



The Chattanooga Pride Board is deeply concerned with the bills that have been introduced in state houses across the country, that specifically target transgender youth, as well as singling out other LGBTQIA+ individuals; calling for exclusion and treatment of them differently than the rest of the population. These bills and legislations are both despicable and unacceptable. We at the Chattanooga Pride Board will stand against these bills.

The executive board members as well as anyone involved with the Chattanooga Pride Board stand in solidarity with our transgender family and friends against the multiple anti-trans bills that have been introduced since the 2021 year began. These bills both threaten to remove trans' youths rights to privacy and their ability to live authentically, as well as affect the ability for trans members in our community to receive life-saving services. Over 25 states have at least one bill moving through the legislation or have already been signed by their governors. These bills are all based on misinformation and would cause great harm to our community, specifically our trans community.

The Chattanooga Pride Board calls on all people to oppose the more than six bills that have been sent to the state legislators (SB848/HB1152, SB1304/HB836, SB364/HB563, SB1297/HB1151, SB1499/HB1274, SB1282/HB1369), as well as more than four anti-trans bills that have been already signed (HB1233, HB1182, SB126, SB228, HB1027 and more). All of these bills directly impact the safety and ability of our LGBTQIA+ community, especially our transgender community to live a safe, authentic life: while also deeply impacting their ability to have health care, use restrooms without fear or rejection, the ability for our youth to participate in sports, and for future parents to be able to adopt, as well as so many other life affecting discriminations,

Many, if not all of these bills allow for the state to fund discrimination. The use of tax-dollars will now always be funding discrimination that comes from businesses, schools, employers, and state governments. We as a community must come together to oppose and fight against all of the anti-trans and anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation.

The Chattanooga Pride Board also calls on our community, city, and state to educate themselves on the need for gender affirming care, access to basic health care services, the ability to have bathroom usage without having to be uncomfortable or fearful, the importance of our youth being able to participate as their authentic selves, and the devastating consequences of not fighting against these types of bills.

Anyone who wants to join the fight with us to oppose any and all current, as well as future bills that will be brought against us can participate in easy to navigate resources. The Peoples Petition Against the Slate of Hate is a direct resource that is

offered here in Tennessee. This petition is through the Tennessee Equality Project and helps to give a direct action against these bills via petition. We urge you to email your state and local governments and if you are unsure of what to say or how to act, The People petition gives you this outline;

“As residents of Tennessee, we oppose these bills in the General Assembly. They promote discrimination rather than justice and demean the worth of LGBTQ people in our state. We call on people of good will to join us in speaking out for basic fairness”

The Chattanooga Pride Board will continue to stand against hate, exclusion, false information revolving our community, and any bills that threaten to harm our community's ability to live as their authentic selves. If any community member needs help finding health care, transition services, or safe spaces, please reach out to us at Chattanooga Pride Board (www.chattanoogaapride.com)

* Peoples Petition, www.tnep.org/the_people_s_petition_against_the_slate_of_hate

Resources and Hotlines:

- Translifeline.org (877) 565-8860
- Oasis Center 24 hour hotline (615) 327-4455
- National Suicide Prevention lifeline (800) 273-8255
- The Trevor Project (866) 488-7386
- National Center for Transgender Equality www.transequality.org
- Tennessee Equality Project www.tnep.org
- Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (855) 274-7471