

# Office of the Mayor City of Wilton Manors 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**, LGBTQI+ 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. Over 90% of LGBTQI+ students reported hearing anti-LGBTQI+ remarks from Students in Florida schools; 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. GLSEN's public policy department works with elected officials and educational policy leaders at local, state, and federal levels to ensure that basic protections are in place for students, teachers, and families. 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. 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. We must all demand the best possible future for all young people in schools, including those who identify as LGBTQI+, without exception.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WILTON MANORS, FLORIDA, HEREBY Resolves to 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 the Seal of the City of Wilton Manors, Florida to be affixed on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

SCOTT NEWTON, MAYOR  
City of Wilton Manors

