

Email Template

Dear Senator Daniel:

I am an voting citizen of Burke County and I am writing to urge you **vote against SB 49**. This bill targets educators, healthcare professionals, and LGBTQ+ youth and families while making schools unsafe spaces for LGBTQ+ students. The bill would cause serious harm to LGBTQ+ students, making them vulnerable to forced outing and erasure in school curriculum. Like all students, LGBTQ+ students are entitled to learn and thrive in a safe environment and deserve protection and support from their schools.

Some major impacts of the policy, should it be approved and implemented, include:

- * An unnecessary burden placed on educators, who are already overworked and left without adequate resources to do their jobs, by placing requirements for documentation on teachers.
- * Mandatory notification of parents if students announce a change in name or pronouns in the classrooms/at school. This functionally mandates outing of transgender young people, putting them at risk of abuse and/or neglect at home.
- * Banning accurate and inclusive curriculum on gender and sexuality from kindergarten through 4th grade by requiring the removal of all instruction on gender identity and sexuality.

It is critical to the success of our county, the health of our public schools, and the wellness of the citizens of our county, that all students across all grade levels feel safe, welcomed, affirmed, and seen for who they are and who their families are, especially in schools where they spend a significant portion of their days during the academic year. It is vital that they can be themselves without fear of censorship, erasure, or being outed. It is necessary that students learn about the diversity of the world in which they live, that they learn about individuals and families who are different than they are. Such a foundation, from the earliest years of kindergarten through graduation, will equip them to be informed, empathetic, globally competitive, kind citizens in our county and beyond. SB49 stands to threaten this, and as your constituent, I am urging you to vote against SB49 and instead, vote for the health, wellness, safety, acknowledgement, and affirmation of LGBTQ+ students and families in our county.

Sincerely,