



Resolution in favor of Freedom of Choice for Transgender Students

Sponsored by Boyd Walker, Eugenia Burkes, Alex Sprague, and Greg Parks

WHEREAS Governor Youngkin’s new “model policies” affecting transgender youth curtail the rights of students in Virginia Public Schools; (1)

WHEREAS the new policy requires transgender students to access school facilities (including bathrooms) and programs (including sports) that match their birth sex, and restricts their ability to be called a name of their choosing and to change their gender identification;

WHEREAS the new policy condones and enshrines intolerance and discrimination under the guise of religious belief; (1)

WHEREAS this new policy contradicts Virginia's Human Rights Act, which states that the policy of the Commonwealth is to: “Safeguard all individuals within the Commonwealth from unlawful discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military status, or disability in places of public accommodation, including educational institutions...” (2)

WHEREAS demagogues throughout history have sought scapegoats to blame and choose a vulnerable minority, Governor Youngkin has chosen transgender youth as his target; (3)

WHEREAS The Superintendent of Alexandria Public Schools, Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, and the Chair of the Alexandria School Board, Meghan Alderton, released a joint statement which says in part “Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) will continue its commitment to both implement and develop gender affirming policies for all ACPS students. As a School Board and division, we are concerned with these “model policies” that do not align with our mission, vision and core values to support all students and staff, in particular our core value of ensuring that we provide a welcoming environment for everyone in our school community;” (9)

WHEREAS schools should be a safe place for students, and not be a place where they live in fear and intimidation, and Alexandria City Public School students can reach CrisisText and Crisis Link at any time of the day or night, seven days a week, through these contacts: Text: CONNECT to 85511, Call CrisisLink: 703-527-4077;

WHEREAS 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, the model policy could seriously harm students’ mental health; and (4)

WHEREAS Transgender people are over four times more likely than cisgender people to experience violent victimization, including rape, sexual assault, and aggravated or simple assault, (4) with hate crimes against the transgender community jumping 41% from 2019 to 2020; (5) 47 murders were committed against trans people in 2021; and demonizing trans people and transphobia can lead to acts of violence. (7)

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Alexandria Democratic Committee,

a) supports transgender students in Alexandria Public Schools and throughout the state, and their right to make their own choices about gender identity, their dress and their preferred pronouns;

b) supports the policy of the Alexandria City Public Schools; (8)

c) condemns Governor Youngkin’s attempt to sacrifice transgender youth to further his political ambitions;

d) opposes the new “model policies” and will continue to help students find resources in the school system; and

e) encourages all Alexandria Democrats to oppose the new model policies during the 30 day comment period. (6)

1. <https://doe.virginia.gov/support/gender-diversity/2022-model-policies-on-the-privacy-dignity-and-respect-for-all-students-town-hall.pdf?emci=39df126d-0839-ed11-a27c-281878b83d8a&emdi=c3ffd775-0a39-ed11-a27c-281878b83d8a&ceid=17562370>
2. <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodepopularnames/virginia-human-rights-act/>
3. A Demagogue is a leader who makes use of popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/demagogue>
4. NIH Study <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>
5. According to a new study by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-trans-press-release/>
6. <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/Comments.cfm?GdocForumID=1953>
7. <https://www.king5.com/article/news/community/facing-race/hate-crimes-spiking-against-transgender-community/281-5b3b1580-5759-40d2-9912-fef5c15c7b12>
8. [School Board Policy JB: Nondiscrimination in Education](#), [ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All](#)
9. Email to parent and student body from ACPS.