

For Immediate Release October 12, 2023 Contact: Sen. Dianne Hesselbein (608) 266-6670

HESSELBEIN CONDEMNS REPUBLICAN BILL TO BAN GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE FOR MINORS

MADISON – State Senator Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) released the following statement condemning Legislative Republicans for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 480, which would ban gender-affirming care for minors:

"Today's hearing continues a dangerous nationwide trend of targeting transgender and nonbinary youth who want nothing more than to live their lives as their true selves. The introduction of this bill and the willingness of Republicans to even hold a public hearing is extremely harmful to transgender and nonbinary youth in our state and across the country. Recent national surveys noted that that 86% of transgender and nonbinary youth reported negative impacts to their health from the introduction of legislation like this. Furthermore, nearly 1 in 3 LGBTQ+ young people stated that their mental health was poor "always" or "most of the time" due to anti-LGBTQ+ policies like SB 480.

"This bill will not become law – Governor Evers has vowed to veto this bill and any bill that harms the LGBTQ+ community. I echo the Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus' call for Republicans to stop inflicting unnecessary pain on transgender and nonbinary Wisconsinites and stop bringing bills like SB 480 forward.

"I stand with transgender and nonbinary youth in our state. To the transgender and nonbinary people of Wisconsin: you are seen, you are loved, and you belong here."

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