The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

1620 L Street, NW Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20036

202.466.3311 voice 202.466.3435 fax www.civilrights.org



June 22, 2022

In Support of Full Inclusion for Transgender and All LGBTQI+ Youth: An Open Letter from the Civil and Human Rights Community

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 230 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and the 150 undersigned organizations, we call for the full inclusion, protection, and celebration of transgender and non-binary youth, including access to extracurricular activities such as athletics and to school facilities, safe and inclusive school environments, accurate and inclusive curriculum, and gender-affirming school health services. We reject the bigoted, ignorant, mean-spirited, and discriminatory policies currently being considered by far too many state legislatures that seek to exclude transgender people and make these members of our communities invisible. Targeting and excluding transgender students from participation in school programming, including athletics programs, alongside their cisgender¹ peers is harmful to all students and undermines the learning environment for everyone. If schools mark some students effectively as outcasts, they foster an environment where no student is included and safe.

Currently, there is an unprecedented wave of proposed and enacted laws across the country that aim to make participating in school intolerable for LGBTQI+ students and especially transgender students. These laws aim to shut transgender youth out of school activities such as sports, to ban them from school facilities such as restrooms, to prohibit discussion of their very existence in classrooms, and to punish educators and families who help young people access necessary gender-affirming care.² These proposals seek to punish and harm a

content/uploads/2020/11/LGBTQCulturalCompetencyTerminologyWorkbook-10-10-11.pdf, https://transequality.org/issues/resources/frequently-asked-questions-about-transgender-people and https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/GLSEN%20Terms%20and%20Concepts%20Thematic.pdf.

Officers Chair Judith L. Lichtman National Partnership for Women and Families Vice Chairs Derrick Johnson NAACP Thomas A. Saenz Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund Secretary Fatima Goss Graves National Women's Law Center Treasurer Lee A. Saunders American Federation of State, AAUW

County and Municipal Employees Board of Directors Gloria L. Blackwell Ray Curry International Union, UAW Jocelyn Frye National Partnership for Women and Families Jonathan Greenblatt Anti-Defamation League Mary Kay Henry Service Employees International Union Damon Hewitt Lawvers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law Sherrilyn Ifill NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. David H. Inoue Japanese American Citizens League Benjamin Jealous People for the American Way Virginia Kase Solomón League of Women Voters of the United States Samer E. Khalaf American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Joni Madison Human Rights Campaign Marc Morial National Urban League Janet Murguía UnidosUS Christian F. Nunes National Organization for Women Rabbi Jonah Pesner Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism Rebecca Pringle National Education Association Lisa Rice National Fair Housing Alliance Anthony Romero American Civil Liberties Union Liz Shuler AFL-CIO Fawn Sharp National Congress of American Indians Maria Town American Association of People with Disabilities Randi Weingarten American Federation of Teachers John C. Yang Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AA.IC

President and CEO Mava Wilev

¹ Transgender people are people whose gender identity is different from the gender they were thought to be at birth. Cisgender people are people whose gender identity is the same as the gender assigned at birth. For more information see: https://nbjc.org/wp-

 $^{^{2}}$ There are more than 150 bills active in state legislatures targeting transgender students, including the restriction of healthcare for transgender youth, single-sex facility restrictions, the exclusion of transgender youth from athletics, other school or curriculum restrictions, and restrictions on accessing accurate identification. Source: ACLU, Legislation Affecting LGBTQ Rights Across the Country (May 13, 2022), available at https://www.aclu.org/legislation-affecting-lgbtq-rights-across-country

June 22, 2022 Page 2 of 10



population of young people already marginalized by stigma, bullying, and harassment.^{3,4,5} We, the civil and human rights community, support the full inclusion and protection of transgender and non-binary youth. We are fortunate that transgender people are present in our community, and we fully embrace them as members of our community. As organizations that care deeply about ending sex-based discrimination and ensuring equal educational opportunities, we support laws and policies that protect transgender people from discrimination, including participation in sports, access to gender-affirming care, access to school facilities, and access to inclusive curriculum. We firmly believe that an attack on transgender youth is an attack on civil rights.

A multitude of bills seeking to exclude transgender youth and youth born with intersex traits from athletics would harm both cisgender and transgender girls and women, particularly Black and Brown girls and women.^{6,7} These laws are likely to violate both the U.S. Constitution and Title IX, putting states' federal educational funding in jeopardy. We reject the suggestion that girls and women who are cisgender benefit from the exclusion of girls and women who are transgender or intersex.⁸ State leaders who care

³ National Center for Transgender Equality, *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey* 4, 11 (2017) [USTS Report], *available at* <u>http://www.ustranssurvey.org/reports</u>

⁴ Sixteen states have passed laws barring transgender students from participating on the school athletic team or program that aligns with their gender identities and many have implemented discriminatory regulations. GLSEN. (2022). GLSEN Navigator: Trans and Nonbinary Athletic Inclusion Policies. Available at: <u>https://maps.glsen.org/trans-and-nonbinary-athletic-inclusion-policies/</u> (Accessed May 4, 2022)

GLSEN, Gender Affirming and Inclusive Athletics Participation (May 2022), available at <u>https://www.glsen.org/activity/gender-affirming-inclusive-athletics-participation</u>.

⁵ One state has passed an anti-trans bathroom bill prohibiting transgender students from using the school bathroom that aligns with their gender identities and six other states introduced similar bills. Alabama's anti-trans bathroom bill was signed into law in April 2022 (see H.B. 322). Other bills introduced in 2022 include: H.B.2314 (Arizona); S.F.224 (Iowa); S.B.1249 (Oklahoma); S.B.1164 (Oklahoma); H.B.1005 (South Dakota); H.B. 1126 (Virginia); H.B.3199 (West Virginia). With the exception of West Virginia, these bills also prohibit use of the locker rooms that align with students' gender identities. ⁶ List of bills active in state legislatures excluding transgender students from athletics:

H.B. 230 (Arkansas); S.B. 1046, S.B. 1165 (Arizona); S.B 227 (Delaware); H.B. 7 (Florida); H.B. 276, H.B. 372, S.B. 266, S.B. 435 (Georgia); H.B. 1304 (Hawaii); H.F. 184, H.F. 2309, H.F. 2416, S.F. 2342 (Iowa); H.B. 1041 (Indiana); S.B. 208, S.B. 484 (Kansas); H.B. 23, H.B. 247, S.B. 83 (Kentucky); S.B. 44 (Louisiana); H.B. 0757 (Maryland); S.B. 218, (Michigan); H.F. 350, H.F. 352, H.F. 1657, H.F. 4282 (Minnesota); S.B. 740, H.B. 2461, H.B. 2735, H.B. 2734, H.B. 2140, H.B. 1973 (Missouri); S.B. 2111, S.B. 2310 (Mississippi); H.B. 198 (New Hampshire); A 1630, S. 589 (New Jersey); H.B. 61, S.B. 132 (Ohio); S.B. 331, S.B. 2, H.B. 4245 (Oklahoma); H.B. 972 (Pennsylvania); S. 2501 (Rhode Island); S.B. 531, H.B. 4608, H.B. 3477 (South Carolina); H.B. 1006, S.B. 46 (South Dakota); H.B. 1894, S.B. 1862, S.B. 2153, H.B. 2316, H.B. 1895, S.B. 1861 (Tennessee); H.B. 11, H.B. 3002 (Utah); S.B. 766 (Virginia); A.B. 195, S.B. 323, A.B. 196, S.B. 322 (Wisconsin); H.B. 2141, H.B. 2676, H.B. 2734, S.B. 341 (West Virginia); S.F. 0051 (Wyoming).

Source: ACLU, Legislation Affecting LGBT Rights Across the Country: Excluding transgender youth from athletics (May 13, 2022), available at <u>https://www.aclu.org/legislation-affecting-lgbtq-rights-across-country</u>

⁷ The many bills seeking to exclude transgender students—and in many cases, specifically transgender girls and women—from school athletics are already having a negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of all LGBTQ+ youth and particularly those who are transgender and nonbinary. A 2022 poll conducted by Morning Consult found that two-thirds of LGBTQ+ youth report that the recent debates about state laws restricting the rights of transgender people has impacted their mental health negatively. This impact is even more dramatic among transgender and/or non-binary youth where more than four in five of them (85%) report it has impacted their mental health negatively. The Trevor Project. (2022). "Issues Impacting LGBTQ Youth: Polling Analysis." <u>https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/TrevorProject_Public1.pdf</u> (Accessed May 4, 2022).

⁸ LGBTQ+ students who are intersex will likely experience increased incidents of discrimination and harassment as these laws tacitly sanction scrutiny of students' sex characteristics. The same inappropriate scrutiny may adversely impact cisgender girls and women as research indicates that excluding transgender athletes is associated with a decrease in sports participation among all girls and women. Brief of interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth, et al., as Amicus Curiae in Support of Respondent, Gloucester County School Board v. G.G. ex rel. Grimm, No. 16-273 (U.S. Mar. 2, 2017). See also: interACT: Advocates for

June 22, 2022 Page 3 of 10



about women's and girls' sports should reject these bills and instead focus on closing the gender and racial disparities in athletics opportunities and participation and on protecting student athletes from sexual abuse.⁹

Transgender students face disproportionately high rates of sex discrimination at school, including sexual assault and harassment or bullying because of their gender identity and gender expression.¹⁰ Transgender and non-binary people of color face even deeper and broader patterns of discrimination than their White transgender peers.¹¹ Bills that would exclude transgender and intersex students from athletics would further deprive transgender students of access to educational opportunities and could place them at greater risk of sexual assault.¹² With violence — including physical and sexual assaults and murders — against transgender women at an epidemic level,¹³ these bills only serve to create an unsafe educational environment for transgender youth, while sending children the message that transgender people — and transgender girls and women in particular — are not entitled to the equal treatment, dignity, and respect

¹⁰ USTS Report, *available at* <u>http://www.ustranssurvey.org</u>. Kosciw, J. G., Clark, C. M., Truong, N. L., & Zongrone, A. D. (2020). The 2019 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth in our nation's schools, p. 96. New York: GLSEN. Available at <u>https://www.glsen.org/research/2019-national-school-climate-survey</u>. The CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey has also found that transgender students report disproportionately high rates of bullying at school but does not ask specifically about why students were bullied. Johns, M. M., Lowry, R., Andrzejewski, J., Barrios, L. C., Demissie, Z., McManus, T., ... & Underwood, J. M. (2019). Transgender identity and experiences of violence victimization, substance use, suicide risk, and sexual risk behaviors among high school students—19 states and large urban school districts, 2017. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 68(3):67–71. DOI: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6803a3</u> (Accessed May 3, 2022)

Youth. (2022). Public Comment Re: Mandatory Civil Rights Data Collection (86 FR 70831; ED-2021-SCC-0158). https://www.regulations.gov/comment/ED-2021-SCC-0158-0884 (accessed May 4, 2022). Center for American Progress, *Fair Play: The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth* 14-16 (Feb. 8, 2021), *available at* https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/reports/2021/02/08/495502/fair-play.

⁹ LGBTQ+ students are half as likely as non-LGBTQ students to participate in both interscholastic (40.2% vs. 19.2%) and intramural sports (35.8% vs. 15.9%), with transgender students reporting the lowest levels of participation. Clark, C. M., Kosciw, J. G., & Chin, J. (2021). LGBTQ Students and School Sports Participation (Research Brief). New York: GLSEN. Available at <u>https://www.glsen.org/research/lgbtq-students-and-school-sports-participation</u>. Kosciw, J. G., Clark, C. M., Truong, N. L., & Zongrone, A. D. (2020). The 2019 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth in our nation's schools, p. 93-106. New York: GLSEN. <u>https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/NSCS19-FullReport-032421-Web_0.pdf</u>

¹¹ In states where these discriminatory bills have passed into law, transgender students who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) will experience compounding harm as transgender people of color face even deeper and broader patterns of discrimination than do their White transgender peers. For example, GLSEN's national survey research has found that LGBTQ+ students who are BIPOC commonly experience both anti-LGBTQ+ and racist victimization in schools. See: Truong, N. L., Zongrone, A. D., & Kosciw, J. G. (2020).

Erasure and resilience: The experiences of LGBTQ students of color, Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ young people in U.S. Schools. New York: GLSEN. <u>https://www.glsen.org/research/aapi-lgbtq-students</u> (Accessed May 3, 2022).

Truong, N. L., Zongrone, A. D., & Kosciw, J. G. (2020). Erasure and resilience: The experiences of LGBTQ students of color, Black LGBTQ young people in U.S. Schools. New York: GLSEN. <u>https://www.glsen.org/research/black-lgbtq-students</u> (Accessed May 3, 2022).

Zongrone, A. D., Truong, N. L., & Kosciw, J. G. (2020). Erasure and resilience: The experiences of LGBTQ students of color, Latinx LGBTQ young people in U.S. Schools. New York: GLSEN. <u>https://www.glsen.org/research/latinx-lgbtq-students</u> (Accessed May 3, 2022).

Zongrone, A. D., Truong, N. L., & Kosciw, J. G. (2020). Erasure and resilience: The experiences of LGBTQ students of color, Native and Indigenous LGBTQ young people in U.S. Schools. New York: GLSEN. <u>https://www.glsen.org/research/native-and-indigenous-lgbtq-students</u> (Accessed May 3, 2022).

¹² Diane Ehrensaft & Stephen M. Rosenthal, *Sexual Assault Risk and School Facility Restrictions in Gender Minority Youth*, 143 PEDIATRICS 1 (May 6, 2019), <u>https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31061221</u>

¹³ See: <u>https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-community-in-2021</u>.

June 22, 2022 Page 4 of 10



they are taught other people deserve. Simply put, preventing transgender and intersex girls and women from participating in school athletics is a recipe for more trauma, bullying, and violence.¹⁴

Not only do these proposals harm students and limit educational opportunity, the discrimination they endorse is illegal. The U.S. Supreme Court and numerous federal courts have held that discrimination on the basis of gender identity and transgender status is a form of sex discrimination, including when it occurs in gender-separated education programs and facilities.¹⁵ The Biden-Harris administration has made clear that it intends to enforce Title IX consistent with the Supreme Court's holding in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which holds that discrimination on the basis of gender identity is a form of sex discrimination.¹⁶

The trend of state bills excluding transgender students from athletics is a false solution in search of a nonexistent problem. For more than a decade, state athletic associations around the country have implemented eligibility policies that ensure transgender student athletes can compete consistent with their gender identity. Those inclusive polices have benefited all students, including cisgender girls and women.¹⁷ There is no evidence that the participation of transgender girls and women has affected the level of play in states with inclusive policies.¹⁸ Furthermore, girls' athletics participation has increased or stayed the same in those states that have inclusive sports policies, while girls' athletics participation has declined in states with discriminatory policies.¹⁹

Lawmakers and officials in some states have also sought to ban widely accepted medical care for transgender youth, and to criminalize their families as well as school staff and other adults who help them access this necessary care.²⁰ Other laws recently proposed or enacted by some states seem to ban

 ¹⁴ Transgender students already face incredibly hostile school climates and high rates of bullying and harassment, which can impact not only their well-being but also educational outcomes. In a national survey of LGBTQ high school students, 84% of transgender students reported being victimized due to their gender identity and, compared to their cisgender LGB peers, they were more likely to report missing school because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable and less likely to report that were planning to complete high school. Source: GLSEN. (2022). Improving School Climate for Transgender and Nonbinary Youth. https://www.glsen.org/research/improving-school-climate-transgender-and-nonbinary-youth (accessed May 2, 2022).
¹⁵ See, Bostock v. Clayton Cnty., 140 S. Ct. 1731, 1747 (2020); Grimm v. Gloucester Cnty. Sch. Bd., 972 F.3d 586, 616 (4th Cir. 2020), as amended (Aug. 28, 2020); e.g., Schwenk v. Hartford, 204 F.3d 1187, 1200-01 (9th Cir. 2000) (interpreting Gender Motivated Violence Act); Whitaker By Whitaker v. Kenosha Unified Sch. Dist. No. 1 Bd. of Educ., 858 F.3d 1034, 1047 (7th Cir. 2017) (Title IX); Evancho v. Pine-Richland Sch. Dist., 237 F. Supp. 3d 267, 288 (W.D. Pa. 2017); M.A.B. v. Bd. of Educ. of Talbot Cnty., 286 F. Supp. 3d 704, 719 (D. Md. 2018) (Title IX). See also Parents for Privacy v. Barr, 949 F.3d 1210, 1239-40 (9th Cir. 2020) (Title IX); Doe by & through Doe v. Boyertown Area Sch. Dist., 897 F.3d 518, 535 (3d Cir. 2018) (Title IX).

¹⁶ Exec. Order No. 13988, 86 Fed. Reg. 7023 (Jan 20, 2021); see also Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Application of Bostock v. Clayton County to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Mar. 26, 2021),

https://www.justice.gov/crt/page/file/1383026/download.

 ¹⁷ Center for American Progress, *Fair Play: The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth* 13-16 (Feb. 8, 2021)
[CAP Report], *available at* <u>https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/reports/2021/02/08/495502/fair-play.</u>
¹⁸ David Crary & Lindsay Whitehurst, *Lawmakers can't cite local examples of trans girls in sports*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Mar. 3, 2021), <u>https://apnews.com/article/lawmakers-unable-to-cite-local-trans-girls-sports-914a982545e943ecc1e265e8c41042e7</u>.
¹⁹ CAP Report, *supra* note 10, at 14-16.

²⁰ List of bills active in state legislatures restricting healthcare for transgender youth:

S.B. 5, H.B. 150, S.B. 184, H.B. 266 (Alabama); S.B. 1045, H.B. 2608 (Arizona); H.B. 211 (Florida); H.B. 401 (Georgia); H.F. 193 (Iowa); H. 675 (Idaho); H.B. 1121 (Indiana); H.B. 2210 (Kansas); H.B. 253 (Kentucky); H.B. 570 (Louisiana); H.B. 2649 (Missouri); S.B. 2728, H.B. 1147 (Mississippi); S.B. 514 (North Carolina); H.B. 454 (Ohio); S.B. 583, S.B. 676, H.B. 3240 (Oklahoma); H.B. 4047 (South Carolina); S.B. 657, H.B. 578, H.B. 2835, S.B. 2696 (Tennessee); S.B. 915, A.B. 977 (Wisconsin); H.B. 2171 (West Virginia)

Source: ACLU, *Legislation Affecting LGBT Rights Across the Country: Restricting healthcare for transgender youth.* (May 13, 2022), available at <u>https://www.aclu.org/legislation-affecting-lgbtq-rights-across-country</u>

June 22, 2022 Page 5 of 10



transgender students from using the same school facilities as their peers; to ban discussion of their very existence from the classroom; and to force educators to punish students for coming out at school by outing them at home, even if they may be abused as a result. State leaders who care about life-saving care should reject these bills and instead ensure all families and young people can access medically necessary health care.²¹

Transgender students face disproportionately high rates of suicidal thoughts and behaviors,²² and bills that shut people out of gender-affirming care threaten their safety, health, and wellbeing. Research shows that gender-affirming care provides long-term mental health benefits for transgender people,²³ including a reduction in suicidal ideation and attempts.²⁴

While state laws banning discussion of LGBTQI+ people's lives and contributions in schools were repealed or overturned in recent years, several states have now rushed to pass new "Don't Say Gay or Trans" laws.²⁵ For example, Florida's "Don't Say Gay or Trans" law makes it illegal, in some cases, and otherwise creates new and vague barriers to discussing LGBTQI+ topics, including the existence of transgender people.²⁶ We've seen this move before, and research shows that the "no promo homo" laws now being revived contribute to a hostile school climate.²⁷ LGBTQI+ youth in states with these laws are more likely to experience harassment and assault based on their sexual orientation and gender expression than LGBTQI+ youth in states without these laws.²⁸ In addition to reducing harassment, inclusive curriculum in courses such as health education is essential for LGBTQI+ youth to make informed

²¹ There is a growing consensus among expert and medical organizations on that gender-affirming health care is medically necessary, this includes the following: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); World Medical Association (WMA); American Medical Association (AMA); Pediatric Endocrine Society; Endocrine Society; American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP); World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH); American Public Health Association (APHA); and American Psychological Association (APA). Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund. (n.d.). Medical Organization Statements on transgender health care - trans health project. Medical Organization Statements on Transgender Health Care - Trans Health Project. Retrieved May 20, 2022, from https://transhealthproject.org/resources/medical-organization-statements/

²² USTS Report, *available at* <u>http://www.ustranssurvey.org/reports</u>

²³ Bränström, R. & Pachankis, J. E. (Oct 4, 2019). "Reduction in Mental Health Treatment Utilization Among Transgender Individuals After Gender-Affirming Surgeries: A Total Population Study." Available at

https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2019.19010080

²⁴ The Trevor Project, *Gender-Affirming Care for Youth* (January 29, 2020), available at <u>https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/gender-affirming-care-for-youth/</u>

²⁵ List of bills active in state legislatures restricting access to inclusive curriculum:

H.B. 322 (Alabama); H.B. 2011, S.B. 1045, H.B. 2161, H.B. 2285 (Arizona); S.B. 1834, H.B. 1557 (Florida); H.B. 1158 (Georgia); S.F. 2024, H.F. 2054, H.F. 2053 (Iowa); H.B. 5505 (Illinois); H.B. 1040, H.B. 1228, H.B. 1231 (Indiana); H.B. 14 (Kentucky); H.B. 570 (Louisiana); S.B. 2679, S.B. 2881 (Mississippi); H.B. 1755, S.B. 645, H.B. 2189 (Missouri); A. 1418, A. 585 (New Jersey); S.B. 1142, S.B. 1654, H.B. 1888, S.B. 657, S.B. 615 (Oklahoma); H. 7138, H. 7539, S. 2516 (Rhode Island); S.B. 900, H.B. 4605 (South Carolina); S.B. 2777, H.B. 2633, H.B. 0800, S.B. 1216 (Tennessee); S.B. 20, H.B. 988 (Virginia); S.B. 498, H.B. 4016 (West Virginia)

Source: ACLU, Legislation Affecting LGBT Rights Across the Country: Other school or curriculum restrictions (May 13, 2022), available at https://www.aclu.org/legislation-affecting-lgbtq-rights-across-country

²⁶ Transgender students are being impacted by curriculum censorship bills that restrict LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum, two of which have been signed into law in 2022. Citation after first sentence: H.B. 322 (Alabama) and H.B. 1557 (Florida). Four states still have so-called "No Promo Homo" laws. GLSEN. (2022). GLSEN Navigator: Inclusive Curricular Standards Policies. https://maps.glsen.org/inclusive-curricular-standards-policies/ (Accessed May 3, 2022).

 ²⁷ GLSEN. (2018). Laws Prohibiting "Promotion of Homosexuality" in Schools: Impacts and Implications (Research Brief). New York: GLSEN. Available at <u>https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/No_Promo_Homo_2018.pdf</u>
²⁸ Ibid.

June 22, 2022 Page 6 of 10



decisions about their health and future, and avoid potential adverse health outcomes.²⁹ LGBTQ youth who found their school to be LGBTQ-affirming have reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide.³⁰ All students deserve access to an education that affirms their own identity and deserve the opportunity to see themselves and their families reflected in their school's curriculum.

We support the full inclusion, protection, and celebration of transgender youth, including access to school facilities and extracurricular activities such as athletics, gender-affirming care, and inclusive curriculum, because all young people deserve safe, healthy, and inclusive environments. Transgender and non-binary youth deserve the chance to succeed and thrive like any other child.

We call on state policymakers to reject attacks on transgender and non-binary youth, to commit themselves to meaningfully advancing policies that support equal opportunity, ³¹ and to reassure all students in the nation's classrooms that they will have the chance to learn, grow, and thrive. If you have any questions, please reach out to Steven Almazán, k12 education senior program manager at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, at <u>almazan@civilrights.org</u>.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights The Leadership Conference Education Fund ADL (Anti-Defamation League) All4Ed American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education American Association of University Women American Atheists American Federation of Teachers American Psychological Association Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) Americans United for Separation of Church and State Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC Athlete Ally Autistic People of Color Fund Autistic Self Advocacy Network Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network **Campus** Pride Center for Disability Rights Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

³⁰ The Trevor Project. (2022). 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Available at <u>https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/assets/static/trevor01_2022survey_final.pdf</u>

 ²⁹ A CALL TO ACTION: LGBTQ+ YOUTH NEED INCLUSIVE SEX EDUCATION. (2021). Available at <u>https://hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Call-to-Action-LGBTQ-Sex-Ed-Report-2021.pdf</u>
³⁰ The Trevor Project. (2022). 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Available at

³¹ See, e.g., GLSEN, Gender Affirming and Inclusive Athletics (2021), <u>https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/GLSEN_Transathlete_Policies_Issue_Brief-05-03-21.pdf</u>.

June 22, 2022 Page 7 of 10



Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR) Center for Reproductive Rights CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers Clearinghouse on Women's Issues COLAGE **Community Catalyst Disability Rights Advocates Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund** End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund End Rape On Campus Equal Justice Society Equal Rights Advocates **Equality Federation** Faculty Against Rape Family Equality Feminist Majority Foundation FORGE, Inc. Forward Latino GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality **GLSEN** Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic **Hispanic Federation** Human Rights Campaign Impact Fund interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth Japanese American Citizens League Juvenile Law Center Know Your IX, Advocates for Youth Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Lambda Legal LatinoJustice PRLDEF Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Legal Aid at Work Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund LGBTQ & Equity Consulting, LLC LPAC Action Network MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) Many Voices **MENTOR** Modern Military Association of America MomsRising Movement Advancement Project

June 22, 2022 Page 8 of 10



NAACP

NARAL Pro-Choice America National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) National Association of Social Workers National Black Justice Coalition National Center for Learning Disabilities National Center for Lesbian Rights National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE) National Center for Transgender Equality National Center for Youth Law National Coalition Against Domestic Violence National Council of Jewish Women National Crittenton National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) National Education Association National Employment Law Project National Indian Education Association National LGBTO Task Force National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund National Organization for Women National Resource Center on Domestic Violence National Urban League National Women's Law Center OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates People For the American Way **PFLAG** National Positive Women's Network-USA **Public Justice** Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Sojourners SPLC Action Tahirih Justice Center The Advocates for Human Rights The Education Trust The General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church The Sentencing Project The Sikh Coalition The Trevor Project TNTP TransAthlete.com True Colors United UFCW OUTreach Ujima Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

June 22, 2022 Page 9 of 10



UnidosUS Union for Reform Judaism URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity Victim Rights Law Center Whitman-Walker Institute YWCA USA

State & Local Organizations:

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Catalyst Miami CEED, Inc Center for Sustainable Communities Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) Colorado Children's Campaign Colorado Justice Advocacy Network Disability Law Center Disability Law Colorado **Disability Rights Arkansas Disability Rights California** Disability Rights Florida **Disability Rights New York Disability Rights Oregon Disability Rights South Carolina Disability Rights Tennessee Disability Rights Vermont** Education Law Center-PA Equality California Florida Faith Advocacy Office Florida Health Justice Project Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault Indiana Disability Rights Indianapolis Urban League Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault Los Angeles LGBT Center LULAC-IL Maine Parent Federation Mazzoni Center Men Stopping Violence, Inc. New Orleans Youth Alliance North Carolina Justice Center **Oasis Legal Services** Project Butterfly New Orleans SEIU Local 500

June 22, 2022 Page 10 of 10



Silver State Equality-Nevada Tennessee Justice Center The Parents' Place of MD Urban League of Greater Atlanta Women's Law Project