

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Quakers in Florida, southeast Georgia, & coastal South Carolina

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Statement on laws enacted by the 2022 Florida legislature:

- 'Parental Rights in Education,' (aka the 'Don't Say Gay' bill, Florida HB1557)
- the 'Transgender Youth Medical Care Ban,' (HB 211)
- the License to Discriminate in Healthcare bill (so-called "Medical Conscience" bill, HB 747/SB 1820)
- 'Stop Wrongs Against Our Kids and Employees Act' (aka 'Stop WOKE Act')

YM22-05:

We are advised, as members of the Religious Society of Friends, of the truth to reach out to that of God in everyone. We endeavor to live out our testimonies in expected and unexpected circumstances of daily life, living in love and learning from one another.

Florida's recently enacted "Don't Say Gay" bill, the transgender youth medical care ban, the license to discriminate in health care bill, and the proposed "Stop Woke Act," are not in unity with our testimonies. This legislation does not come from a place of love, and it inhibits opportunities to learn from one another and puts us in a position of vulnerability because of our practice and call to eliminate ignorance.

SEYM urges Friends to be bold in expressing opposition to this legislation that will deny the right of gender-questioning youth access to compassionate counseling and medical care and prohibits educators from teaching anything about America's past or present which causes discomfort to any student.

Compliance with these laws will seriously inhibit the possibility of love, truth, and reconciliation which are prerequisites to attaining a just society of equals. For this reason, we call Friends and all Floridians to refuse to comply with these laws and to support the organizations, teachers, and physicians who choose to act in opposition to these laws.

Approved on April 17, 2022



William Carlie, Clerk, SEYM