



March 23, 2023

**Support the Rights of All Students and Parents  
Support H.Res. 219, Oppose H.R. 5**

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 230 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and the 228 undersigned organizations, we urge you to support the rights and inclusion of all students and parents in our public school system by supporting H.Res. 219, the Bill of Rights for Students and Parents, and opposing H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act. As the civil and human rights community, we have fought for more than 100 years for the rights of *all* students and parents to attend and be fully included in well-resourced public schools that prepare them for their futures.<sup>1</sup> The Bill of Rights for Students and Parents sets forth a vision respecting and honoring the dignity and worth of every child — a vision supported by the overwhelming majority of parents in the country. In contrast, H.R. 5 seeks to undermine the relationship between parents and teachers, to facilitate book banning, and to make our most marginalized children less safe.

During this time in which proponents of discrimination and exclusion are creating policies and legislation to harm students and undermine the learning environment for everyone, support for developing supportive, inclusive, safe, and responsive public schools could not be more important. In a recent national survey, 80 percent or more of parents said that it was very or extremely important that their child be honest, ethical, hardworking, helpful to those in need, and accepting of people who are different from them. **It is these parental values that are reflected in H.Res. 219.**<sup>2</sup> No matter our color, background, or zip code, we want our kids to have an education that imparts honesty about who we are, integrity in how we treat others, and courage to do what's right.

<sup>1</sup> See, for example: *Niagara's Declaration of Principles, 1905* available at: <https://glc.yale.edu/niagaras-declaration-principles-1905>, *Mendez v. Westminster School Dist.*, 64 F. Supp. 544 (S.D. Cal. 1946), *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), Davis, Julie L. *Survival Schools: The American Indian Movement and Community Education in the Twin Cities*. 2013, *Lau v. Nichols*, 414 U.S. 563 (1974), 2013., *Children Out of School In America*. Children's Defense Fund. 1974. Available at: <https://digital.lib.utk.edu/collections/islandora/object/cdf%3A385/datastream/PDF/view>, *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), Heumann, Judith and Kristen Joiner. *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist*. 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Minkin, Rachel and Juliana Menasce Horowitz. "Parenting in America Today." *Pew Research Center*. January 24, 2023. Available at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2023/01/24/parenting-in-america-today/>

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Similarly, 80 percent of parents want to protect the ability of young people to have access to books from which they can learn about and understand different perspectives and help them grow into adults who can think for themselves.<sup>3</sup> H.Res. 219 recognizes this near-universal view that censorship and book banning “undermine the education of all students, take choices away from all students and their families, and limit the opportunities of parents, families, and children to access an education and think critically about the world around them.”<sup>4</sup>

H.R. 5 seeks to create detrimental harm to our most marginalized children, erase the complicated and difficult history of our nation, and damage parent and teacher relationships. Instead of promoting the values and priorities that the overwhelming majority of parents from all backgrounds and neighborhoods share, the bill would undermine important public health and child well-being data by effectively eliminating anonymous surveys of students; would harm those most vulnerable LGBTQ+ youth who are unable to come out to even their own parents by forcibly outing them;<sup>5</sup> would embolden a small group of activists who are using book bans to selectively stamp out the perspectives of Black people, LGBTQ+ people, and other historically marginalized groups;<sup>6</sup> and would bog schools down with reporting and commenting requirements that bear no relationship to proven parent and family engagement practices.<sup>7</sup>

We ask that you strongly support H.Res. 219, strongly oppose H.R. 5, and reject attacks on the rights of *all* students and parents to attend and be fully included in well-resourced public schools that prepare them

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<sup>3</sup> “Voters Oppose Book Bans in Libraries”. American Library Association. Available at: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/voters-oppose-book-bans-libraries>

<sup>4</sup> H.Res.219, The Bill of Rights for Student and Parents

<sup>5</sup> Many LGBTQ youth find support and acceptance when they choose to come out to their parents; forcibly outing an LGBTQ student on a bureaucratically imposed timeline does not support these students or their parents and has been deemed a privacy violation (see *Nguon v. Wolf*, in which a federal court held that Nguon had a “Constitutionally protected privacy right with respect to disclosure of her sexual orientation” to a parent <https://www.aclu.org/cases/nguon-v-wolf>). Forcibly outing a student may present a significant risk to their health and safety, including housing stability. LGBTQ+ young people are more than twice as likely (120 percent more likely) to experience homelessness, compared to non-LGBTQ+ young people. See, for example: “Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America”. Voices of Youth Count. (2017). Available at: <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VoYC-National-Estimates-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2017.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> For an instructive historical analog, see: Gates, Henry Louis Jr. “Who’s Afraid of Black History.” *The New York Times*. February 17, 2023. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/17/opinion/desantis-florida-african-american-studies-black-history.html>. For more on book bans see, for example, Paz, Isabella Grullón and Maria Cramer. “How Students Fought a Book Ban and Won, for Now.” *The New York Times*. October 2, 2021. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/02/us/york-pennsylvania-school-books.html> and Bristow, Holly. “Moms 4 Liberty Brevard asking for 19 more books to be pulled from school libraries.” *Fox35 Orlando*. March 23, 2023. Available at: <https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/moms-4-liberty-brevard-asking-for-19-more-books-to-be-pulled-from-school-libraries>.

<sup>7</sup> See, for example: “National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.” National PTA. Available at: <https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/family-school-partnerships#explore>, Jacques, Catherine and Alma Villegas. “Strategies for Equitable Family Engagement.” State Support Network. December 2018. Available at: [https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/10/equitable\\_family\\_engag\\_508.pdf](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/10/equitable_family_engag_508.pdf), Mapp, K. L. & Bergman, E. “Dual capacity-building framework for family-school partnerships (Version 2)”. 2019. Available at: [www.dualcapacity.org](http://www.dualcapacity.org), Joyce L. Epstein, and Associates. *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action*. 2019. “School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, Fourth Edition”.

for their futures. If you have any questions, please reach out to Liz King, senior program director at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, at [king@civilrights.org](mailto:king@civilrights.org).

Sincerely,

National (133)

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
A Way Home America  
AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)  
Act To Change  
Advocacy Institute  
Advocates for Youth  
All4Ed  
American Association of University Women  
American Atheists  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Humanist Association  
American School Counselor Association  
Apiary for Practical Support  
Arab American Institute (AAI)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Athlete Ally  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Campaign for Our Shared Future  
Campus Pride  
Care in Action  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Applied Transgender Studies  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Collective Power for Reproductive Justice  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
EducateUS: SIECUS In Action  
Education Leaders of Color (EdLoC)  
Education Reform Now  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities  
End Rape On Campus  
Equal Rights Advocates

Equality Federation  
Equity Forward  
Evaluation, Data Integration, and Technical Assistance (EDIT) Program  
Family Equality  
Feminist Campus  
Fenway Institute  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
FORGE, Inc.  
Girls Inc.  
GLAAD  
GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD)  
GLSEN  
Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights  
Hindu American Foundation  
Hispanic Federation  
Houston Area Urban League  
Human Rights Campaign  
Human Rights First  
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice  
Impact Fund  
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda  
Indivisible  
interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth  
Interfaith Alliance  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Juvenile Law Center  
KIPP Public Schools  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Lambda Legal  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
Lawyers for Good Government  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
Matthew Shepard Foundation  
MomsRising  
Movement Advancement Project  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)  
National Center for Transgender Equality

National Center for Youth Law  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Hispanic Media Coalition  
National LGBT Cancer Network  
National Organization for Women  
National Urban League  
National Women's Law Center  
New American Leaders Action Fund  
New Generation Equity  
Oregonizers  
People For the American Way  
PFLAG National  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Plume Health  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
Public Citizen  
Public Justice  
Red Wine & Blue  
Reproductive Rights Coalition  
School Board Partners  
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)  
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change  
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network  
SPLC Action Fund  
Stand for Children  
Tahirih Justice Center  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Arc of the United States  
The Education Trust  
The Personal Stories Project  
The Sikh Coalition  
The Workers Circle  
TransAthlete  
True Colors United  
Trust Women  
UnidosUS  
Unitarian Universalist Association

United State of Women (USOW)  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
VoteProChoice  
Voto Latino  
Wayfinder Foundation  
We Testify  
Whole Woman's Health  
Whole Woman's Health Alliance  
Woodhull Freedom Foundation  
YWCA USA

State/Local (96)

A Woman's Choice of Charlotte  
A Woman's Choice of Greensboro  
A Woman's Choice of Jacksonville  
A Woman's Choice of Raleigh  
Acadiana Queer Collective  
Aces NYC  
Action Together New Jersey  
African American Office of Gay Concerns  
AIDS Foundation Chicago  
Alliance for Quality Education  
Arkansas Black Gay Men's Forum  
Avow Texas  
Bans Off Miami  
Black Californians United for Early Care and Education  
Carolina for All  
Central Florida Jobs with Justice  
Chicago Abortion Fund  
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights  
Cobalt  
Democrats for Education Reform DC (DFER DC)  
Democrats for Education Reform Massachusetts  
Democrats for Education Reform New York  
Detroit Disability Power  
DFER Colorado  
Disability Law Center  
Donald Patton  
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance  
Education Reform Now  
Education Reform Now CT  
Education Reform Now Texas  
Equality California

Equality Illinois  
Equality South Dakota  
Equality Virginia  
EqualityMaine  
Faces of Fallen Fathers  
FL National Organization for Women  
Florida Council of Churches  
Florida Health Justice Project  
Forever Caring Evonné  
Gender Justice  
GLSEN New Mexico  
Greater Milwaukee Urban League  
Greater Orlando National Organization for Women  
Illinois Families for Public Schools  
Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization  
Indivisible DuPage  
Indivisible Georgia Coalition  
Indivisible Miami  
Jane's Due Process  
JASMYN, Inc.  
Lafayette Citizens Against Censorship  
Latino Memphis  
Learning Rights Law Center  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship  
Louisiana Coalition for Reproductive Freedom  
Louisiana Progress  
Louisiana Trans Advocates  
Maine Parent Federation  
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition  
Mazzoni Center  
Memphis Urban League  
Michigan Alliance for Special Education  
Michigan Education Justice Coalition  
Missouri Health Care for All  
NASD  
National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis  
NJ Community Schools Coalition  
North Carolina Justice Center  
OutFront Minnesota  
OutNebraska  
Parent Education Organizing Council  
Paterson Alliance

Paterson Education Foundation  
PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)  
Pride Action Tank  
Pro Choice Missouri  
Pro-Choice North Carolina  
Progress Florida  
Queer Northshore  
Rad Family, a project of North Jersey Pride  
Reproductive Freedom Acadiana  
Save Our Schools NJ  
SHERo Mississippi  
Silver State Equality-Nevada  
Solid Foundation Youth Outreach  
Southern Echo Inc.  
St. Tammany Library Alliance  
The Ezekiel Project  
The Parents' Place of MD  
The Urban League of Philadelphia  
The Womxn Project  
Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh  
Urban League of Middle Tennessee  
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations