

2025 Lobby Days

Talking Points in Opposition to Assembly Bill 579

“Yaeli’s Law”

Author: Assemblymember Leticia Castillo

- AAUW California believes transgender and nonbinary youth deserve the right to live in an environment where they can thrive because they have parental support and acceptance. However, they often face disrespect and rejection by parents or guardians.
- AB 579 rests on the premise that denial of support for youth self-identity, including refusal to use a child’s name and pronouns, or refusal to provide or allow their gender-affirming care, is not harmful and therefore should not be considered child abuse under the law, and, accordingly, should not be allowed as a basis for custody or removal decisions.
- However, research shows that transgender children are more likely to experience anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of substance abuse and homelessness when they live in households that do not accept their gender identity.¹
- Indeed, lack of family support is one of the strongest predictors of transgender youth attempting suicide. On the other hand, LGBTQ+ young people who reported living in very accepting communities attempted suicide at less than half the rate of those who reported living in very unaccepting communities.²
- While the rights of parents are important, when children are threatened by those who should be protecting them, their health and safety outweigh the rights of parents.
- Every child deserves to be protected from emotional and physical abuse, including the right to be removed from a harmful household to a more healthy and supportive environment. Further, children who suffer harm inflicted by their parents or guardians rightly deserve access to the legal remedies afforded to other children who suffer parental abuse.

We ask for your “No” vote on AB 579.

¹ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024/>

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