

Equality Indiana Advocates

2026 Legislative Initiatives

Civil Rights

Hoosier Freedom from Discrimination Act

Policy Initiative:

Enact a statewide nondiscrimination law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Why This Matters:

LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers—especially transgender people—still lack basic legal protections, leaving them vulnerable to being fired, denied housing, or refused service simply for who they are.

Hoosier Freedom to Marry Act

Policy Initiative:

Modernize Indiana's marriage laws to affirm marriage equality for all couples and fully protect the legal rights of same-sex spouses and families.

Why This Matters:

Marriage equality safeguards family stability, parental rights, healthcare decision-making, and economic security for LGBTQIA+ families.

Repeal Anti-DEI Law (SB 289)

Policy Initiative:

Repeal SB 289, which restricts diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in public agencies, K–12 schools, and higher education institutions.

Why This Matters:

Anti-DEI laws create environments where discrimination and harassment of LGBTQIA+ people can go unaddressed, weakening workplace protections and undermining inclusive public institutions.

Legal Gender Recognition & Documentation

Policy Initiative:

Establish a private, accessible, and streamlined legal process for Hoosiers to update gender markers on state identification documents.

Why This Matters:

Accurate identification improves safety, reduces harassment, and ensures transgender Hoosiers can access employment, housing, voting, and healthcare without fear or barriers.

Education

Hoosier Freedoms for Education Act

Policy Initiative:

Repeal laws that ban transgender students from participating in school sports, force schools to out LGBTQIA+ students, and exclude transgender students from college athletics.

Why This Matters:

Inclusive schools improve student safety, mental health, and academic success, while discriminatory laws isolate and endanger transgender and LGBTQIA+ youth.

Nondiscrimination in Choice Scholarship Schools

Policy Initiative:

Require any school receiving public funds through Indiana's choice scholarship program to comply with nondiscrimination protections for students and staff.

Why This Matters:

Public dollars should never subsidize discrimination against LGBTQIA+ students or educators.

Inclusive Public Health Education

Policy Initiative:

Require age-appropriate, LGBTQIA+-inclusive sexual health education in public schools and repeal SB 442, which restricts comprehensive instruction.

Why This Matters:

Inclusive, medically accurate education improves health outcomes, reduces stigma, and ensures all students receive information they need to make informed decisions.

Stronger Anti-Bullying Protections**Policy Initiative:**

Strengthen school anti-bullying laws to explicitly protect students from harassment based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, or disability.

Why This Matters:

Explicit protections improve reporting, accountability, and student safety—particularly for LGBTQIA+ youth.

Inclusive History Curriculum**Policy Initiative:**

Require public school curricula to include LGBTQIA+ contributions in Indiana and U.S. history.

Why This Matters:

Inclusive history affirms LGBTQIA+ students and ensures all students receive an accurate and complete understanding of our shared past.

Healthcare**Hoosier Freedom for Medical Privacy Act****Policy Initiative:**

Restore healthcare freedom by repealing Indiana's abortion ban and bans on gender-affirming care for youth and incarcerated individuals, and by protecting medical decisions from political interference.

Why This Matters:

Government intrusion into healthcare disproportionately harms transgender people, women, and low-income Hoosiers by denying lifesaving, evidence-based care.

Modernize Indiana's HIV Criminal Laws

Policy Initiative:

Align HIV-related criminal laws with current medical science, eliminate stigmatizing penalties, and support effective prevention, testing, and treatment strategies.

Why This Matters:

Outdated laws fuel stigma, discourage testing, and undermine efforts to end Indiana's HIV epidemic—especially harming LGBTQIA+ communities and people of color.

Protect Access to IVF and Fertility Care

Policy Initiative:

Protect the right to access IVF, safeguard providers' ability to offer care consistent with medical standards, and ensure insurance coverage without interference.

Why This Matters:

Many LGBTQIA+ families rely on assisted reproduction to build families; restricting IVF threatens reproductive freedom and family stability.

Ban Conversion Therapy

Policy Initiative:

Ban conversion therapy statewide and repeal SB 350, which prevents licensing boards from disciplining providers who engage in this harmful practice.

Why This Matters:

Conversion therapy is medically discredited and linked to increased depression, trauma, and suicide among LGBTQIA+ youth.

Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis

Policy Initiative:

Recognize racism as a public health crisis and require state agencies to assess and address health disparities caused by systemic discrimination.

Why This Matters:

LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers of color experience compounded health inequities that must be addressed to improve outcomes and save lives.

Declare Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis

Policy Initiative:

Recognize gun violence as a public health crisis and fund evidence-based prevention strategies.

Why This Matters:

LGBTQIA+ people—especially transgender individuals—face elevated risks of gun violence, suicide, and hate crimes.

Declare Indiana’s Mental Health System a Public Health Crisis

Policy Initiative:

Invest in accessible, culturally competent, and affirming mental health services statewide.

Why This Matters:

LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers face disproportionately high rates of mental health challenges, and gaps in care leave families without support.

Public Safety & Criminal Justice

Hoosier Freedom from Hate Act

Policy Initiative:

Strengthen hate crime laws by explicitly including protections for transgender and gender-diverse Hoosiers.

Why This Matters:

Explicit inclusion improves accountability, data collection, and safety for communities most vulnerable to violence.

Ban the “Gay and Trans Panic” Defense

Policy Initiative:

Prohibit using a victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity as a justification or mitigating factor for violence.

Why This Matters:

Prejudice is never an excuse for harm; banning this defense affirms equal justice under the law.

Law Enforcement Body & Dash Cameras**Policy Initiative:**

Provide state funding for body-worn and dash cameras with clear accountability standards.

Why This Matters:

Transparency protects civil rights, deters misconduct, and builds trust with marginalized communities.

Decriminalize Marijuana & Establish Medical Cannabis**Policy Initiative:**

Decriminalize possession of up to two ounces of marijuana and establish a comprehensive medical cannabis program.

Why This Matters:

Criminalization disproportionately harms LGBTQIA+ people, while medical access improves health outcomes and dignity.

Universal Background Checks**Policy Initiative:**

Require background checks for all firearm purchases, including private sales.

Why This Matters:

Common-sense protections reduce gun violence and protect vulnerable communities.

Pro-Democracy Election Reforms**No-Excuse Absentee Voting****Policy Initiative:**

Permanently allow no-excuse absentee voting.

Why This Matters:

Expanded access protects voters facing health, safety, work, or transportation barriers.

Automatic Voter Registration**Policy Initiative:**

Automatically register eligible Hoosiers at age 18, with opt-out provisions.

Why This Matters:

Removes barriers that disproportionately affect young, low-income, and transgender voters.

Independent Redistricting Commission**Policy Initiative:**

Create a citizen-led, nonpartisan redistricting commission.

Why This Matters:

Fair maps ensure communities are represented—not manipulated.

Clean Elections / Public Financing**Policy Initiative:**

Provide public grants to candidates who limit private fundraising.

Why This Matters:

Reduces special-interest influence and elevates everyday Hoosier voices.

Restore Student Voting Access Act**Policy Initiative:**

Repeal SB 10 and restore student IDs as valid voter identification.

Why This Matters:

Protects young voters' access to the ballot and strengthens democracy.

Economic Justice

Living Wage for All Workers

Policy Initiative:

Raise Indiana's minimum wage to a living wage that reflects the real cost of living, especially for transgender and LGBTQIA+ workers who face wage gaps and job discrimination.

Why this matters:

Economic security is essential to safety, stability, and dignity.

Affordable Housing Access

Policy Initiative:

Expand access to safe, affordable housing and strengthen tenant protections, particularly for LGBTQIA+ people disproportionately impacted by housing instability and homelessness.

Why this matters:

Housing discrimination and instability remain major barriers for LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers.

Support Small Businesses & Nonprofits

Policy Initiative:

Strengthen small businesses and nonprofits—including LGBTQIA+-led organizations—through fair access to capital, technical assistance, and workforce protections.

Why this matters:

Inclusive economic growth depends on supporting community-based institutions.

Universal, Affordable Child Care

Policy Initiative:

Ensure access to affordable, inclusive child care for all families, including LGBTQIA+ parents and caregivers.

Why this matters:

Child care access supports working families and economic mobility.

Affordable, Accessible Health Care

Policy Initiative:

Expand access to affordable, culturally competent health care that meets the needs of

transgender and LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers.

Why this matters:

Health disparities persist due to discrimination and lack of coverage.

Inclusive Infrastructure & Utilities

Policy Initiative:

Invest in affordable, accessible infrastructure—including utilities and public transportation—that supports low-income and marginalized communities statewide.

Why this matters:

Basic infrastructure is foundational to economic and community stability.
