



March 28, 2023

Dear Member of Congress,

Today LGBTQI+ youth in schools across the country are under attack by lawmakers who seek to exclude and erase communities through transgender athletic bans, curriculum censorship laws, and other discriminatory legislation. The undersigned 148 LGBTQI+, Civil Rights, and K-12 Education organizations urge you to co-sponsor the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools resolution that calls for an end to bias-based discrimination, bullying and harassment, curriculum censorship, and all forms of victimization and erasure of communities in schools.

As educators and advocates from across the country who represent multi-racial, intergenerational LGBTQI+ inclusive organizations, we hear directly from students, their teachers, and families about the impacts of transphobia, homophobia, racism, sexism, and ableism that create toxic and harmful school environments. Findings from GLSEN's 2021 National School Climate Survey indicate that victimization of LGBTQI+ youth in schools remains prevalent and that LGBTQI+ inclusive best practices lead to improved wellness and achievement:

- Schools nationwide are hostile environments for a distressing number of LGBTQI+ students, the overwhelming majority of whom routinely hear anti-LGBTQI+ language and experience victimization and discrimination at school. As a result, many LGBTQI+ students avoid school activities or miss school entirely.
- A hostile school climate affects students' academic success and mental health. LGBTQI+ students who experience victimization and discrimination at school have worse educational outcomes and poorer psychological well-being.
- Transgender students, in general, experienced the most hostile school climates compared to their peers.
- Native and Indigenous LGBTQI+, or Two Spirit, students experienced more hostile school climates than their peers of other racial/ ethnic groups.
- Black students were more likely than most other students to feel unsafe due to their race/ethnicity.
- Over half of all LGBTQI+ students of color experienced in-person victimization based on race/ethnicity.
- Students who feel safe and supported at school have better educational outcomes. LGBTQI+ students who have LGBTQI+ affirming school resources report better school experiences and academic success. Unfortunately, all too many schools fail to provide these critical resources.

The Rise Up resolution calls for an end to the victimization and erasure of LGBTQI+ people in education. Schools must at minimum be safe and ultimately places of liberation where every young person can thrive and reach their full potential. By adopting comprehensive policies that prohibit victimization, supporting GSAs (Gender and Sexuality Alliances or Gay Straight Alliances) and

other youth leadership initiatives, empowering educators and other adult allies to affirm all students, and teaching inclusive curriculum that promotes visibility and representation of all communities that experience marginalization, we can positively transform schools so that all students can learn and teachers can teach.

For additional information or questions, please contact Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan, GLSEN's Director of Public Policy, at Victoria.Rodriguez-Roldan@glsen.org.

Sincerely,
GLSEN
National Education Association
American School Counselor Association
National Association of School Psychologists

Joined by:

National Organizations

AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)
Advocates for Youth
American Association of University Women
American Atheists
American Federation of Teachers
American Humanist Association
American Psychological Association
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Association for Middle Level Education
Athlete Ally
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Council of Administrators of Special Education
EDGE Consulting Partners
EducateUS: SIECUS In Action
Equality Federation
Family Equality
Fast-Track Cities Institute
Feminist Majority Foundation
FORGE, Inc.
GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD)
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality
Healthy Teen Network
Human Rights Campaign

interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth
Lambda Legal
Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund
Movement Advancement Project
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National LGBTQ+ Bar Association
National Organization for Women
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Political Caucus
Oasis Legal Services
PFLAG National
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Plume
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
The Education Trust
TransFamily Support Services
Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering (T.A.K.E.)
Transgender Resource Education and Enrichment Services-TREES, Inc.
TransYouth Liberation
Unitarian Universalist Association

State & Local Organizations

Ace and Aro Alliance of Central Ohio
Arizona Association of School Psychologists
Asociación de Psicología Escolar de Puerto Rico
Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania
CA LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
Central Valley Pride
Charlotte Trans Health
Colorado Children's Campaign
Connecticut Association of School Psychologists
Connecticut School Counselor Association
Delaware Association of School Psychologists
Diversity Center of Oklahoma Inc
Eastern PA Trans Equity Project
Education Law Center-PA
Equality California
Equality Nevada
Equality Virginia
Equitas Health

EyesOpenIowa
Fairness WV
FAIRNY
Florida School Counselor Association
Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center
Great Lakes Bay Pride
Henderson Equality Center
Indiana Association of School Psychologists
Indiana School Counselor Association
Inside Out Youth Services
Iowa School Psychologists Association
Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition
Lexington Pride Center
LGBTQ Center OC
LGBTQ+ Community Center of Southern Nevada
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Louisville Youth Group
Maine School Counselor Association
Massachusetts School Counselors Association
Massachusetts School Psychologists Association
Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH)
Michigan School Counselor Association
Missouri School Counselor Association
Muncie OUTreach
National Association of Social Workers - NJ Chapter
New Haven Pride Center
New York State School Counselor Association (NYSSCA)
North Carolina School Counselor Association (NCSCA)
North County LGBTQ Resource Center
North Dakota Human Rights Coalition
North Las Vegas Equality Center
North Shore Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth (NAGLY)
NY LGBT Network
Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
Ohio School Counselor Association
Omaha ForUs LGBTQ+ Center
One In Long Beach, Inc.
one-n-ten
OutCenter Southwest Michigan
OutNebraska
Outright Vermont
Pacific Center for Human Growth
Pacific Pride Foundation

Pride Center of Staten Island
Pride Community Center of North Central Florida
Pride Community Center, Inc
PRISM FL, Inc
PROMO
Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance
Resource Center
Rockland County Pride Center
Roots of Change
Sacramento LGBT Community Center
San Diego Pride
Seacoast Outright (Portsmouth, NH)
Side by Side Virginia, Inc.
Silver State Equality-Nevada
SMYAL
Spencer Pride, Inc.
St. Louis Queer+ Support Helpline
Stonewall Alliance of Chico
Stonewall Columbus, Inc
Sussex Pride
The Atlanta Pride Committee
The LGBT Center of Greater Reading
The Pride Center at Equality Park
The Rep Room
Transcend the Binary
Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico (TGRCNM)
TransVisible Montana
Unity House
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance (UGLA)
Utah Association of School Psychologists
We Are Family
Wisconsin School Counselor Association
Youth Pride, Inc.

GLSEN State & Local Chapters

GLSEN Albuquerque
GLSEN Arkansas
GLSEN Austin
GLSEN Bluegrass
GLSEN Bucks County
GLSEN Central New Jersey
GLSEN Central Ohio

GLSEN Collier County
GLSEN Connecticut
GLSEN Greater Cincinnati
GLSEN Greater Fort Wayne
GLSEN Greater Huntsville
GLSEN Greater Kansas City
GLSEN Green Bay
GLSEN Kansas
GLSEN Los Angeles
GLSEN Lower Hudson Valley
GLSEN Maryland
GLSEN Massachusetts
GLSEN Merced
GLSEN Mid-Hudson
GLSEN New Hampshire
GLSEN Northeast Ohio
GLSEN Northern New Jersey
GLSEN Northern Utah
GLSEN Northern Virginia
GLSEN Northwest Ohio
GLSEN Omaha
GLSEN Oregon
GLSEN Philly
GLSEN Phoenix
GLSEN Richmond
GLSEN San Diego County
GLSEN Southeast Michigan
GLSEN Southern New Jersey
GLSEN Tampa Bay
GLSEN Tennessee
GLSEN Upstate New York
GLSEN Washington State