

Proponent Testimony of SB76
For the Senate Education Committee
2/10/25
Justin Pierce
School Counselor

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 76 on behalf of myself, Justin Pierce.

I am in support of SB 76. When dealing with students that come to our school that want to identify as someone different from what they were biologically born as, I am always dealing with very high at-risk students that have had some major trauma in their life. I am a firm believer that students are having identity issues because of their past traumatic experiences. When we as adults go along with students that begin to identify as someone that they are not, we are just enabling them and helping to provide a band aid type of support to a long term problem. It is not healthy to hide from mental health issues that come with traumatic events. Identifying as someone other than yourself is exactly that, finding a way to hide from an issue instead of dealing with it. I believe that getting the mental health support that students need is a healthier solution than changing who you think you are. That is why I support this bill. Students need help dealing with these traumatic events, instead of letting them deal with them in unhealthy ways later in life. We as a society have changed what gender means just so it can make it ok to believe you are someone that you are not. We have forgotten that there are two genders and that someone's truth is just an opinion and not a fact. Gender is not a lifestyle choice, but whether you are male or female at birth. Schools are a place for education, and not a place for society to conduct experiments using our youth.