



***NC COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES
LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR
EQUALITY NORTH CAROLINA***

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

ARTIE HARTSELL, MSW

NC Council of Churches



**WHAT'S
GOING
ON??**

&

**WHAT CAN
WE DO?**

**WHO HERE HAS
ADVOCATED IN
THE LEGISLATURE
THIS SESSION?**

WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

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"Advocacy is not a luxury. It's a necessity. We advocate for our survival."

Eddie Ndopu

Eddie Ndopu, a South African disability rights advocate and 1 of 17 global advocates appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Sustainable Development Goals. He describes himself as "Black, queer, disabled, and brilliant."

There were 400 anti-LGBTQ+ bills filed in state legislatures across the country in the 2021-2023 session.

This was a significant uptick from previous years.

By May 2023, in the beginning of the 2023-2024 legislative sessions across the country, **over 500** anti-LGBTQ+ bills had already been filed.

70% OF THE BILLS BILLS TARGET LGBTQ+ YOUTH IN SCHOOLS, SEEKING TO:

- Limit curriculum and instruction
- Require parent/guardian permission to access to student clubs
- Disclose students' gender identity and pronouns
- Allow religious refusals for staff to ignore student pronouns
- Limit or ban participation of transgender youth in sports

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WHILE ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THESE BILLS BECOME LAW, THEIR IMPACT IS REAL



Recent political attacks aimed at transgender and nonbinary youth have not only threatened their access to health care, support systems, and affirming spaces at school, they've also negatively impacted their mental health.

Dr. Jonah DeChants (he/him)
Research Scientist, The Trevor Project




93% of transgender and nonbinary youth said that they have worried about transgender people being denied access to gender-affirming medical care due to state or local laws.




91% of transgender and nonbinary youth said that they have worried about transgender people being denied access to the bathroom due to state or local laws.

83% of transgender and nonbinary youth said that they have worried about transgender people being denied the ability to play sports due to state or local laws.




45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.






Nearly 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary youth attempted suicide and LGBTQ youth of color reported higher rates than their white peers.

Share:   

LGBTQ youth who felt high social support from their family reported attempting suicide at **less than half the rate** of those who felt low or moderate social support.

Share:   

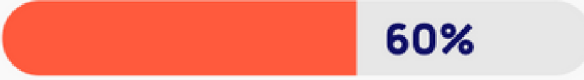
Fewer than 1 in 3 transgender and nonbinary youth found their home to be gender-affirming.




Share:   

LGBTQ youth who found their school to be LGBTQ-affirming reported **lower rates of attempting suicide**.

Share:   

60% of LGBTQ youth who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it.



Share:   

LGBTQ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ people reported **significantly lower rates of attempting suicide** than those who do not.

Share:   

Suicide Risk

45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered suicide in the past year

including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth and 1 in 3 cisgender youth.



14% of LGBTQ youth attempted suicide in the past year

including nearly 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary youth and 1 in 10 cisgender youth.



Rates of considered and attempted suicide among LGBTQ youth

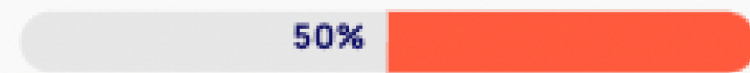
Explore Data by:

- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Race/Ethnicity

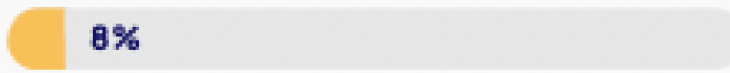
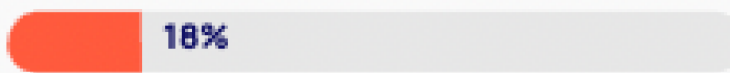
compared to...

- 21% of Native/Indigenous youth
- 20% of Middle Eastern/Northern African youth
- 19% of Black youth
- 17% of Multiracial youth
- 16% of Latinx youth
- 12% of Asian American/Pacific Islander youth

Considered suicide in the past year



Attempted suicide in the past year



Download this chart

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BACKLASH TO FEDERAL WINS

- **Marriage Equality for LGBTQ+ people** passed in 2015 through the Supreme Court
- **Offices within President Obama's administration** determined SOGIE was a protected status, as did The Federal Bureau of Prisons, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development
- **In June 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States** determined SOGIE status was protected from discrimination in employment, *Bostock v. Clayton County*



June 26, 2015

WE HAVE SEEN IT THROUGHOUT U.S. HISTORY

- Early censorship in the South of anti-slavery rhetoric in textbooks
 - Post Civil War: "indoctrination of southern schoolchildren with aristocratic social values..."
 - "CRT"/accurate history bans (George Floyd protests)
- Classroom Censorship bills starting in the 80s in response to HIV/AIDS efforts
 - Limiting instruction on LGBTQ topics in public education
 - "No Promo Homo" Laws are still present in 4 states: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma

RECENT TRENDS IN LEGISLATION SEEK TO:

Prohibit access to gender-affirming care for transgender youth and young adults

Prohibit transgender youth from participating in sports

Prohibit transgender people from accessing facilities

Allow providers to assert religious beliefs to deny services

Limit teaching on race, gender, and equity

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

North Carolina NCGA has introduced a total of 13 anti-LGBTQ+ bills:

- 5 Gender-Affirming Care Bans
- 3 Transgender Sport Bans
- 1 "Don't Say Gay" Bill
- 2 License to Discriminate Bills
- 1 Drag Performance Ban

CROSSOVER DEADLINE

Only **3 bills** met crossover last week:

- 1 Gender-Affirming Care Bans - H808
- Transgender Sport Ban- S636/S631/H574
- "Don't Say Gay" Bill - S49

BILLS TO TRACK

Education & Censorship

BILLS	IMPACT
S49 "PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Censor LGBTQ+ curriculum in grades K-4• Mandate educators to report LGBTQ+ youth• Could limit after-school participation in GSAs• Forces teachers to out trans students
H187 "EQUALITY IN EDUCATION"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Censors curriculum on race & racism, systemic oppression, & American history• Follows national platform focusing on myth of "Critical Race Theory" in K-12 education• Censors school staff & external DEI trainers

Censorship & Employment

BILLS	IMPACT
S 607 "PROHIBIT COMPELLED SPEECH/HIGHER ED."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrict diversity, equity, and inclusion standards in hiring and recruitment for colleges• Prohibits compelled speech on "political debate or social action"
H 364 "NONDISCRIM & DIGNITY IN STATE WORK"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrict diversity, equity, and inclusion standards in hiring for state employees• Censors training & nondiscrimination efforts• Aims to "stop indoctrination"

Trans Sports Bans

BILLS	IMPACT
<p>S 631/H 574 "FAIRNESS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS ACT"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restricts trans students in middle/high school (and college H574)• Enforces outdated and invasive practices• Passed House & Senate -> Conference
<p>S 636 "SCHOOL ATHLETIC TRANSPARENCY"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has been amended: NCHSAA would have to include "biological participation requirements" for student participation

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Gender Affirming Care Ban

BILLS	IMPACT
<p>H 808 "YOUTH HEALTH PROTECTION ACT"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After amendment, prohibits gender affirming surgeries for youth under 18• Holds exceptions for controversial surgeries on babies and youth with differences in sex development (DSD)• Prohibits public funding from being applied to gender affirming surgeries for minors

Abortion Ban

BILLS	IMPACT
<p>S20 "CARE FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES ACT"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-clinic abortion procedures allowed through 12 weeks• Procedures after 12 weeks must be performed in a hospital• Medication abortion only allowed through 10 weeks• Abortion allowed up to 20 weeks in cases involving rape or incest; police reports not required "at this point"• Exceptions to protect life of pregnant person and for genetic/medical abnormalities of the fetus, though language is ambiguous• Increased reporting & informed consent requirements

BILLS STALLED

Bills that **did not** meet crossover include:

- Broader gender affirming care bans
- Outright ban on drag performances
- License to discriminate in healthcare
- K-12 sex ed restriction bill with "don't say gay" style provisions

But language from these bills may be added to the bills moving forward.

LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

Bill # (Ex: H1 or S1) 2023-2024 Session

This a "Companion Bill". This means there is an exact same bill introduced in the opposite chamber

Most current version of the bill is the Edition with the highest number. Click to read it.

Bill Journey: Top line with most recent date is the next action. HB574 has been referred to Senate Rules

Sponsors: 1st line is Primary Sponsors 2nd line and following are co-sponsors who have signed on in support Click for contact info.

Floor Votes: Here is where you can see what votes have been taken on the chamber floor and how Representatives or Senators voted

Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS): These are amendments introduced in committee. If a PCS passes in committee it will change the edition.

H573 House Bill 574 (=S631) **H575**

Fairness in Women's Sports Act. 2023-2024 Session

[VIEW BILL DIGEST](#)
[VIEW AVAILABLE BILL SUMMARIES](#)

EDITION	FISCAL NOTE
Filed	
Edition 1	
Edition 2	

Last Action: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate on 4/20/2023

Sponsors: Balkcom; Gillespie; Paré; K. Baker (Primary); Adams; Arp; Biggs; Blackwell; Bradford; Brody; Cairns; Chesser; Cleveland; Crutchfield; Davis; Dixon; Fontenot; Hardister; Hastings; Howard; Humphrey; Iler; N. Jackson; Johnson; Kidwell; Loftis; Lowery; McNeely; Miller; Mills; Moss; Pickett; Pike; Pless; Potts; Pyrtle; Reeder; Riddell; Saine; Sasser; Setzer; Shepard; Carson Smith; Sossamon; Strickland; Ward; White; Willis; Winslow; Zenger

Attributes: Public; Text has changed

Counties: No counties specifically cited

Statutes: 115C, 116 (Chapters); 115C-12, 115C-218.75, 115C-238.66, 115C-548.1, 115C-556.1, 115D-5, 116-239.8, 116-400, 116-401, 116-402, 116-403 (Sections)

Keywords: HIGHER EDUCATION, LGBTQ & GENDER ISSUES, MINORS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS, PUBLIC, RELIGION & RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, REPORTING, SECONDARY EDUCATION, SPORTS, STUDENTS, UNC, UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS, CIVIL ACTIONS, STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS, STUDENT ATHLETES

ALL VOTES									
DATE	SUBJECT	RCS#	AYE	NO	N/V	EXC.A...	EXC.V...	TOTAL	RESULT
4/19/2023 4:26 p.m.	Second Reading	[H]-22 3	73	39	1	7	0	112	PASS
4/19/2023 3:11 p.m.	Motion 12 / Add to Cal	[H]-20 6	73	41	2	4	0	114	PASS

HISTORY				
DATE	CHAMBER	ACTION	DOCUMENTS	VOTES
4/20/2023	Senate	Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate		
4/20/2023	Senate	Passed 1st Reading		
4/20/2023	Senate	Regular Message Received From House		
4/20/2023	House	Regular Message Sent To Senate		
4/19/2023	House	Passed 3rd Reading		
4/19/2023	House	Passed 2nd Reading		PASS: 73-39
4/19/2023	House	Added to Calendar		
4/19/2023	House	Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)		
4/19/2023	House	Reptd Fav		
4/19/2023	House	Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House		
4/19/2023	House	Reptd Fav Com Substitute	CS: PCS30298-BE-17	
4/6/2023	House	Ref to the Com on Judiciary 1 if		

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Choose the chamber:
Ex.HB# is in House Judiciary 1

- HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES
- SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES
- NON-STANDING, INTERIM AND STUDY COMMITTEES
- COMMITTEES PAGE

Stream the hearing: the recording does not stay up after the meeting

Click for agenda: sometimes not available until day before. Bills that will be considered are listed and hyperlinked for review.

Look for the committee.
Ex. House Judiciary 1

- House Standing
- Agriculture
 - Alcoholic Beverage Control
 - Appropriations
 - Appropriations, Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources
 - Appropriations, Capital
 - Appropriations, Education
 - Appropriations, General Government
 - Appropriations, Health and Human Services
 - Appropriations, Information Technology
 - Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety
 - Appropriations, Transportation
 - Banking
 - Commerce
 - Disaster Recovery and Homeland Security
 - Education - Community Colleges
 - Education - K-12
 - Education - Universities
 - Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform
 - Energy and Public Utilities
 - Environment
 - Ethics
 - Families, Children, and Aging Policy
 - Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs

JUDICIARY 1
House Standing Committee

Upcoming Meeting: Mon, 5/1/23 at 3:00 PM [STREAM](#)

Meeting Schedule: Every Wednesday at 12:00 PM in 423 LOB

Subscribe: Meeting notices by email

Membership Bills Documents

Chair

Rep. Davis

Vice Chair

Rep. Mills

Members

- Rep. Alston
- Rep. Arp
- Rep. Bradford
- Rep. Cotham
- Rep. Harrison
- Rep. A. Jones
- Rep. Potts
- Rep. Saine

Committee Members: Click name for contact information

WHAT YOU CAN DO

EQUALITY NC'S NEXT STEPS

- Continued communication via briefings, social media, and emails
- Identifying storytellers to testify at the NCGA or speak with press
- Acting as a resource for Electeds and others
- Mobilizing

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- Sign up for our newsletter and share our communications with your network; engage with and share our social media content
 - @equalitync on Instagram, Twitter, Tiktok
 - "Equality North Carolina: on Facebook)
- Respond to and share calls to action and volunteer asks!
- Reach out to legislators
- Speak in committee hearings

WHAT YOU CAN DO: FAITH SPECIFIC!

- Faith Leader Organizing
- Be visible, be heard:
 - op-eds, LTEs
 - Share information with your faith community
 - Attend faith-based meetings and advocacy days
- Coalitions

LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE



LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

1

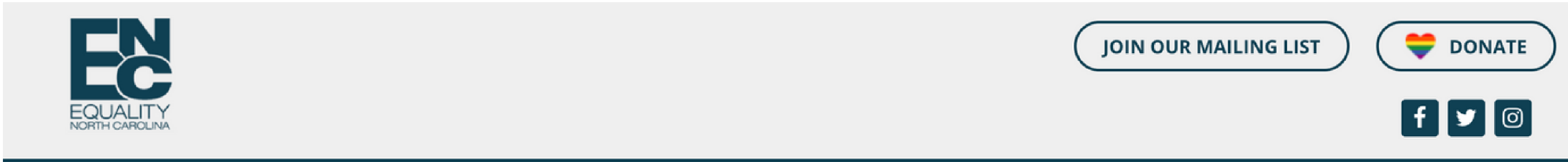
RIGHT NOW:

2

Sign up for our emails at the top of the page at equalitync.org

3

Sign up for our Advocates Network:
https://equalitync.org/equality_nc_advocates_network/



ncisready.org/2023bills
Click "Take Action"

UPCOMING!

URGENT CALL TO ACTION

LET LT. GOVERNOR MARK ROBINSON AND BIGOTRY GROUPS KNOW THAT HATE IS NOT WELCOME IN OUR STATE!

JOIN US FOR A RALLY AND PRESS CONFERENCE AGAINST BIGOTRY IN FRONT OF THE NCGA AT 11:30 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 17TH

BRING SIGNS, CHALK, NOISEMAKERS, FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

Our Bodies Are Not A Crime

Fundraiser for queer rights by The Night Rider, Wicked Witch and Ruby Deluxe staff

Your favorite bartenders are taking to the stage to raise money for

18+



Sunday
May 21
6pm
at Ruby Deluxe

Tickets
QueerRaleigh.com

All tickets sales, performer tips and bar tips will be donated

QUESTIONS?



Executive Director:

Kendra R. Johnson (she/her): kendra@equalitync.org

Education Policy Director:

Rebby Kern (they/them): rebby@equalitync.org

Education Policy Associate:

Brennan Lewis (they/them): brennan@equalitync.org

Organizing Director:

Eliazar Posada (he/him): eliazar@equalitync.org

Strategic Initiatives Director:

Artie Hartsell (they/them): artie@equalitync.org