

Equality Indiana Demands Governor Holcomb 'VETO' SB 480

March 28, 2023 – Equality Indiana demands Governor Eric Holcomb 'VETO' Senate Bill 480, as it is an outright ban on essential, life-saving medical care for trans youth. This bill, with bipartisan opposition, is anti-trans, anti-LGBTQ, and is harmful to families, it is government intrusiveness at its worst, and will be bad for Indiana businesses.

Despite overwhelming public outrage and hours of testimony from families and medical professionals opposed to this intrusive bill where, as law, it would insert government officials in between medical decisions made by families and their doctor. SB 480 is clearly anti-family.

Medical decisions about one's bodily autonomy is the pinnacle of an individual's freedoms and should never be trampled upon by any government entity or official. This includes the bodily autonomy of minors who, with the support and consent of their parents or guardians, in consultation and approval of a licensed medical professional, should be free to make medical decisions without interference from the government. The State of Indiana should not be passing laws that restricts access to crucial medical care for anyone, because restrictions strip individuals of their human dignity. SB 480 is an anti-freedom bill.

Indiana's business community should be outraged by SB 480, because it will take away medical care for their employee's families, which will lead to talented workers leaving our state to seek employment in states that do not discriminate against their family. SB 480 will exacerbate the challenges of Indiana's "brain drain" and siphon talented workers out of Indiana. SB 480 is anti-worker and anti-business.

Equality Indiana is a nonpartisan, grassroots, nonprofit organization with a mission to secure nondiscrimination, equality, and related legal protections for all LGBTQ Hoosiers. We will always stand with and demand equal protections for LGBTQ families, especially for trans youth, regardless of age, beliefs, citizenship status, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, nationality, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Equality Indiana's mission demands that we engage, empower, and energize Hoosier voters to TAKE ACTION in future elections by educating voters about public officials' public records concerning LGBTQ and related issues. Voting records that include affirmative votes on anti-LGBTQ legislation, like SB 480, will identify each of those officials as an anti-LGBTQ public official. Equality Indiana will strongly urge the defeat of all anti-LGBTQ public officials or candidates running for elective office.

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