



## Equality Indiana on the midpoint of the 2023 Indiana Legislative Session

**March 8, 2023** – The Indiana General Assembly is at its midpoint of the 2023 legislative session and Equality Indiana has been busy keeping a close eye on the extremists within the supermajority of the legislature and alerting our activists on social media about taking actions.

Once the session began, Equality Indiana could hardly believe the gall of these extremists. They filed legislation that clearly targets the LGBTQ community; demonizes LGBTQ lives; and legislatively undermines our right to exist. Their goals are clear: they want to score cheap political points with their extreme, partisan supporters and donors, all while trying to preserve these bullies' abilities to legally discriminate against all LGBTQ Hoosiers.

Here are some of the legislative bills that these bullies are actively trying to ram through the legislative process: Senate Bills: SB 480, Banning Gender Affirming Care; and SB 12 a Book Banning Bill (especially targeting LGBTQ affirming books).

In the House of Representatives: HB 1407 named a "Parental Rights" bill, which legally grants a parent or guardian the authority to deny gender-affirming care for a minor in their care and making it more difficult for a child services agency to protect children who are living in a potentially unsafe home. HB 1569, a ban on funding gender therapy for incarcerated trans Hoosiers; and HB 1608, a Don't Say Gay and Forced Misgendering bill. This bill erases LGBTQ families and children from being seen and affirmed in the classroom and endangers young trans students by requiring educators to 'out' them to their parents.

The above Senate and House Bills have been referred to the respective opposite chamber for consideration.

If any of these terrible, anti-family bills become law, Equality Indiana will support any and all legal actions taken to prevent these appalling laws from harming members of our community, especially our youth.

Whether or not these bills become law, the legislators who authored and have voted in favor of them must be held accountable for these systematic attacks on the LGBTQ community. That accountability will happen in the next election cycle by reminding voters about these anti-LGBTQ officials if they place their name on the ballot. Equality Indiana plans to continue its voter registration efforts, educate voters, especially LGBTQ voters and our allies, about the legislative voting histories of these anti-LGBTQ bullies and will work our asses off to keep them from ever holding public office again.

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