



Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation and its Effects on Homelessness

Tuesday, May 7th, 2024

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Advocacy

**Youth
Housing
Initiative**

**Race
Equity**



OHIO

Balance of State
Continuum of Care



COHHIO

Training and
Technical Assistance



COHHIO

Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio



COHHIO

Homeless Management
Information System

Housing Ohio
conference

**SOAR
Ohio**

**Fair Housing
& Tenant
Information**



Healthy Beginnings
At Home



Kaleidoscope Youth Center & **Equality** Ohio

Anti-LGBTQ Legislation and its Effects on Homelessness

Belonging Begins Here

Kaleidoscope Youth Center is the largest and longest serving organization in Ohio solely dedicated to serving and supporting LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults.





We at Kaleidoscope Youth Center believe that all people, no matter how young, are the experts in their own experiences and should have control over their own private lives and their own futures.

Who is Equality Ohio?

Equality Ohio identifies and transforms systems and institutions so LGBTQ+ Ohioans can fully access legal and lived equality. We envision an Ohio where people are welcome, affirmed and flourishing. We do this through:

- Statehouse and Agency Advocacy
 - Municipal Policy Work
 - Free Legal Clinic
- Public Education Programming

We are always here as a resource! You can ask us anything in a **judgement-free space** because we are here to help you become a full supporter of LGBTQ equality.

Discrimination in Ohio Schools

LGBTQ students in Ohio are regularly prevented from:



Using their chosen name or gender pronouns



Wearing certain types of clothing in school



Using the restroom or locker room that aligns with their gender



Including LGBTQ+ themes in assignments and/or extracurriculars



Expressing PDA in school



Playing school sports due to an LGBTQ+ identity

Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination means:

- more missed school
- lower GPAs
- lower self-esteem

Source: 2019 National School Climate Survey
Learn more at glsen.org/nscs

GLSEN[®]





HB 8 Summary

HB 8 would establish a **fundamental right to parents to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care** of the child. The bill then prescribes specific obligations for schools with parental involvement. After being amended *three times*, HB 8 goes far beyond than protecting parental rights. It **adds broad curriculum censorship** reminiscent of the “Don’t Say Gay or Trans” bills from Florida. It **adds a new definition of sex** to *undermine existing civil rights protections for* LGBTQ+ people, and **creates disclosure and alternative curriculum rules** for teachers and counselors that leave educators with conflicting rules. It is a **total ban on “sexuality content”**.

HB 8 Summary

- **Adds a definition of sex** that specifically contradicts Supreme Court laws, and undermines existing LGBTQ+ discrimination for employees
- The bill prohibits **“sexuality content”** that is not **“age appropriate”**, **developmentally appropriate**, or **sexually appropriate** **“sexual concepts or gender ideology.”** Sexual concepts and gender ideology
- Specifies that parental consent to health care services does not waive a student’s right to access their child’s educational or health records or to be notified about their child’s student’s services or monitoring.
 - Amendments added a specific explicit **requirement for counselors and teachers to out a student** that questions their gender identity or sexual orientation with limited exceptions. **Even in situations in which there is fear of abuse.**
 - Requires that schools address any written parental complaints related to the bill within 30 days through a **complaint process, which can be elevated to a school board hearing if not resolved.**
 - Most recent sub bill adds a definition for **“developmentally appropriate”**



“sexual

Definition of Sex: The Campaign Undermine LGBTQ+ Legal Protect



The bill adds a definition of “biological sex”, which they define as sex assigned at birth in order to directly undermine the *Bostock* SCOTUS decision authored by conservative Justice Gorsuch and declared that the basis of sex includes sexual orientation and gender identity. This has shown up in several other recent anti-LGBTQ+ bills.

...And the definition of sex has nothing to do with your parental rights.
no reason to have definition of sex in a bill about parents rights



“Sexuality Content” is a Gateway to

● **Censorship**

- **Confuses LGBTQ+ identities with Sexual Content.** This bill defines “sexual content” as any oral or written instruction, presentation, or communication of sexual concepts or gender ideology.
- The replacement of “**sexually explicit content**” with “**sexuality content**” **including “gender ideology”** allows for much easier weaponization and censorship of LGBTQ+ students or educators.
- **Requires teachers to provide an alternative curriculum for topics that are being subjected to a subjective standard, and their failure to interpret correctly could result in their reprimand.** This could be reported to a parent or signal parent who then can subject a teacher to a formal complaint and put the teacher’s job in jeopardy.

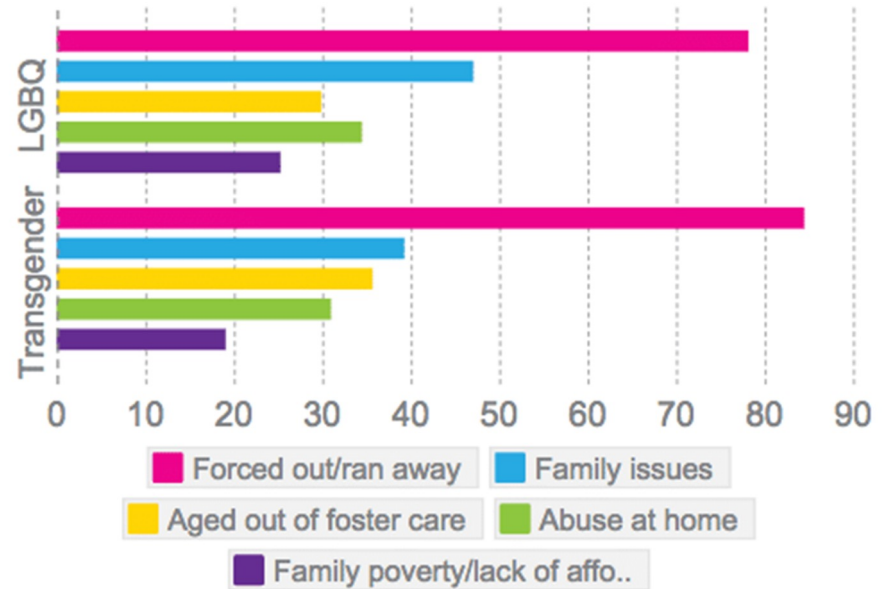
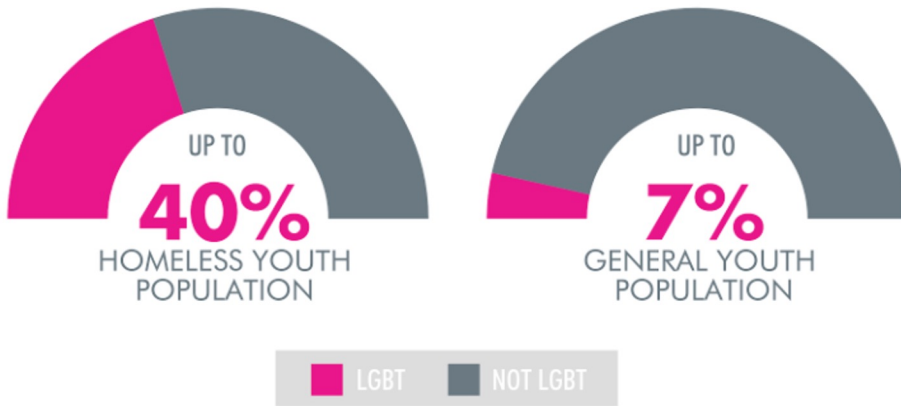


While many students are open about their LGBTQIA+ identity at school, **only 21% are out at home.**

2/3 of LGBTQIA+ students have heard family members making negative comments about LGBTQIA+ people

Privacy and confidentiality are extremely important

★ Housing Insecurity

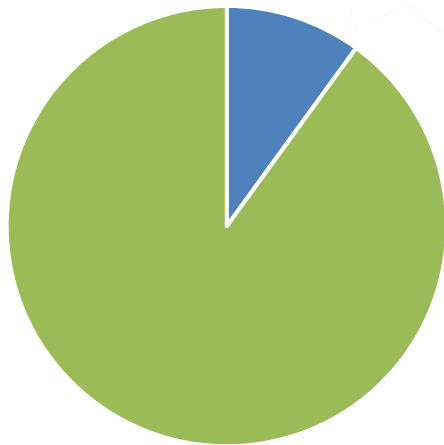


Morton, M. H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (2018). (rep.). *Missed Opportunities: LGBTQ Youth Homelessness in America*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

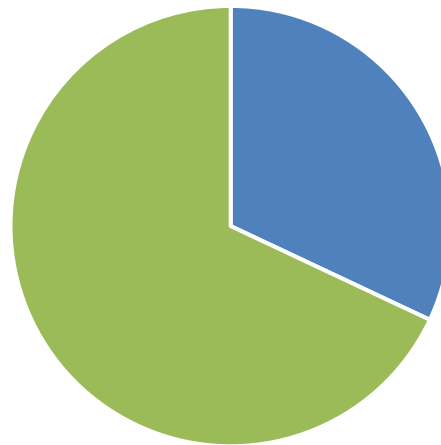


Experiences in Foster Care

Youth in the USA Youth in Foster Care



■ LGBTQ+ ■ Cisgender/Heterosexual



■ LGBTQ+ ■ Cisgender/Heterosexual

Matarese, M., Greeno, E., Weeks, A., Hammond, P. (2021). *The Cuyahoga youth count: A report on LGBTQ+ youth's experience in foster care*. Baltimore, MD: The Institute for Innovation & Implementation, University of Maryland School of Social Work.



★ Housing Insecurity



38% of transgender girls/women

39% of transgender boys/men

35% of nonbinary youth

report experiencing homelessness and/or housing instability compared to 23% of cisgender LGBTQ youth



LGB Youth who come from **highly rejecting families** are **8.4 times** as likely to have attempted suicide as their **LGB** peers who reported **no or low levels** of family rejection

Each episode of LGBT victimization increases the likelihood of self-harming behaviors by 2.5 times.

Ryan, C., Huebner, D., Diaz, R. M., & Sanchez, J. (2009). Family rejection as a predictor of negative health outcomes in white and Latino Lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults. *Pediatrics*, 123(1), 346–352. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2007-3524>




In 2021, over one quarter (26.3%) of **LGB** high school students reported attempting suicide in the prior 12 months.

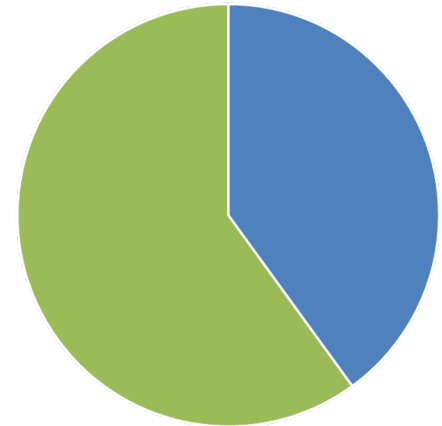
That rate was **five times higher** than the rate reported among heterosexual students.

Overall, 45% of **LGBTQ** youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, compared with 22% of youth overall.

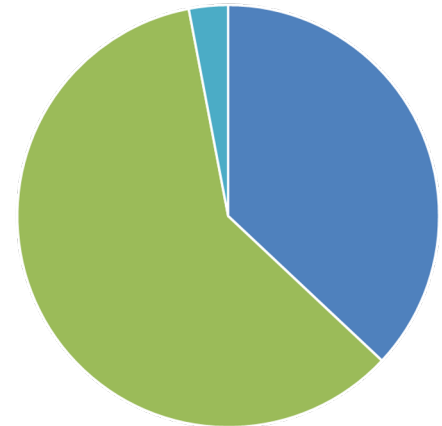
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2023, May 9). *Disparities in suicide*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/facts/disparities-in-suicide.html>



In a national study, **40% of transgender adults** reported having made a suicide attempt.



92% of these individuals reported having attempted suicide before the age of 25.



James, S.E., Herman, J.L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality.

Support the Coming Out Process

Thanks for
trusting me with
this information!

Is this common
knowledge or
confidential?

How can I
support you?



HB 68 Summary; GAC

House Bill 68 is a total ban on gender affirming care for minors in Ohio referrals for mental health care treatment. The bill exempts intersex people and unnecessary surgeries. The bill creates significant liability for medical professionals with a **20 year statute of limitations** (5X the typical medical malpractice statute of limitations).

- **Prohibits physicians** from prescribing hormone blockers and hormone therapy treatment in patients **under 18**, and from performing or beginning “gender reassignment surgery” or surgical interventions.
- **Prohibits mental health professionals** from “diagnosing or treating a gender-related condition” without first getting parental consent **and** screening for “comorbidities, abuses, and traumas”.



HB 68 Summary; GAC

House Bill 68 bans gender affirming medical care for trans youth, restricts mental health care TGNC youth.

- **Prohibits physicians** from referring patients **under 18** to a mental health professional for a diagnosis of gender-related condition without disclosing to the patient and their guardian(s).
- **Creates penalties** for physicians and mental health professionals who violate the bill's prohibitions.
- **Prohibits political subdivisions** from prohibiting conversion therapy that discourages any divergence between gender identity and biological sex.
- **Prohibits courts**, when ruling on child custody cases, from considering or taking into account positions or stances related to gender dysphoria.

HB 68 Summary; Sports Ban

House Bill 68 bans transgender girls and women from participating in K

- **Creates a private right of action** aimed at OHSAA, NCAA, and schools not complying with Title IX with a two year statute of limitations.
- **Does not** explicitly state how “sex” is defined or verified.



HB 68; TRO

- The House and Senate overrode Governor DeWine's veto in January.
- HB68 was set to take effect on April 24th.
- Lawsuit filed by ACLU Ohio on March 26, 2024.
- TRO requested by the ACLU of Ohio; granted by Judge Holbrook.
- The TRO will remain in effect until the hearing on the plaintiff's motion for injunction (May 16th).



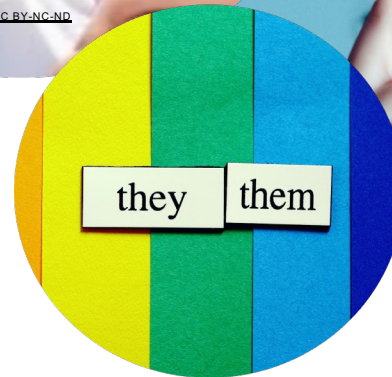
Avoid Assumptions

We don't assume name, please don't assume gender, pronoun, relationship, or family type.

Using gender neutral language wherever possible can help!



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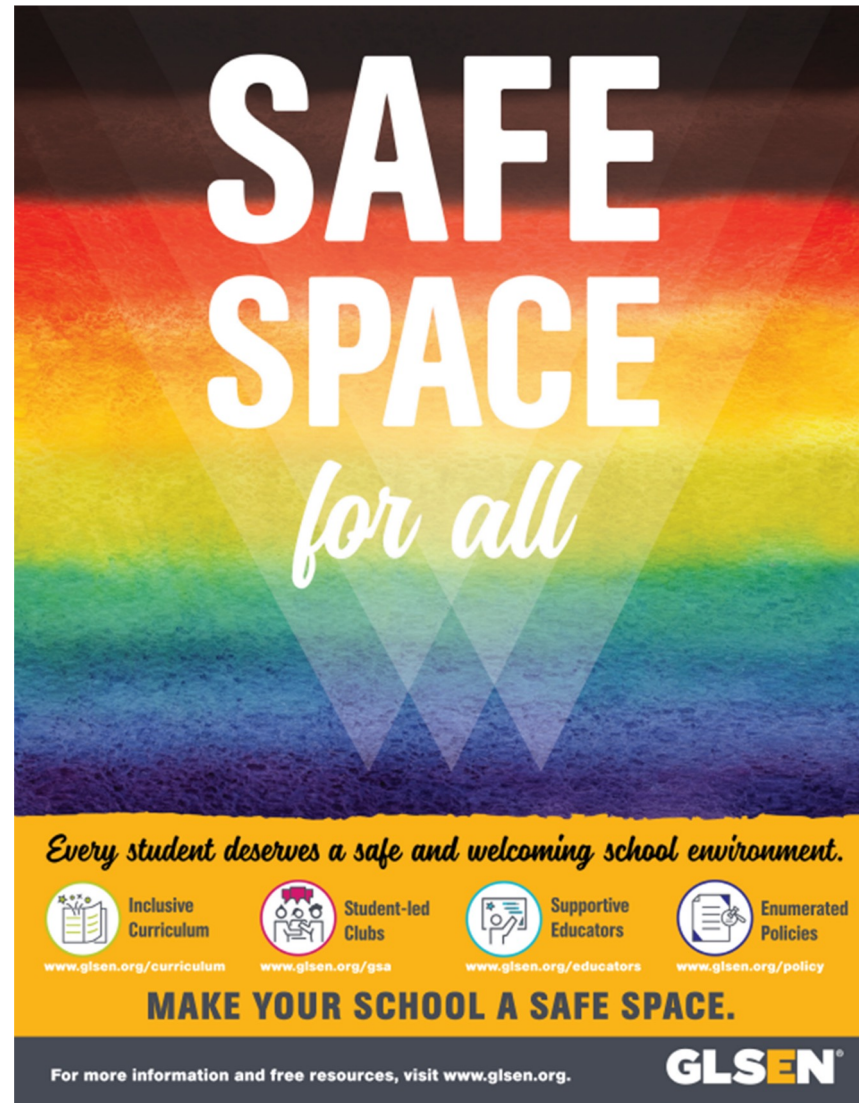


The Importance of Being a “Visible Ally”

- Pronouns in introductions, on nametags, etc.
- Pride flags, posters, pins
- “Safe Space” or “Safe Zone” signage
- Anti-discrimination policy on display at entry




Visible Allyship

Meaningful Allyship



SAFE SPACE
for all

Every student deserves a safe and welcoming school environment.

 Inclusive Curriculum www.glsen.org/curriculum	 Student-led Clubs www.glsen.org/gsa	 Supportive Educators www.glsen.org/educators	 Enumerated Policies www.glsen.org/policy
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MAKE YOUR SCHOOL A SAFE SPACE.

For more information and free resources, visit www.glsen.org.

GLSEN

HB 183 Summary

House Bill 183 seeks to limit the usage of school restrooms, locker rooms, shower rooms, on the basis of sex assigned at birth.

- **Prohibits kindergarten through higher education institutions** from allowing access to single-person facilities that **do not correspond with the sex listed on their original birth certificate.**
 - **Allows** schools to have **co-ed access to single-person facilities.**
 - Provides a **narrow exception for children under 10** accompanying a parent or guardian, or assisting a **person with a disability.**
- **Prohibits sharing overnight accommodations** with someone with a different sex than their original birth certificate.
- **Defines “biological sex”** as being male or female, in accordance with a person’s original birth record, and doesn’t acknowledge intersex people.
- Would **directly conflict with federal Title IX** protections for transgender students.



Definition of Sex: The Plan to Undermine Nondiscrimination Protections

The “definition of sex” language in this bill **mirrors the language in several transgender bills** being considered in this General Assembly.

The proposed language **directly conflicts with the 2020 Supreme Court decision in *Clayton County***, which was authored by conservative Justice Gorsuch and prohibits discriminating on the basis of someone’s gender identity or sexual orientation. **discrimination on the basis of sex.**

This conflict of law is no accident, and is part of a concerted effort to legislate against LGBTQ+ people.



Government Overreach is Bad, A

- **Even adults would be subjected to restroom policies decided by legislators.** This bill expands into higher education - regulating the bathroom in undergraduate, graduate programs, and possibly other
- **This bill would functionally require a stricter ID to use a bathroom than needed to vote.** There's no reason to require a birth certificate to use a bathroom.
- **Harmful bills like this deter businesses from investing in Ohio and workers from moving here.** We've got so many amazing small businesses here, who are always trying to recruit an energetic, talented workforce. A bill like this will only harm those efforts.



All-gender restrooms are important resources for those who don't feel safe in a gendered restroom.

Consider **privacy** in a locker room situation, or another space where participants may need to change their clothes.



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Ensure that anti-discrimination (or anti-bullying) policies are specific about who they protect.

Comprehensive policies list sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, not *just* gender.

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

Kosciw, J.G., Clark, C.M, and Menard, L. (2022). *The 2021 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in our nation's schools*. New York: GLSEN.



Other Bills to Watch

HB 245: “Prohibits certain adult cabaret performances”

HB 295: “Innocence Act”

HB 113: “Detrans Awareness Day”

HB 240: “Allows public schools to employ chaplains”



The Committee Process

All legislation dies at the end of the two year General Assembly period (23-24). This is the 135th New General Assemblies have some new and some returning lawmakers, new bill numbers, and committee assignments.

Major busy periods: Deliberations on the State's Two-Year Operating Budget (Feb-June first GA) and the end of the session (Lame Duck (end of GA, Nov-Dec).

A Bill is Introduced

A bill is introduced and assigned a number.

Each bill then waits to be assigned to a committee by Rules and Reference Committee.

Bill is Referred to Committee

A bill has a first, sponsor testimony hearing. Sponsor lawmakers have a chance to talk about why they are bringing the bill forward.

Every bill introduced by May 1 of the GA's second year is required to have this hearing.

Committee Hearings 2-?*

1st: Sponsor
2nd: Proponent
3rd: Opponent
4th: Interested Party/All Testimony
5th-?*: Any Additional Needs. Bill is then starred (*) for a vote.





The Committee Process

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Major busy periods: Budget (Feb-June first GA year), Lame Duck (end of GA, Nov-Dec).

Second Chamber

Note: bills can get amended at any point in the committee process or on the floor of either chamber.

Bill is Referred to Committee

A bill has a first, sponsor testimony hearing. Sponsor lawmakers have a chance to talk about why it is a good bill.

Every bill is required to have this hearing.



Committee Hearings 2-?*

1st: Sponsor
2nd: Proponent
3rd: Opponent
4th: Interested Party/All Testimony
5th-?*: Any Additional Needs. Bill is then starred (*) for a vote.

Who can give testimony



Anyone. Anyone, including minors, may testify in front of the legislature. You do not have to reside in Ohio currently, but real tangible connections to Ohio make for the most impactful testimony.

Considerations when deciding if testimony is the right path for you:

- **All testimony is public record**, searchable, and remains on the legislature website. You may be contacted by press afterward and your in-person testimony is live-streamed.
- **You may use a nickname, a chosen name, or a pseudo name if you are uncomfortable using your legal name.** Testimony does not require the use of your legal name.
- **If you are a minor, we strongly suggest coming with a supportive adult or a close friend.** A parent or legal guardian should, if possible, also give information on the witness slip as well as attend in-person.
- **People with strong connections to Ohio are by far the most persuasive messengers.** If you are currently living outside of the state, explain your connection to the state, or why Ohio is important to you, clearly in the testimony.

Two Testimony Options



1

Written Only

2

**In-Person &
Written
Testimony**

1

Written Only

- Email completed **Witness Slip & PDF of Testimony** to Chair
- **Submit 24 hours before via email** to email on the committee notice
- Write "**Written Only**" in "How long will this take" section. Make a note that your testimony is written in the subject line and body of the email, as well.
- You're done!

2

In-Person & Written Testimony

- Tell an EO Staff Member you'll be there
- Email completed **Witness slip & PDF of Testimony** to Chair & Ranking Member
Submit 24 Hours Before via email to the email on the committee notice.
- Write "**5 minutes**" in "how long will this take" section.
- Show up about an **hour early**





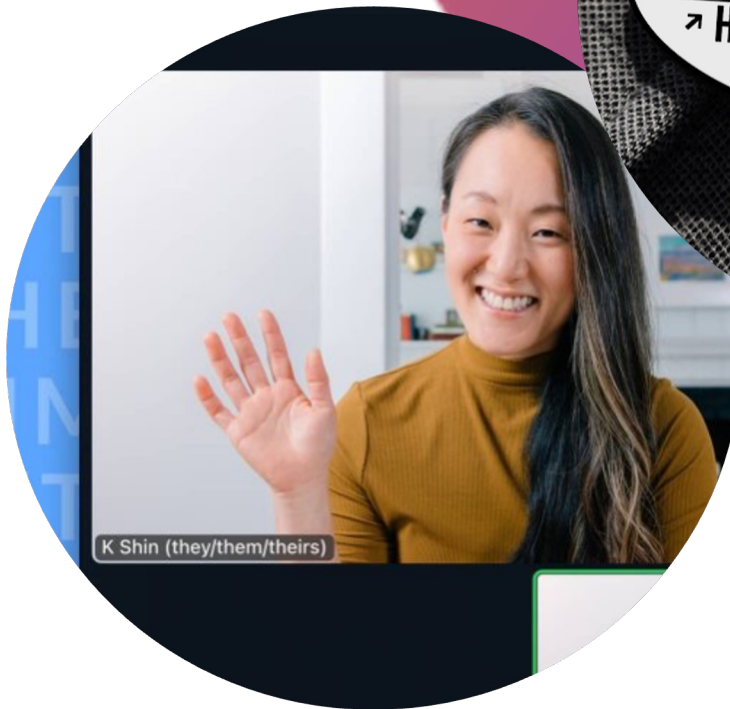
Appreciate and understand the diversity within the LGBTQIA+ community.

There is no one-size-fits-all!

Amanda Erickson (she/her)
Director of Education & Outreach



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Call Out Negative Behavior

1. Immediately
2. Name it
3. Make it a teachable moment
4. Support the target
5. Hold aggressors accountable
6. Encourage them to hold each other accountable



Action Steps



What are **TWO individual changes you can make** moving forward to cultivate spaces of affirmation and belonging for LGBTQIA+ people in your life?

What are **TWO organizational or societal changes you can advocate for** moving forward?

Contact Us



614-294-5437



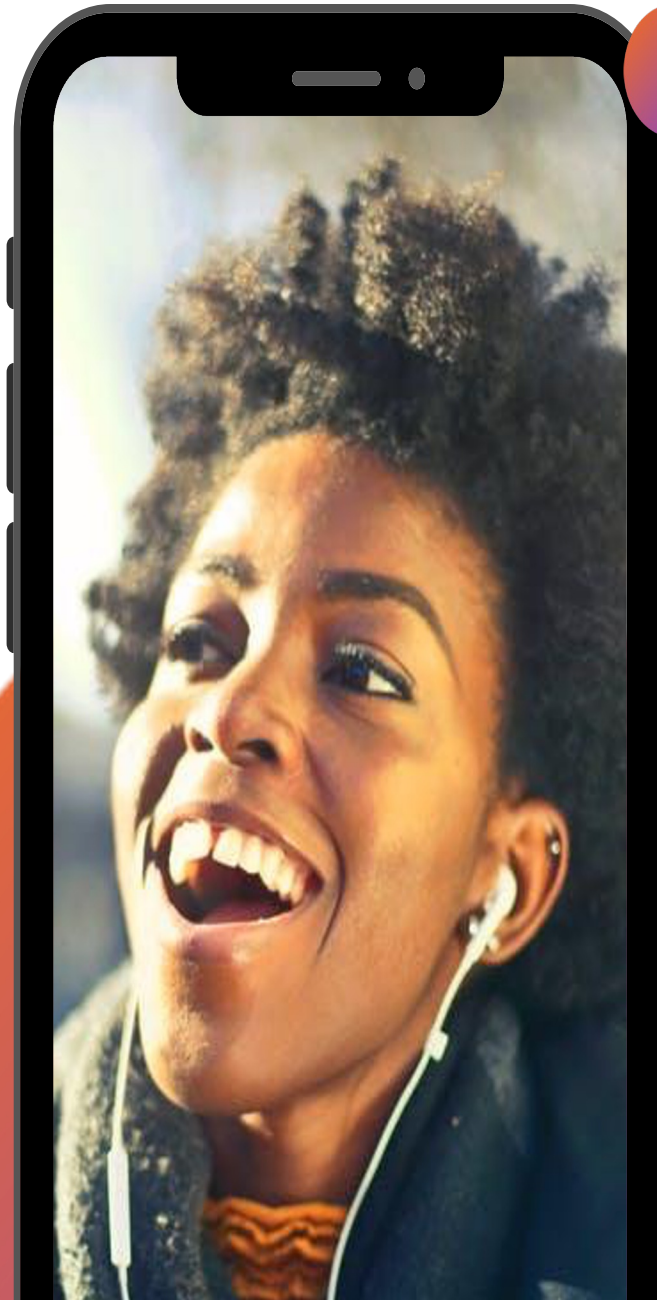
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Questions?

We are always here as a resource.

Facebook: Equality Ohio

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TikTok: EqualityOhio

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