

For Immediate Release

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## **Muscatine County LGBTQIA+ Equality Coalition prepares to go to One Iowa Day on the Hill**

The Muscatine County LGBTQIA+ Equality Coalition is going to One Iowa's Day on the Hill in Des Moines on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. The Coalition is inviting the communities of Muscatine County to join them. The event includes training, lunch, a rally in the rotunda, and time to talk to legislators.

The Coalition will hold an organizing meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 6:00 pm at Musser Public Library, Maker Space #017, in the basement. It will be an opportunity to arrange rides, learn about proposed bills related to the LGBTQIA+ community, and how the coalition members would like to respond.

So far in 2025, Iowa legislators proposed 15 bills in the house and 12 bills in the Senate that directly or indirectly impact LGBTQIA+ people, including the Civil Rights Removal Act, which mandates the legal erasure of transgender people in Iowa code, and removes gender identity as a protected class in the Iowa Civil Rights Code. The existing law protects against discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, education, and credit considerations.

"The Civil Rights Removal Act is a disgrace and all Iowans should oppose it. LGBTQ+ Iowans deserve compassion, understanding, and unwavering support from their government and their neighbors, not harassment and oppression. It is time to do the most American thing we can, and make our voices heard—along with our truths," said Coalition member Thalia Sutton, who is a disability rights advocate and graduate of One Iowa's LGBTQ Leadership Institute. "Trans people are not the enemy, nor have they ever been. But they do need your help. If you care about fellow Americans' rights being stripped away, show up to the Coalition's meeting on March 4th and consider attending the Day on the Hill as well. History will thank you for it—as will we."

Additional bills would allow for discrimination in foster care; allow health care providers, facilities, and insurance companies to deny care and payment for procedures they disagree with; and a ban on drag performances in front of people under 18, which includes a felony charge.

“I am eager to attend this event at the Capitol because as a person of faith, one of my foundational beliefs is that God created all that exists and called it good. If God sees every aspect of creation as good and worthy of love, dignity, and respect, then I, as a follower of Christ, am called to do the same. If Christianity had a tagline it would have to be ‘love your neighbor as yourself,’ and this is one way we can love one another – by standing up for each other’s basic human rights,” said Pastor Paris White of Faith United Church of Christ.

You can sign up for One Iowa’s Day on the Hill at [www.oneiowa.org/event/donth25/](http://www.oneiowa.org/event/donth25/)

Find additional information at [www.MuscatineEqualityCoalition.com](http://www.MuscatineEqualityCoalition.com) or contact us at [Info@MuscatineEqualityCoalition.com](mailto:Info@MuscatineEqualityCoalition.com).