



Hi, friend!

It was another busy week at the Statehouse as we continue our way through the second half of the 2023 legislative session.

On Tuesday, we were able to bring nine high school students from the [Mayor's Youth Leadership Council](#) to the Statehouse to see the legislative process in action. We were able to join protesters in opposition to SB480 (more details below), watch committee hearings, and see voting take place by lawmakers.

[Click here to see what the students enjoyed about their day at the Statehouse!](#)

Read on to see what else happened this week at the Statehouse.

Enjoy your weekend!

*Sarah*



## LGBTQ Youth

It was a disappointing week at the Statehouse with regards to two harmful bills impacting LGBTQ youth.

[SB480, "Gender Transition Procedures for Minors,"](#) passed out of the House Public Health Committee earlier this week with a vote of 8-5. This bill proposes to prohibit physicians or practitioners from knowingly providing gender transition procedures to a minor and to ban other gender affirming care like puberty blockers and hormone therapy. We oppose SB480 because we agree with medical experts that these procedures are life-saving, and denying someone access to this healthcare could result in worsening mental health conditions and even suicide. SB480 will now go to the full House Chamber for further review.

[HB1608, "Human Sexuality Instruction,"](#) passed out of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee earlier this week with a vote of 9-4. This bill proposes to prohibit teachers from instructing kids in grades Pre-K through 3rd grade on human sexuality. It also proposes to require schools to get written consent from parents if their child is asking to go by a different name or pronoun at school. [Check out our Tik Tok](#)

[for a further explanation of the bill.](#) HB 1608 will now be sent to the full Senate Chamber for further review.

MCCOY was ready to testify on the HB1608, though after the hearing was three hours in, the chair of the committee ended testimony and we were unable to speak. [Click here to hear what we would have said.](#)

[READ MORE ABOUT SB480](#)[READ MORE ABOUT HB1608](#)

## Police Interrogation

[SB 415, Admissibility of a Statement by Juvenile in Custody](#), received a hearing earlier this week in the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee. Thanks to those of you who contacted committee members asking them to give the bill a hearing!

This bill will protect youth against deceptive police interrogation tactics. Additionally, the bill requires school personnel to make an effort to notify parents in case a child is removed from school because they have been arrested.

The bill has been held in committee and will likely receive a vote next week.

[Check out our Tik Tok explaining more about the bill!](#)

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## FAFSA

[SB 167 "FAFSA"](#) is one step closer to becoming law after passing its third reading in the House Chamber with a vote of 84-9. This bill will require all Indiana students to apply for FAFSA in their senior year of high school, with some exceptions. This bill will give students more money to go to college and convince more of them to enroll in higher education in the first place. By filling out a FAFSA form, students will be considered for federal financial aid such as grants, loans and scholarships. States and colleges also use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for their respective aid programs.

MCCOY supports this bill because it would help close a large gap in accessing higher education for minority students and students in poverty.

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## Foster Families

**SB151, Foster Families**, passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee earlier this week with a vote of 24-0. This bill will provide an appropriation for the Insuring Foster Youth Trust Fund and expand the Foster Care Tax Credit Program to donors of that trust fund. Additionally, the bill will empower Indiana's older foster youth with legal driving privileges and the opportunities those privileges afford, such as access to education and jobs that are essential to independence and self-sufficiency. Lastly, the bill would provide free access for foster families to Indiana State Parks, which is an initiative created by Girl Scouts of Central Indiana Troop 1937.

MCCOY supports this bill for all of the positive changes it will bring to young Hoosiers in the foster care system.

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