



584 Castro St. #230  
San Francisco, CA 94114-2512  
www.gaylesta.org  
415.729.3996/Business Office

February 20, 2016

The Honorable Dennis Daugaard  
Governor of South Dakota  
Office of the Governor  
500 East Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Governor Daugaard:

Gaylesta, the 300 plus member strong, Psychotherapist Association for Gender and Sexual Diversity, expresses deep concern with the newly passed South Dakota bill HB 1008, which specifically singles out transgender school aged youth and teens by forcing them to use separate restroom facilities from their peers.

The most current accepted medical and psychological evidence supports transgender youth having access, along with every other youth and human being, to bathrooms and public accommodations that correspond to that person's stated gender identity. To do otherwise risks not only personal harm to transgender youth, but it also reinforces a system whereby trans youth and teens are seen as different, "other", and separate from their peers.

We fear that this will increase the incidence of bullying in schools generally, and may very well have long lasting negative consequences on individuals' self-esteem. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to veto this bill and stand for making the South Dakota public school system a place that respects and models concern and support for all the children of the state.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors