



The Honorable Dennis Daugaard
Governor of South Dakota
Office of the Governor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, S.D. 57501

February 28, 2016

Dear Governor Daugaard,

We at the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) urge you to veto House Bill 1008.

AMSA is the nation's oldest and largest independent organization of nearly 40,000 physicians-in-training. As such, we represent the voices of future physicians across the country, and we advocate for health and safety for all.

House Bill 1008 is unnecessarily discriminatory act that will directly threaten the health and safety of transgender youth in South Dakota and will set a dangerous precedent for transgender youth in other states. There have been no documented incidents against student safety or privacy in schools that have trans-inclusive policies. In contrast, it is well-documented that transgender youth already experience a staggering amount of bullying and stigmatization that harm their safety, their mental health, and their ability to learn: this bill would only serve to aggravate the environments for our transgender youth.

We firmly oppose House Bill 1008, and we join the voices of other organizations of healthcare professionals and urge you to veto it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah V. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Deborah V. Hall, M.D.
AMSA National President 2015-16