

PRESS RELEASE

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SUNSERVE REJECTS FLORIDA HB935 AND STANDS WITH TRANSGENDER AND GENDER VARIANT INDIVIDUALS

Wilton Manors, FL - February 26, 2021 - State Rep. Anthony Sabatini, (R) District 32, filed HB 935, misleadingly called the “Vulnerable Child Protection Act.” In reality it is a bill to distract the people of Florida from our current difficulties by erroneously labeling Transgender people and their advocates as “radical social experimenters.” The bill defines gender strictly biologically and based on genitalia. The bill purports to outlaw medical operations on children – which no one in the medical profession is doing. It would also outlaw puberty-blocking medications which are essential for a smooth transition from a Transgender youth into adulthood.

As if this were not enough, Sabatini and the bill’s cosponsors Brett Thomas Hage (R) District 33 and Melony Bell (R) District 56, are reviving the old Anita Bryant canard of “save our children.” They draw a false equivalence between Transgender “men” and [presumably cisgender] “girls” participating on the same sports teams.

SunServe is one of the premier LGBTQ+ oriented social service agencies in Florida. Needless to say, we reject HB 935 as an attempt to distract the people of Florida from more pressing issues and to cast Transgender people as “the other.”

SunServe stands in solidarity with all Transgender youth in unequivocally denouncing Sabatini’s discriminatory and hate-filled House Bill 935. SunServe knows that Transgender youth, just like their cisgender peers, grow up to be happy, healthy, successful adults when they are loved and supported through their development. Family and community support are critical in the development of all children, and Transgender youth are no exception. Access to competent, affirming medical care saves lives. Transgender young people must be affirmed in their identities and have the same opportunities as their cisgender peers, including the ability to play sports, and utilize the facilities of their identified gender.

At this time of national crisis, SunServe asks that politicians and public leaders of all viewpoints stress the importance of reducing stigma and protecting the basic human rights of Transgender youth and adults and all racial, national, and sexual minorities.

By:

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For interview requests with our mental healthcare team, please email: media@sunserve.org.