



September 17, 2021

Dear members of the Assembly Education Committee:

As President of a union representing Wisconsin public school teachers and staff as well as faculty and staff in the Wisconsin Technical College System and University of Wisconsin, I am writing to oppose AB 562. The bill would encourage parents to opt their children out of gender identity and sexual orientation programs in our public schools.

Any legislation that discourages open conversation and the inclusion and well-being of all students is dangerous. Our LGBTQ+ students already face disturbing rates of bullying, rejection, and even violence. The proposed legislation serves only to stigmatize and exclude them more. It perpetuates stereotypes and encourages divisiveness. This is the exact opposite of any position our state should be taking.

Every Wisconsinite should be treated with dignity and respect, including our LGBTQ+ youth. We need legislation that helps our struggling students rather than targeting them. For this reason, Wisconsin's teachers, faculty, and staff oppose this bill. Let me know if you have any concerns or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Kim Kohlhaas  
President, AFT-Wisconsin