

Human Rights Committee 2024 Resolution

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY IN OHIO

WHEREAS, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) represents members with a variety of identities and life experiences, and

WHEREAS, members of the OFT serve communities as diverse as the OFT membership, and

WHEREAS, the OFT has a history of supporting the LGBTQIA+ community, and

WHEREAS, at the OFT convention in 2014, a resolution was passed titled *RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A U.S. HOUSE FLOOR VOTE ON THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT (ENDA)*, and

WHEREAS, at the OFT convention in 2018, a resolution was passed titled *RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE OHIO FAIRNESS ACT (HB160 AND SB100)*, and

WHEREAS, at the OFT convention in 2020, a resolution was passed titled *RESOLUTION ENDORSING OHIO BUSINESS COMPETES*, and

WHEREAS, at the OFT convention in 2022, a resolution was passed titled *A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER STUDENTS*, and

WHEREAS, results of The Trevor Project's 2023 National Survey on LGBTQIA+ Youth Mental Health report:

- a. 41% of LGBTQIA+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, with young people who are transgender, nonbinary, and/or people of color reported higher rates than their peers.
- b. 56% of LGBTQIA+ young people who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it.
- c. Transgender and nonbinary young people who stated that all the people they live with respect their pronouns reported lower rates of attempting suicide.
- d. Fewer than 40% of LGBTQIA+ young people found their home to be LGBTQIA+ affirming.
- e. Roughly half of transgender and nonbinary young people found their school to be gender-affirming, and those who did reported lower rates of attempting suicide.
- f. A majority of LGBTQIA+ young people reported being verbally harassed at school because people thought they were LGBTQIA+.
- g. Nearly 1 in 3 LGBTQIA+ young people said their mental health was poor most of the time or always due to anti-LGBTQIA+ policies and legislation.
- h. Nearly 2 in 3 LGBTQIA+ young people said that hearing about potential state or local laws banning people from discussing LGBTQIA+ people at school made their mental health a lot worse, and

WHEREAS, the Annie E. Casey Foundation reports LGBTQIA+ youth are at higher risk to be in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and

WHEREAS, the Center for American Progress and Criminal Justice Informational Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) report:

- a. More than 1 in 3 LGBTQIA+ Americans faced discrimination of some kind in the past year, including more than 3 in 5 transgender Americans.
- b. More than half of LGBTQIA+ Americans report that they hide a relationship due to discrimination, and about one-fifth to one-third have made changes to aspects of their personal or work lives.

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- c. Discrimination is most common among people of color, transgender people, and disabled people.
- d. The FBI reports that hate crimes based on sexual orientation make up 16.7% of crimes.
- e. One-third of LGBTQIA+ Americans report discrimination that affected their ability to get jobs.
- f. 1 in 2 LGBTQIA+ Americans report how discrimination has a negative impact on their mental health and well-being, while 29% said it had a major impact on their financial well-being.
- g. 46% of LGBTQIA+ Gen Z adults experienced discrimination at school, compared with 41% in public places, and

WHEREAS, according to The Human Rights Campaign, as of May 3rd, 2023, there have been over 540 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills introduced in US state legislatures this year, with over 220 of these bills targeting transgender and non-binary people, and 45 anti-LGBTQIA+ laws have been enacted by November 2023, and

WHEREAS, in the 135th Ohio General Assembly, several bills have been introduced into the statehouse, including:

- a. House Bill (HB) 68, banning transgender affirming care, which includes HB 6, banning transgender females from participating in sports.
- b. HB 8, Ohio's version of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" Bill, masquerading as a Parents' Bill of Rights, which includes forced outing of LGBTQIA+ students.
- c. HB 183, forcing students to use the bathroom of the gender assigned to them at birth.
- d. HB 245, a ban on drag performances, relegating them to adult cabarets, possibly affecting professional theater companies and limiting opportunities for students in school productions, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the OFT recognizes that the attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community in Ohio are not unique to this state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT understands that the attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community in Ohio will not cease without advocacy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT will continue to demand safe learning and working conditions for all of Ohio's children and their families, and OFT members and their families, with additional emphasis on the LGBTQIA+ community through professional development, lobbying, partnerships with other organizations and other available means, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the OFT will continue to advocate for policies that guarantee all Ohioans can live with safety, security, fair housing, employment, and dignity.