



# Proclamation

Presented this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023

***WHEREAS**, all 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 inclusive with liberatory learning environments that welcome and affirm LGBTQI+ young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, people with disabilities, and all communities that experience marginalization; and,*

***WHEREAS**, 97 percent of LGBTQI+ students reported hearing anti-LGBTQI+ remarks from students in Illinois schools, and more than one in two Illinois students, 54 percent, experienced at least one form of anti-LGBTQI+ discrimination at school; and,*

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

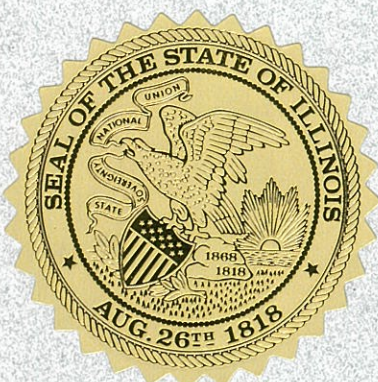
***WHEREAS**, nearly half of LGBTQI+ young people seriously considered suicide in the last year - an increased trend among Indigenous, Black, and multiracial LGBTQI+ young people; and,*

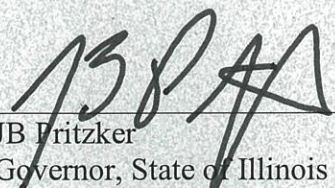
***WHEREAS**, over 200 anti-LGBTQI+ education bills are introduced each year in state legislatures across the country, the majority of which specifically target transgender and nonbinary young people, 85 percent of transgender and nonbinary young people say that recent debates prompted by state legislation restricting the rights of transgender people have negatively impacted their mental health; and,*

***WHEREAS**, positive school transformation must recognize that safety is too a low bar, that all communities deserve to be acknowledged and affirmed in our schools, and that we must all demand the best possible future for all young people in schools, including those who identify as LGBTQI+, without exception; and,*

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

***THEREFORE**, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby join in supporting 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 all Illinois residents to support the Rise Up campaign and adopt laws and policies that prohibit bias-based victimization, exclusion, and erasure.*



  
JB Pritzker  
Governor, State of Illinois