



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. BOX 001  
TRENTON  
08625  
(609) 292-6000

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
GOVERNOR

June 25, 2023

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to recognize GLSEN's 2023-2024 Rise Up campaign in its pursuit of the best possible future for all of our young people, including those who identify as LGBTQIA+.

Safety is too low a bar for New Jersey's schools. Every child deserves an environment that affirms their right to thrive. We know that LGBTQIA+ young people frequently experience bias-based bullying, harassment, and discrimination, which have devastating effects on their wellbeing and endanger their ability to secure the bright futures that they deserve. Young people who grow up in positive school climates free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination report greater physical and psychological safety, greater mental wellbeing, and improved educational and life outcomes. It is my sincerest wish that our children not only survive but thrive in their school years, academically and personally.

Young people, and the communities that they inherit and shape, are best served when all forms of systemic oppression are eliminated. Bias-based victimization, exclusion, and erasure have no home in New Jersey. As Governor, I stand with all those who are committed to achieving equal educational opportunity today to guarantee a brighter future for our young people tomorrow.

My very best,

  
Philip D. Murphy  
Governor