

2025 Lobby Days

Talking Points in Opposition to Assembly Bill 579

“Yaeli’s Law”

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- 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.
- Sadly, we are witnessing an increasingly powerful “parental rights” movement sweeping across the country which frequently targets the rights and the well-being of transgender youth.
- While the rights of parents are important, 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
- AB 579 would negatively impact trans and nonbinary youth by giving legal protections to parents and guardians who inflict emotional abuse on their children by refusing to use their child’s preferred name and pronouns, refusing to accept their child’s gender identity, or by refusing to provide or allow their gender-affirming care. Under this bill, despite credible evidence to the contrary, these actions would no longer be considered abuse, neglect, or grounds for removing a child from their guardians’ custody.
- 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/>

² <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024/>