



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION
2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

SA2122-013: Resolution Opposing Assembly Bill 562

DATE: September 22nd, 2021

AUTHOR(S): Cait McReavy, Lindsey Strzyzewski

SPONSOR(S): Pride Center, Rainbow Unity, Transform, Hameister, Ericson, Stewart, Ziegler, Peters

WHEREAS Wisconsin Assembly Bill 562 requires schools to give notice to parents or guardians before teaching any programming involving gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS Assembly Bill 562 also allows parents or guardians to prevent their students from attending said programming; and

WHEREAS the bill defines programming as any “instruction or materials” as well as any “curriculum,” “test,” or “activity”; and

WHEREAS already marginalized LGBTQ+ students may feel ostracized by classmates, parents or guardians, and staff because of the decision to make learning about LGBTQ+ issues optional; and

WHEREAS LGBTQ+ students in need of programming may be denied it by unsupportive parents or guardians; and

WHEREAS schools are already an unsafe place for many LGBTQ+ students, given that 57% of LGBTQ+ students have heard homophobic remarks from school staff, 64% of LGBTQ+ students feel unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, and 65% of students who express their gender identity feel unsafe at school (youth.gov); and

WHEREAS 38% of LGBTQ+ students report being physically harassed and 18% physically assaulted because of their identities (youth.gov); and

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K.C. Cayo
President, Student Senate
Vice President, Student Association

9-22-2021

Date

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Jared Zwettler
President, Student Association

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WHEREAS in schools that have LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum, students perform better academically, feel a greater sense of belonging at school, are significantly less likely to feel unsafe, and experience lower levels of victimization (GLSEN 2019 National School Climate Survey); and

WHEREAS teachers should be allowed to develop lesson plans that represent and include all students in their classrooms; and

WHEREAS this bill sets a dangerous precedent by limiting educators' ability to implement curriculum and taking educational decisions out of the hands of teachers and school districts; and

WHEREAS none of Assembly Bill 562's authors have served as educators in the K-12 school system; and

WHEREAS this bill has been opposed by GSAFE, the Wisconsin branch of the American Federation of Teachers, the LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin School Social Workers Association; and

WHEREAS a public hearing of the bill was held a mere day after its introduction, which was an unprecedented act that limited citizen input and quelled potential opposition; and

WHEREAS it is the sacred duty of legislators to uphold democracy by representing the will of the people, rather than attempting to suppress their voice;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association vehemently opposes Wisconsin Assembly Bill 562; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Tony Evers, the Senate Committee on Education, the Assembly Committee on Education, and the authors of this bill, including: Representative Rachael Cabral-Guevara, Representative Donna Rozar, Representative David Armstrong, Representative Janel Brandtjen, Representative Robert Brooks, Representative Barbara

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Dittrich, Representative Cody Horlacher, Representative Daniel Knodl, Representative Gae Magnafici, Representative William Penterman, and Representative Shae Sortwell.

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