

# Being an LGBTQIA+ Ally

LGBTQIA+ youth are some of our most vulnerable individuals who are at increased risk for health and mental health concerns, bullying, and suicide. One of the best ways to help youth overcome these challenges is to ensure they are welcomed and supported by their families, schools, and communities. Yet, at a time when these supports are most needed, we are seeing decreased access to critically needed services and social supports. LGBTQIA+ youth rights are under attack (e.g., health and mental health care access, banning books, sports, and access to bathrooms for transgender youth).

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

It is critical to support the approximately 2,000,000 LGBTQIA+ youth between 13-17 in the US and in our communities. Schools and communities can support our LGBTQIA+ youth by:

- Providing access to services for all youth
- Creating space for LGBTQIA+ youth to be heard, speak out, and seek support
- Modeling inclusivity (e.g. using identified pronouns, addressing microaggressions)
- Increasing the emotional safety and security of all youth

## IMPACT

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) tracked 690+ pieces of potentially LGBTQ-related legislation introduced or pending in 2022 state legislative sessions. These include 160+ bills that support LGBTQIA+ youth and 345+ bills that oppose LGBTQIA+ youth. Of these:

- 84+ negatively impact students in education
- 34+ are religious refusal bills
- 145+ are anti-transgender, including:
  - 40+ healthcare bans
  - 76+ sports bans
  - 18+ bathroom bills

## TAKE ACTION

As an Ally to our LGBTQIA+ youth you can:

- Review and disseminate helpful resources
- Educate others on the impact of anti-LGBTQIA+ laws and policies on youth
- Educate others on how to support LGBTQIA+ youth
- Locate and collaborate with other ally individuals and organizations
- Provide safe spaces
- Stay informed by understanding the impact of legislation and policies on the rights of LGBTQIA+ youth
- Engage in advocacy to change current laws and policies
- Vote

## FOR MORE INFORMATION & RESOURCES



**School Social Work  
Association of America**

Scan the QR code to find  
additional resources

