

Senate Bill 12

- SB 12 is bullying.
 - Recently the House Committee on Education defined bullying
 - SB 12 is repeated behavior of bullying.
 - The effects this will have on K-12 trans kids is monumental
 - Targeted bullying by adults onto a few trans kids.
 - It sends the message not only to other adults but to kids that its okay to bully and target trans kids
 - It creates an environment where trans kids identities are up for debate and leaves trans kids feeling invalidated and targeted.
 - This bill does not remove the transness out of a kid. This isn't the solution to what proponents of this bill see as the "transgender problem". Forcing a kid into a puberty they do not want isn't a solution it is torture.
 - This bill is focusing on targeting a small, marginalized group of people.
 - I didn't come out as a kid because I knew it wasn't safe for me.
 - I've been met with disgust for simply existing. I say this very literally- My life has been threatened, I've been threatened with swatting, I've been stalked, and harrassed for being myself.
- Trevor Project Study
 - Just the introduction of legislation like this causes mental distress on trans youth. 2/3rds of trans youth state they have had their mental health negatively impacted.
- This is legislative overreach.
- Senator Thompson- You've stated you support LGBTQIA+ people- so why have you signed the Promise to America's Children- written by Family Policy Alliance that aims to make same sex marriage illegal and strip LTBTQIA+ people of their rights?
- As you all consider this bill I want you to imagine there is a trans kid right next to me-and for the sake of this testimony her name is Lucy. She is 8 years old.
 - Now I need you to imagine getting on your knee to talk to her. Tell her the same things you've told us- that this is for kids. This is for them.
 - And now I need you to tell her that you are going to take away her ability to live authentically. That its for her own good that you are going to allow her friends to misgender her- that it is for her own good that she will be forced into a puberty she does not want-that it is for her own good that she is going to feel tortured and trapped within her own body as her voice deepens and facial hair grows- that it is for her own good that she is going to grow up to hate herself and looking in the mirror will cause her more pain than you can ever imagine- that it is for her own good that you will continue to fight to ensure that even into adulthood she won't be able to the medical care that she needs. That it is for her own good that her loss of access to the care that she needs will make her the target of bullying and harassment- that it is for her own good that one day she might wake up and decide that the next day is not worth living.
- THAT- is the promise you are making to our trans kids when you vote for this bill.

- I'm an eagle scout and that is very important to me. I was taught to be helpful, friendly, courteous, kind- this bill and all the other anti-trans bills are none of these things. I spent nearly a decade working with scouts down at camp and became an educator.
 - I was shown hate for saying I felt like a girl growing up. And so I repressed myself and learned to hate who I was becoming.
 - I just want to be myself-that's all trans kids want too.
 - These bills push rhetoric that its okay to bully and to target. Life is hard enough for trans youth- we shouldn't be adding to it. Being a kid is a time to explore who you are, to have fun, and to just be yourself. Bc when you grow up that targeting/bullying doesn't stop. I've lived this.
- 14 Anti-trans bills since last January
- These bills aren't about sports. Or about protecting kids. This is trans erasure.
- Trans kids want to cherish, love, flourish, and surround themselves with people who accept love and cherish them too. A team can be this place and trans kids shouldn't have that opportunity ripped away from them.
- Address the issue of bullying within the legislature
 - I believe many of you have good hearts...
 - But we are stuck in the dark storm. A dark storm that starts from the fear/uncertainty within our hearts.
 - A dark storm that stems from misinformation and misinformation and is perpetuated through bullying. There are members of our legislature that have cried to Rep. Byers after being threatened and bullied to vote against our trans kids.
 - If we don't address this dark storm it is going to consume all of us.
 - The only way to stop it is address this bullying and to listen to the trans voices in this room. We must open our hearts and strive to be kind.
- I'm not up here bc I want to boast that I am right, I'm doing this because this is kind. Please remember that-
 - Hate is always foolish, and love is always wise. Always try to be nice, but never fail to be kind.
- It is only in this darkness that we are revealed.
 - Good is good in the final hour, in the deepest pit, in the deepest storm-without hope, without witness, and without reward. Virtue is only virtue in extremis.
- Please open your hearts and your minds. Our voices have the power to lift people up or to maim. Will you hold someone's hand in support or will you rip a hole through their heart?