



Contact Brianna Westbrook or Michelle Gahee
Telephone (623) 217-9233/(510) 499-1400
Email Brianna.westbrook@outlook.com/michelle@equalityarizona.org

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
October 23, 2018

ARIZONA TRANS AND ALLY COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ANTI-TRANS POLICIES

We Exist, We Vote, and We Won't Be Erased

Phoenix, AZ, October 23, 2018– The Trump administration is once again demonstrating their complete disregard for the lives and well-being of transgender people. A memo leaked on October 21 indicated the Trump administration is attempting to narrow the definitions of sex and gender, in order to exclude transgender people from a dignified public life. The New York Times reported on Sunday that this the administration “is considering narrowly defining gender as a biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth,” and that “any dispute about one’s sex would have to be clarified using genetic testing.”

These changes come in direct opposition to decades of judicial decisions defining legal protections in regard to sex and gender, and decades of medical and scientific advances recognizing gender and sex are much more than genitalia and are not determined by the sex assigned at birth.

In response to this proposed change Brianna Westbrook, Local Political Organizer, said, “We are mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. We are a marginalized population who live among people who wish we didn’t exist – but we do, and we refuse to be erased.”

This proposal will negatively impact the lives of nearly 2 million transgender people in the United States by limiting access to work, education, housing, health care, and fair and equal treatment under the law. “This is not the Trump administration’s first attack on the transgender, gender non-conforming, lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities,” said Michael Soto, Executive Director of Equality Arizona, “This administration has made clear that it intends to work to undermine all legal protections against the LGBTQ community. We must organize, we must stand together as a community, and we must vote on November 6th, 2018 and in 2020.”

The Arizona Trans and Ally community’s response to this latest cruel attack is to come together in the Arizona “We Exist and We Vote” rally on November 2nd, 2018, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at

the Arizona capitol. The rally is an opportunity for the trans and ally community to stand together against these hateful attacks from the Trump administration and to build support for a state and nation where all people are seen as fully human and afforded the rights and liberties that are the promise of this society.

The rally is organized and sponsored by AZTYPO, Trans Spectrum of Arizona, the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance, First Church UCC, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, Phoenix Pride, GLSEN Phoenix, Maricopa County Working Families Party, Unify Sedona, Greater Yavapai County Coalition, one•n•ten, One Community, QuTopia, Aliento, NARAL Pro-Choice Arizona, Trans Queer Pueblo, Human Rights Campaign Arizona, and Equality Arizona.

Please join us on November 2nd, stand up against hate in policy form, and get ready to vote for candidates who will respect the rights and dignity of trans and gender non-conforming people.
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Equality Arizona is Arizona's statewide advocacy and grassroots community building organization. Our mission is to achieve and maintain equal, legal rights and protections for the LGBTQ community in Arizona.

Trans Spectrum of Arizona Our purpose is to provide service, support and a social outlet for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and their allies. we provide peer to peer programming for transgender support and socializing. For more information about our groups please go to our website <https://tsaz.org>

For the last 20 years, the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance has provided continuous community advocacy, education, outreach resources and a broad range of support services for transgender, transsexual, and gender-variant people, as well as families, allies, service providers, employers, and other community organizations.

Arizona Trans Youth and Parent Organization (AZTYPO) provides resources and support for the parents and families of transgender and gender creative children. AZTYPO provides a monthly support group, community outreach, and education and training to local public schools.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona (PPAA) is Planned Parenthood's advocacy and political arm in Arizona and the state's largest nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to protecting access to sexual and reproductive health care. PPAA is fighting for every person's freedom and right to make reproductive choices, enjoy sexual health and wellbeing, and build healthy, strong families by educating voters, public officials, and candidates for public office.

ONE Community is a member-based coalition of socially responsible businesses, organizations and individuals who support and promote diversity, inclusion and equality for all Arizonans. We are committed to reshaping Arizona's image through educating, empowering and connecting our diverse LGBTQ and allied communities on the benefits of inclusion and its direct impact on attracting and retaining top talent and business, ensuring our state's economic sustainability.

QuTopia is an online directory that strives to connect transgender, gender non-conforming, and nonbinary people to the healthcare and service providers that will affirm them, in order to build a world where every experience of gender is respected and celebrated.

GLSEN Phoenix champions LGBTQ issues in K-12 education. We create safe, healthy, and affirming schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Aliento is a community organization that is undocumented and youth-led. Aliento is made of directly impacted people and allies who are invested in the well being, emotional healing, and leadership development of those impacted by the inequalities of lacking an immigration status.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. Here in Arizona we are working hard to change hearts and minds in a variety of ways.

We, the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Phoenix, Arizona, declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation. We offer ourselves as an inclusive community in which the Gospel of God's love for all people is honored and practiced. We affirm this church as a place of hope and a community of welcome to all in Christ's name.

Unify Sedona supports LGBTQ tolerance through education and partnership within the full range of society.*

The Greater Yavapai County Coalition (GYCC) is a non-partisan organization that provides an umbrella of support to members, family, friends, and allies of the LGBTQ+ community by referring to a range of inclusive services, support, activities, and community connections. GYCC builds bridges with the larger community of Yavapai County to create safe spaces, provide awareness, and create a better understanding of the issues that affect LGBTQ people. It currently serves more than 1300 LGBTQ members and allies across Yavapai County, Arizona.

one•n•ten envisions a world where all LGBTQ youth and young adults are embraced for who they are, actively engaged in their communities, and empowered to lead.

Phoenix Pride unites, educates, and engages people to support and empower the LGBTQ community and our allies.

The mission of NARAL Pro-Choice Arizona is to develop and sustain a constituency that uses the political process to guarantee every person the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion.

Trans Queer Pueblo is an autonomous LGBTQ+ migrant community of color who works wherever we find our people, creating cycles of mutual support that cultivate leadership to generate the community power that will liberate our bodies and minds from systems of oppression toward justice for all people. As LGBTQ+ migrant community of color we propose a world where: Our families are respected and integrated into an LGBTQ+ migrant community with the power to define its own path and raise its voice across society.

The Working Families Party is electing the next generation of progressive leaders and building grassroots power in Maricopa County.