

The State of Washington



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, advocates have designated 2023-2024 as a time for communities to Rise Up in support of LGBTQ+ young people in schools; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ young people frequently experience bias-based bullying and harassment, discrimination, and punitive discipline that increases the likelihood they will enter the school-to-prison pipeline; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQ+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, and depression; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered suicide in the last year, a trend that increases among Indigenous, Black, and multiracial LGBTQ+ young people; and

WHEREAS, over 200 anti-LGBTQ+ 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, Washington state supports 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 LGBTQ+; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim July 2023, as

RISE UP for LGBTQ+ Youth Month

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 28th day of June, 2023

Governor Jay Inslee

