



On Monday, April 17th, we ask our friends and families to attend the next Moore County School Board meeting to voice your opposition to the proposed "Parent's Bill of Rights" policy as outlined in the recently released document of proposed policy changes for Moore County Schools.

This policy would require educators and counselors to effectively "out" young people who come to them in-confidence to talk about gender identity and/or desired name or use of pronouns.

Why is this policy the focus of the Moore County School board? Forcing counselors and educators into this position is unethical and will be horrific for our trans and nonbinary young people. Though couched in the premise that this would build stronger connections between parents and educators - something we hope everyone seeks - what happens, in these situations, to the student whose parents are not accepting of who they are? We know from numerous studies that the outcomes for many of our LGBTQ+ family are devastating.

- 7% of youth in America identify as LGBTQ+ (gallup)
- 40% of those LGBTQ+ are or will experience homelessness in their life (NAMI)
- 26% of LGBTQ+ were forced from their homes by unsupportive parents or guardians (HRC)
- 53% of Trans & Non-Binary youth in NC have seriously considered suicide within the last year (Trevor Project)
- 17% faced such severe mistreatment as a transgender person that they left a K-12 school (US Trans Survey)

These outcomes are not because of who we are, but because of the way society treats who we are. As of today, the ACLU is tracking 452 anti-LGBTQ+ bills in state legislatures across the country and Trans Legislature Tracker has followed 464 anti-trans bills since the beginning of 2023, 39 of which have passed and 363 of which remain active. This type of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation often starts at the local level.

Our schools are places to prepare our students for the world and ALL of its diversity. When our schools need vacancies filled and our teachers need to focus on raising all of our children up and improving our schools overall, why are we singling out this small and extremely vulnerable population, creating additional work for our already overextended educators and counselors - as well as ethical conflicts - and building more barriers, instead of bridges, to our students' success!

The meeting information is below:

Monday, April 17, 2023

4 p.m. Closed Session

5:30 p.m. Open Session

Location: Robbins Elementary

268 Rushwood Road, Robbins, NC

Individuals who wish to speak must arrive early to sign up. The agenda, once published, will outline the specific requirements. Please use the provided links to access the proposed policy changes, including the Parental Bill of Rights, meeting schedule & agenda, and read through the policies and protocols in place to attend this meeting in advance of attending.

You do not need to speak to show support. Your presence in the room will speak volumes! If you cannot attend in person, please email your concerns to the school board at their email addresses provided in the links attached.