



FROM: Appalachian Queer Youth Summit  
PO Box 3952  
Charleston, WV 25339

**Feb. 5, 2024**

TO: West Virginia Senate  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.  
Charleston, WV 25305

To Members of the West Virginia Senate,

We the undersigned are participants in the Appalachian Queer Youth Summit, West Virginia's only summer camp for teens who identify as LGBTQ+.

We are writing in strong opposition to SB 515, which would force schools to "out" transgender students to their families. This would be a dangerous policy that could cost young people's lives.

Most of us are fortunate to have support at home, but some of us have been disowned by our biological families simply because we are LGBTQ+. For many of our peers, home is where they experience the most bullying and violence. If a student has come out to a teacher and not their parents, there is a reason for that – it's because they know their family members aren't safe.

Forcing teachers to report on students will erode trust and leave transgender kids totally isolated and without any supportive adults in their lives. This isolation can breed despair and leave students even more prone to depression and suicidal ideation.

It is already very difficult to be a young queer person in West Virginia. Please stop trying to make it harder. We ask that you vote NO on SB 515 and stop attacking our community.

Sincerely,

Helena, 16, Wood  
Kyler, 17, Kanawha  
Allison, 17, Randolph  
Night, 17, Kanawha  
Vinny, 18, Kanawha  
Emma, 19, Barbour

Abby, 18, Kanawha  
Cyrus, 15, Kanawha  
Hayden, 16, Kanawha  
Lloid, 18, Kanawha  
Skully, 16, Wood  
Herbert, 19, Berkeley

Parsley, 18, Monongalia  
Juliana, 20, Mercer  
Elias, 18, Wood  
Ben, 18, Kanawha  
Brik, 17, Wirt