



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the people of Maine, I write this letter in support of GLSEN's Rise Up for LGBTQI+ youth campaign.

Today, LGBTQI+ youth frequently experience bias-based bullying, harassment and discrimination in school. Of the LGBTQI+ students in Maine schools, 96 percent have reported hearing anti-LGBTQI+ remarks from fellow students, and approximately 1 in 2 experienced at least one form of anti-LGBTQI+ discrimination at school. LGBTQI+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQI+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, and depression. Tragically, nearly half of all LGBTQI+ young people seriously considered suicide in the last year.

Schools in Maine – and all over the country – must be free of the violence of racism, transphobia, homophobia, sexism, ableism, and all forms of systemic oppression. Young people who develop in positive school climates report greater physical and psychological safety, greater mental well-being, and improved educational and life outcomes.

To that end, we must do everything in our power to ensure that all students have an equal educational opportunity, free of bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

As Governor, I thank those who are working to ensure that all schools are safe places for young people to learn and grow.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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