



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION
CITY - COUNTY BUILDING

September 21, 2023

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro,

We are writing to you today to share with you our communications with House and Senate members who have sponsored legislation that address matters specific to the communities that our Commission was created to support.

First, and because of your long-time commitment to protecting and expanding civil rights protections for LGBT persons, we bring to your attention our letter to Senate Majority Leader Joe Pittman regarding SB 150, the Senate's version of the Fairness Act (HB 300).

As you know, in May, the PA House passed the Fairness Act. The Senate's version only needs a successful floor vote to get it headed your way. That is how close we are to adding Pennsylvania to the more than 20 states that have statewide-legislated civil rights protections based on "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression."

We ask you take any appropriate steps to get SB 150 moving. If you have any guidance for us in this effort to achieve a Senate vote on SB 150, feel free to share it with us. Our Commission email address is **lgbtqiacommissionpgh@gmail.com**. All fifteen Commissioners will receive any communication you send to this email address.

Also included are our letters to the prime sponsors of three (3) House bills that are culture war attacks on LGBTQIA+ communities. Those bills are:

- HB 132, an effort to put a chilling effect on providing gender affirming care;
- HB 216, an effort to ban trans youth from playing sports;
- HB 319, an effort to ban public schools from teaching/recognizing the history and lived experience of LGBTQIA+ people.

Although we do not expect these bills to get beyond the committees they are in, we know that their existence is causing harm. In our communications, we attempt to explain that to the bills' sponsors.

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Governor Shapiro, we thank you for your many years of support for the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ people.

At this moment, we cannot let go unchallenged some legislators' attempts to 1) interfere with effective healthcare for trans persons and 2) to deny the existence of transgender, non-binary, and intersex persons and social and psychological developmental benefits of play. Nor will we remain silent to their attempts to erase the history and lived experience of LGBTQIA+ persons from classrooms and school libraries. We are committed to doing what we can. We look forward to your efforts in the same vein, and to making Pennsylvania a state that respects and values all people.

Sincerely,

Sarah Rosso
Co-Chair
Pittsburgh LGBTQIA+ Commission

Sue Kerr
Co-Chair
Pittsburgh LGBTQIA+ Commission

Billy Hileman
Secretary
Pittsburgh LGBTQIA+ Commission

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