State Senator
3rd Senate District

Greta Neubauer
State Representative
66th Assembly District

Lee Snodgrass
State Representative
57th Assembly District

Marisabel Cabrera
State Representative
9th Assembly District