

Hello,

I am a teacher at a public school in Wichita. This is my 7th year teaching at Wichita High School North, which I also attended and graduated.

I read the so-called “fairness in women’s sports act.” It saddened me, knowing several trans and nonbinary students and people. It saddened me because what it does is unfair to trans and nonbinary youth. They are already struggling to come to terms with their differences from the norm and their authentic selves. I’ve seen students get misgendered and dead-named, and that deeply saddens me.

We know the statistics.

- “Having [at least one accepting adult](#) can reduce the risk of a suicide attempt among LGBTQ young people by 40 percent.
- ...transgender and nonbinary youth who reported gender identity acceptance from adults and peers had significantly lower odds of attempting suicide in the past year.
- LGBTQ youth who felt high social support from their family reported attempting suicide at [less than half the rate](#) of those who felt low or moderate social support.
- LGBTQ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ people reported [much lower rates](#) of attempting suicide than those who do not.
- ...LGBTQ youth who found their school and home to be LGBTQ-affirming reported lower rates of attempting suicide.
- LGBTQ youth who report the presence of trusted adults in their school have higher levels of self-esteem ... and access to supportive peers is protective against anxiety and depression, including among those who lack support from their family...
- Schools also offer youth the ability to participate in extracurricular activities and clubs, which have been found to promote positive youth development ... The presence of Gender and Sexualities Alliances (GSAs) has been found to significantly reduce the risk for depression and increase well-being among LGBTQ youth and young adults..."

[\(https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/\)](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/)

This bill is going to hurt youth. It shouldn’t matter what kind of youth. They are kids. I have to teach them, so please, don’t do what is going to cause trans and nonbinary kids to kill themselves. We know it will, there’s no need to pussyfoot around it.

Sincerely,

Marcillene Dover