

Regarding HB679 - I am requesting the Health Committee refer to what detrimental impacts we have seen as a result of increased trans youth healthcare bills in recent years.

- Human Rights Watch found that these laws contribute to an increasingly hostile, anti-trans climate, compelling youth to hide their identities and socially withdraw.
- The January 28 executive order under the current administration has caused some clinics to halt services in states where care remains legal.
- Health care providers interviewed by Human Rights Watch regarding the bans said that they had experienced targeted anti-trans harassment. Providers said their institutions have increased their security budgets, diverting funds that could be used for patient care. Civil society organizations reported facing similar threats, alongside rising costs for safety measures.

Bills like HB679 cause unnecessary harm to children and their families, destabilize healthcare providers, promote targeted hate campaigns, and damage communities. I hope every member of the Health Committee will voice firm opposition for this bill and any future iterations of it.