

**HB1011 Workgroup on Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students -
Established
Favorable
Ways and Means Committee
March 4, 2026**

Honorable Chair Wilkins and members of the House Ways and Means committee,

My name is Katherine Dangel, and I am testifying here in support of HB1011.

Since January 2025, due to the hateful policies initiated by the Trump administration, I have witnessed an increase in harassment and hostility towards many of my transgender classmates. Being a victim of hate has interfered with their day-to-day life, causing constant anxiety and worsening their mental health, initiating anxious and depressive disorders. The added mental strain is unfair for teens who are already struggling with the inherent issues of being transgender in a society that is often not-accepting.

This bill will initiate the creation of a workgroup to focus and report back on ways to support transgender youth, and recommendations to improve their situation through legislative and regulatory changes. Having a support system that looks out for students at greater risk of harassment can help them feel safer and more accepted at schools, a place where they are supposed to be protected. Schools are meant to be areas of learning and education, and above all, places where students are safe.

I didn't grow up transgender, but my best friend did. I met him at the beginning of fourth grade, after moving to my new home, a period of time where I felt isolated and uprooted. He was my first friend after moving here, and when he started his transition, I fully supported him. He faced harassment and hostility due to something he couldn't control, which led to a severe depressive disorder. If this had gone untreated, it could have killed him.

This bill can prevent other students from going through what my friend went through. For that reason, I ask you to vote yes on HB1011.