

Testimony AGAINST HB 988
VA House, K-12 Education K-12 Subcommittee
Tuesday, February 1, 2022

I am writing in opposition to HB 988.

- My son is a transgender middle schooler in Hanover County, where they have not yet adopted a full transgender policy.
- My son is a rule follower and currently there are NO rules that indicate how he should use the restroom at school; consequently, he avoids using the restroom at all. He reports that he has only been 3 times total this academic year so far.
- I am telling you without hyperbole that this experience impacts both his physical and mental health, as you may imagine. The SAFETY and HEALTH of transgender children are MORE important than the comfort of people who do not understand transgender people who are in NO credible danger around transgender people.
- Further the lack of a full transgender policy promotes a school environment where bullying against transgender children festers.
- REJECTING HB 988 will mean that my school district will be compelled to continue to work toward an inclusive school climate for my child.
- Finally, there are dozens of families like mine in Hanover and even more across Virginia, with transgender children. We are stressed and exhausted from fighting for our kids. And many of us fear for our safety in speaking out. Just the IDEA of bills like HB 988 and HB 1126 threaten us. Please allow our children to live with dignity.

Thank you very much.

