

Ways and Means Committee  
House Bill 1011  
Favorable with Amendment

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee;

Please give House Bill 1011 a favorable report, with an amendment (explained below).

I homeschooled my now-adult children through high school. As secular homeschoolers, we participated in homeschool cooperatives, groups, and classes that were not religious-based. Most of the things that we regularly participated in were explicitly LGBTQIA+ affirming. We met and befriended many Queer people in these homeschool activities, including a number of transgender parents and children. To no one's surprise, a lot of parents had removed their transgender children from the public schools out of fear for them or due to negative experiences.

Transgender students have to deal with misgendering and dead-naming, ridicule, harassment, assault, and threats – from peers, teachers, administrators, bus drivers, and parents of other students. Some transgender youth don't find acceptance and respect at home or at school. Many don't know who they can trust. Not all high schools have GSAs in them, and some that do have welcoming clubs are afraid to use the term "GSA" due to the unfriendly surrounding community.

House Bill 1011 is necessary because more support is needed for trans kids in schools, and we need to know what those supports should be. I urge a favorable vote for House Bill 1011, with an amendment to make sure that transgender students, parents of transgender students, and transgender adults who attended public schools in the past ten years are included in the workgroup. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Debi Jasen  
Pasadena, MD