



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

July 8, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 972, Printer's Number 2886.

This discriminatory legislation would prohibit transgender girls and women from participating on women's athletic teams or sports. The bill denies opportunities to transgender youth, which would have a devastating impact on a vulnerable population already at greater risk of bullying and depression. The harmful impact of politicizing transgender and other LGBTQ+ issues is evident by increasing rates of suicidal thoughts among LGBTQ+ young people. Even if enacted, this bill would face legal challenges for violating federal law and constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

My Administration is committed to supporting transgender individuals and ensuring that Pennsylvania is an inclusive place, and we stand against efforts to divide us and distract us from critical work needed to enhance protections for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians. LGBTQ+ youth with supportive parents and caregivers, schools, and communities report lower rates of attempting suicide and better mental health. To the LGBTQ+ community in Pennsylvania and around the country, and especially to our transgender and nonbinary youth and young people: I see you, I support you, I respect you, and I stand with you.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 972, Printer's Number 2886.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

TOM WOLF
Governor