

## Josh Stein, Governor

## State of North Carolina

## GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 805: AN ACT TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE TWO SEXES IN NORTH CAROLINA, TO PREVENT THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN AND MINORS, TO LIMIT THE USE OF STATE FUNDING, TO MODIFY THE LAW RELATED TO BIRTH CERTIFICATES, TO MODIFY THE LAW RELATED TO CIVIL REMEDIES FOR GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURES ON NON-MINORS, TO ALLOW STUDENTS WITH RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO BE EXCUSED FROM CERTAIN CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS OR ACTIVITIES, AND TO ALLOW PARENT ACCESS TO LIBRARY BOOKS AND TO PROVIDE FOR RESTRICTIONS ON SCHOOL SLEEPING QUARTERS

The initial version of House Bill 805 protected people from being exploited on pornographic websites against their will. I strongly support that policy, which is a continuation of my work to protect children from sex abuse, modernize our sex crime statutes to address artificial intelligence, and eliminate the largest backlog of untested rape kits in the country. Instead of preventing sexual exploitation, the General Assembly chooses to engage in divisive, job-killing culture wars. North Carolina has been down this road before, and it is a dead end. My faith teaches me that we are all children of God no matter our differences and that it is wrong to target vulnerable people, as this legislation does. I stand ready to work with the legislature when it gets serious about protecting people, instead of mean-spirited attempts to further divide us by marginalizing vulnerable North Carolinians.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

Josh Stein Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House on this the  $2^{2}$  day of July 2025, at 10-23 Ar for reconsideration by that body.

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