



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Youth Pride Inc.**

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### **Youth Pride (YPI) Deplores Trump Administration's Rollback of Guidance Regarding Transgender Students**

*The withdrawal of this guidance is disgraceful and not only emotionally abusive towards our trans students, it removes one more tool transgender students had to defend their rights and fight back against discrimination, especially in regard to their right to use their restroom of choice.*

It is absolutely disgraceful the President has rescinded such important and practical federal guidance that protected our transgender students and provided school districts with tangible advice on how to create inclusive learning environments for all. While anti-discrimination laws remain in effect, the rollback of this guidance sends a clear message to transgender youth that their government is not willing to stand behind their rights and safety. Through the work that YPI does in schools across the state, we know that schools who adopt inclusive trans policy create a better learning environment, not just for transgender students, but for all students reducing bullying, harassment and violence overall.

President Trump has made the lived experiences of our transgender students potentially worse because in the retraction of such guidance, it can empower others to bully students with the perceived backing of the President of the United States. YPI supports and applauds the RI Department of Education for reaffirming their commitment to their *Guidance for Rhode Island Schools on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students*, but this does not enforce inclusive practice within our schools. YPI remains committed to seeing that not only does the law continue to protect transgender students' right to an equal education, but that they are granted full and equal inclusion in our schools, just as is afforded to others. Federal laws used to protect transgender students have not changed, and school districts across the country must still comply with the law. This means schools that have protected the rights of transgender students should continue to do so and schools that have discriminated against transgender students will still face liability in court.

YPI is here for anyone in need of advice, support and resources. We remain committed to ending the homophobia and transphobia in all of the environments youth live, work, study and play in. In the coming weeks, YPI will be engaging with our state and local government leaders to explore strategies to ensure our transgender students' rights are maintained and protected to the full extent as are the rights of other students, especially in regards to equal access to school facilities.

#### **About Youth Pride Inc.**

Youth Pride, Inc (YPI) is an affirming space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and questioning young people to build community, develop connections and be themselves. YPI is dedicated to the unique needs of youth and young adults impacted by sexual orientation and gender identity/expression while working to end the homophobic and transphobic environments in which they live, work and play. We also provide professional development and training for youth service workers, social service organizations and schools so that they have the information and resources to treat all youth with respect and dignity.