



Hoosiers distressed by extremists' lawmakers at the end of the 2024 Legislative Session

March 11, 2024 – Hoosiers throughout Indiana, but especially LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers and allies, are distressed and disturbed by extremists' lawmakers' actions during the 2024 Indiana Legislative session. These extremists in the super-majority continued, as in previous sessions, to file bills that attack the freedoms of LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers, which also threaten freedoms of ALL Hoosiers. Here is a sampling of the bills that, if passed, would be extremely harmful to all Hoosiers:

The **religious chaplains in public schools'** bill. The extremists advanced it, but had sneak the language into another bill, after it stalled. The other bill was regarding releasing students from class for religious instruction (it's ironic that lawmakers eventually passed a bill that's tough on families for truancy all while giving their blessing for students to be absent from academic classes for religious purposes). The chaplain language is anti-LGBTQIA because our community is very aware of how some religious leaders can create hostile environments for LGBTQIA+ youth. The chaplain language was eventually stripped out and the bill allowing students to opt-out of academics for religious instruction is on the governor's desk.

A bill allowing **UNSAFE Human Sexuality Instruction in public schools**, which permits school boards, which recently have been pressured by a small, vocal minority, to interfere with and prevent public schools from offering a safe, diverse sexual education curriculum. Presenting an honest, inclusive, and diverse sexual education curriculum has been a legislative goal of Equality Indiana and this proposed legislation would have taken safe sex education in the wrong direction for ALL Hoosier students.

There was also a **Trans Erasure Bill** filed by the extremists in the super-majority. This bill would have eliminated any mentions of gender identity in state law with the goal of erasing all transgender people from safely being able to exist in public spaces. We love our trans sisters and brothers, and the entire Hoosier Queer community would have united at the Statehouse to prevent House Bill 1291 from becoming law. If extreme lawmakers can erase one group of Hoosiers, which group will be next?

Each one of these anti-LGBTQIA+ bills, including those in previous sessions, undermine equal protections and freedoms for every Hoosier, with the immediate impact of harming Hoosier families, disrupting Indiana's path to positive economic growth throughout Indiana's economy, then resulting in negatively impacting Indiana's long-term economic future.

Equality Indiana has a plan to unite the pro-LGBTQIA+ community across Indiana, get them registered to vote, educate them about 2024 candidates and the ballot, then will get those voters to the polls in our Queer the Vote campaign. Each extremist elected official, who supported any anti-LGBTQIA+ harmful bill in recent years, will hear it loud and clear after the votes are counted, that they are 'FIRED' from elected office, so they can no longer harm Hoosiers by their legislative actions.

Most importantly, to the transgender, gender non-conforming, non-binary, and queer Hoosiers throughout the state: Equality Indiana sees you. We love you. And will never stop fighting for you.

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