

Queer Youth Assemble Against Anti-Queer Legislation

Queer Youth Assemble stands united against legislative attacks on the rights of queer and transgender youth in the United States. We are taking back queer youth autonomy one walkout at a time. Explore this living document to find further information, including resources on contacting legislators, signing petitions, volunteering with organizations, and donating to mutual aid funds.

Overview

Anti-LGBTQ bills and sentiments have been popping up all over the nation. This trend can be traced back to the “bathroom bills” that began in 2017 and primarily targeted trans women and girls’ right to use the correct restrooms. In recent years, the focus has shifted to targeting LGBTQ youth, particularly trans youth, and our access to school sports, bathrooms, gender-affirming healthcare, LGBTQ-inclusive education, and our right not to be outed. Our walk-out is in response to a few of these attacks in particular.

1. “Don’t Say Gay” Bill, Florida

- Officially titled HB1557 – Parental Rights in Education [[full text here](#)]
- Passed a Florida House of Representatives committee in January and passed a Florida State Senate committee on 2/22. Passed Florida House 2/24.
- What It Does
 - Bans school districts from including LGBTQ topics that are “not age-appropriate” in lesson plans, but doesn’t define what “age-appropriate” means
 - Requires school districts to out LGBTQ students
 - Encourages parents to sue school districts that they believe violate the law
- Why It Matters
 - Isolates and stigmatizes LGBTQ students
 - Creates fear for teachers working to build inclusive environments
 - In practice, may prevent **any** discussion of LGBTQ topics in Florida schools

2. Governor Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton, Texas

- Paxton’s opinion letter published 2/21, Abbott’s directive published 2/23
- What It Says
 - Gov Abbott publicized his interpretation of Texas child abuse laws, saying that trans-affirming healthcare for minors, including puberty blockers and HRT, is child abuse

- IT IS NOT LAW, just an interpretation that is approved and supported by the Governor and Attorney General
 - District Attorneys from several Texas districts are refusing to follow the directive
 - Requires doctors, teachers, schools to report trans youth receiving affirming healthcare (anyone considered a mandated reporter)
 - Asks Department of Family and Protective Services to investigate families of trans youth
- Why It Matters
 - Criminalizes trans youth and supportive families
 - Child abuse allegations potentially lead to trans youth being removed from supportive homes

Information

- <https://freedomforallamericans.org/legislative-tracker/anti-transgender-legislation/>
- **State specific**
 - <https://transequality.org/texasactioncenter>
 - <https://www.equalitytexas.org/legislative-bill-tracker/>
- **Importance/safety/efficacy of gender affirming treatment**
 - <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31751300/>
 - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6647755/>
 - <https://www.aclu.org/news/lgbtq-rights/doctors-agree-gender-affirming-care-is-life-saving-care/>
 - <https://consultqd.clevelandclinic.org/gender-affirming-hormone-therapy-improves-body-dissatisfaction-in-youth/>
 - <https://www.columbiapsychiatry.org/news/gender-affirming-care-saves-lives>
- **Trans people in sports**
 - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5357259/>
- **Trans people and bathrooms**
 - <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsoc.2021.652777/full>
 - <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/Trans-People-Bathroom-Access-July-2016.pdf>
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/06/health/trans-teens-bathroom-policies-sexual-assault-study/index.html>
 - <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/trans-teens-face-higher-sexual-assault-risk-when-schools-restrict-n1002601>

Contacting Legislators

- <https://pinkmantaray.com/emailtemplates>
- <https://www.transathlete.com/take-action>
 - <https://www.transathlete.com/florida>

- <https://transequality.org/state-action-center>
- <https://secure.transequality.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=141>

Petitions

- https://act.hrc.org/page/95180/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=sm_gnr_US_2022
- <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-assault-on-trans-youth/>
- <https://gaycenter.org/demandjustice/>
- <https://secondday.org/petitions-to-support-trans-lives>
- <https://www.lambdalegal.org/petition/transstudents>

Organizations

- **Texas**
 - <https://www.texashealthinstitute.org/transgender-health.html>
 - <https://txtranshealth.org/>
 - <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-greater-texas/patient-resources/transgender-healthcare>
 - <https://www.phntx.org/services/transgender-care/>
 - <https://www.burslflc.com/health-care-resources-in-texas-2/>
 - <https://www.transtexas.org/>
- **Florida**
 - <https://www.burslflc.com/health-care-resources-in-florida-and-georgia/>
 - <https://www.eqfl.org/transactionfl>
 - <https://ufhealth.org/transgender-health-resources>
 - <https://www.metrotampabay.org/health/trans-services/>

Mutual Aid Funds

- <https://transequality.org/covid19/mutual-aid-and-emergency-funds>
- <https://lgbtfunders.org/covid-19-response/>
- <https://translifeline.org/resource/mutual-aid-funds-public-assistance/>
- <https://itsgoingdown.org/c19-mutual-aid/>
- <https://transemergencyfund.org/>

Resources

- <https://www.pointofpride.org/get-support>