

HB0065\_RichardKaplowitz\_UNF  
3/13/2022

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#0065 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE**

**Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools - Parental Notice**

**TO:** Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB#0065, Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools - Parental Notice**

This bill is an attempt to create unsafe conditions for children struggling with problems, often exacerbated in home situations, from accessing mental health services in the schools. If that health professional is required to “out” a student to their parents the student will not seek out these vital mental health resources. It attempts to control student’s access to individuals that they have learned to trust and rely on for fear that the trust cannot be guaranteed.

According to the Trevor Project 2023 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People: <sup>1</sup>

“41% of LGBTQ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year—and young people who are transgender, nonbinary, and/or people of color reported higher rates than their peers. 56% of LGBTQ young people who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it. Fewer than 40% of LGBTQ young people found their home to be LGBTQ-affirming.”

This bill is a transparent attempt to curtail LGBTQ students from being safe in expressing their true selves without parental interference that would endanger their physical and mental health. Parental involvement in their children’s lives should be positive enough that the child need not keep themselves and their feelings from their parents but the risk of doing so outweighs that need for an honest parent-child relationship. You cannot mandate, as this bill attempts to do, creation of a fraught and dangerous situation for a child seeking help dealing with their problems.

Children will be LGBTQIA+ without fear if we reject this bill attempting to deny them the right to express who they are in an educational setting. It will keep them safe from parents whose involvement puts them and their lives at risk. **I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB0065.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2023/>