

Proclamation

WHEREAS, young people, teachers, school staff, families, and communities must be free of the violence of racism, transphobia, homophobia, sexism, ableism, and all forms of systemic oppression; and
WHEREAS, K-12 schools must be safe and liberatory learning environments that include and affirm LGBTQI+ young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, people with disabilities, and from all communities that experience marginalization; and
WHEREAS, advocates have designated 2023-2024 as a time for communities to Rise Up in support of LGBTQI+ young people in schools; and
WHEREAS, 98% of LGBTQ+ students reported hearing anti-LGBTQ+ remarks from students in Arizona schools, and approximately 2 in 3 (64%) experienced at least one form of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination at school; and
WHEREAS, LGBTQI+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQI+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation; and
WHEREAS, over 200 anti-LGBTQI+ education bills are introduced each year in state legislatures across the country, the majority of which specifically target transgender and nonbinary young people; and
WHEREAS, 85% of transgender and nonbinary young people say that recent debates prompted by state legislation restricting the rights of transgender people have negatively impacted their mental health; and
WHEREAS, every young person must have equal educational opportunity and freedom from the fear that their basic civil and educational rights will be taken away from them; and
WHEREAS, young people who develop in positive school climates, free of bullying, harassment, and discrimination, report greater physical and psychological safety, greater mental well-being, and improved educational and life outcomes; and
WHEREAS, positive school transformation must recognize that safety is too a low bar and that all communities deserve to be acknowledged and affirmed in our schools; and
WHEREAS, we must all demand the best possible future for all young people in schools, including those who identify as LGBTQI+, without exception.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim June 2023 as,

Rise Up for LGBTQ+ Youth Month

support the goals and ideals of the Rise Up campaign in demanding the best possible future for all young people in schools, including those who identify as LGBTQI+; and encourage each State, territory, and locality to support the Rise Up campaign and adopt laws and policies that prohibit bias-based victimization, exclusion, and erasure.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twenty-first day of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Seventh.

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

