

To Ministry of Education  
Commerce Place  
7th Floor - 10155 102 Street NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L5

Dear Education Minister Adriana LaGrange,

I am NOT in support of Bill 8 and the proposed roll back of Bill 24.

The reasons I am not supporting Bill 8 are as follows:

1. Bill 24 prohibits school staff and administration from disclosing to parents and/or caregivers that a child/youth attends a Gay Straight Alliance Club (GSAs), in order to protect queer youth. Research indicates that queer youth are grossly over represented in Alberta's homeless population. Bill 24 ensures that children who are not certain of their safety are not outed to their parents by the school, which could place them in danger.
2. Bill 24 ensures that the school administration must respond to requests from a student to start a GSA. This is vital to ensure that the needs of queer youth are being addressed quickly and appropriately. Research indicates that queer youth are at VERY HIGH risk for self harm including suicide. Youth that have access to a space that is designed to be supportive of them (such as GSAs) experience drastically reduced rates of self harm, anxiety, depression etc.
3. The proposed new bill lacks protections for staff who are LGBTQIA2S+. This sends a clear message to school administration that they are free to discriminate against educators and support staff based on their sexuality, and it also sends a clear message to youth regarding the government's stance on discrimination based on sexuality.

Please revise this bill to ensure that queer youth have access to support that they need, that they are not being outed to their parents, and so that queer staff will not face losing their jobs due to their sexuality.

Signed