

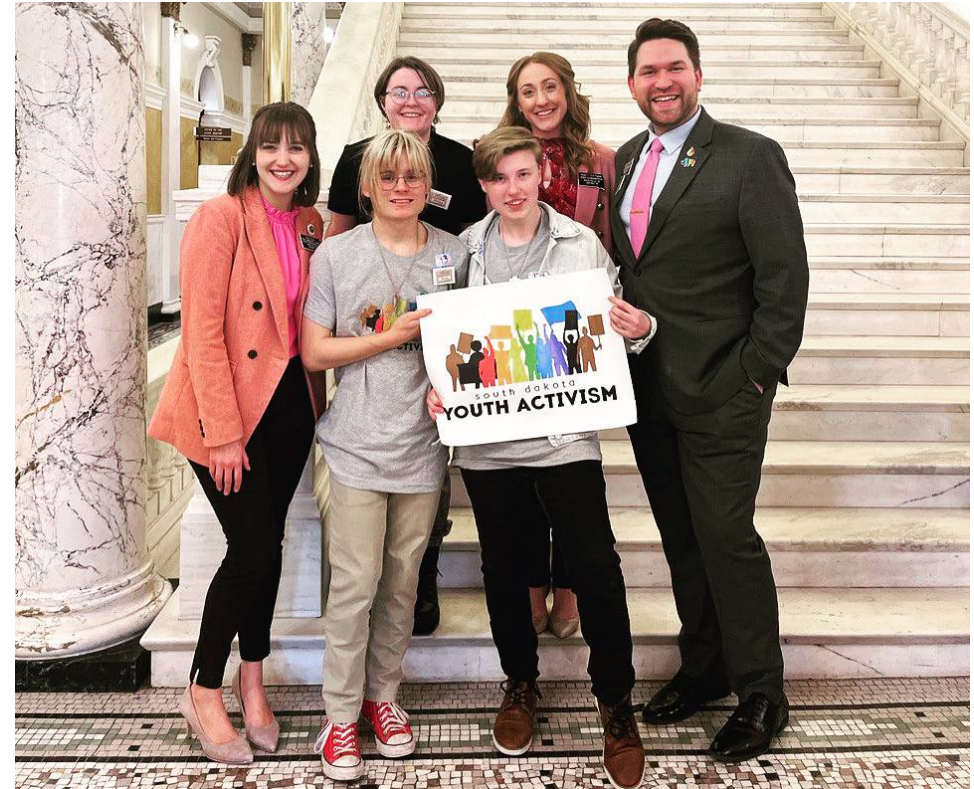


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South Dakota Youth Activism's 2023 Legislative Recap



A look at this year's legislative session and the
political action SDYA took to mitigate harm from
discriminatory legislation



Table of Contents

Senate Bill 191

Foreword.....	2
HB 1125.....	3
HB 1116.....	3
HB 1070.....	4
HB 1163.....	4
HB 1080.....	5
Trans Day of Visibility.....	7
SB 6.....	8
SB 165.....	9
SB 191.....	10

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Senate Bill 165

Foreword

by Perci Ereth

The legislative session started with a flurry of bills - both good and bad. Bills to codify ICWA, protect the rights of pregnant people, support disabled South Dakotans, and advance the support for mental health and substance abuse treatment died, but so did bills to ban drag shows. Passed were bills of our concern - HB1080 being our biggest worry, as well as bills to restrict the voting rights of South Dakotans.

SDYA fought long and hard before the day all bills must have passed from their original chamber, with social media updates, our directors relentlessly emailing, attending cracker barrels and legislative coffees, and our founder Elliott Morehead testifying to the House Health and Human Services committee in opposition to HB1080. Our directors Perci Ereth, Elliott, and member Ayden {name} attended Equality South Dakota's Visibility Day at the Capitol Rotunda no more than a week after the passing of HB1080. There, the group met with legislators, networked with other nonprofits, and connected with other young South Dakotans. Protests that were held across the state after the passing of HB1080 were held by the Transformation Project Advocacy Network, Black Hills Center for Equality, and many more, including SDYA. Director Perci's signs made the local news in Rapid City, made from a place of anguish and reflection of the loss.

While we had wins and losses, SDYA is still here, strong as ever, and determined to spark change in South Dakota.

House Bill 1125

HB 1125 would have added drag to the list of events minors are banned from. it was tabled and effectively failed on 02-13-2023

Senate Bill 6

House Bill 1116

HB1116 originally targeted drag at South Dakota schools and universities. It was later amended to "ban the use of state resources to host lewd and lascivious content", and strikes language related to drag. It failed on 03-02-2023.

The bill originated from social media doctoring and rumors about the annual drag show hosted by the SDSU GSA. This year, the drag show was family-friendly, but footage from years past from 18+ shows surfaced and became misinterpreted as being the 2022 event. No state funds were used to put on the event, as it was held in the Student Union, and paid for by the GSA and the student activity fees each student pays to fund programs and keep the Student Union running.

Trans Day of Visibility

House Bill 1070

HB1070 would create a "Center for American Exceptionalism" on the BHSU Campus. This is a bill of concern because of language implying conservative and potentially nationalistic values through a biased civics education. The bill plans to center around the "We The People" program, a curriculum and debate component focusing on interpreting the constitution and its implications in American society. This program does not heavily focus on how government works or social issues affecting minorities. The center at Black Hills State would develop new curriculum for the state, and likely lead to a skewed opinion in the curriculum.

House Bill 1163

HB1163 looked to create a way to report and review books anyone found "obscene" and lead to censorship and especially target minority representation and stories. Major education organizations across the state testified against it, which led to the bill being killed 02-08-2023.

House Bill 1080

HB1080 was South Dakota's flagship anti-trans bill this year. It aimed to prohibit access to life-saving HRT to anyone under the age of 18.