

HRC OPPOSES BRETT KAVANAUGH, TRUMP'S SUPREME COURT PICK

FIGHTING FOR LGBTQ KIDS IN OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS

HRC'S GROUNDBREAKING SURVEY: LGBTQ YOUTH CONTINUE TO FACE HURDLES

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**DEAR FRIENDS,**

The 2018 midterms just became the most important election of our lives. With the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy, we are facing the possibility of a Supreme Court that could threaten affordable health care, access to safe, legal abortion and LGBTQ equality for decades to come.

This Supreme Court nomination should serve as a wake-up call for every pro-equality voter in America. We're fighting Kavanaugh's nomination tooth and nail. But the stark reality is this may not be Trump's last Supreme Court nominee. That's why we need to vote this November like our rights depend on it — because they do.

And that's also why we need you more than ever before. We have less than four months to ensure we elect a pro-equality majority to Congress this fall, which is why HRC is already on the ground in key states organizing, mobilizing and preparing to turn out like never before this November.

Throughout Pride Month in June, I traveled to 10 cities in a half-dozen crucial states as part of our Summer of Action, mobilizing 10 million LGBTQ voters and millions more allied voters to pull the emergency brake on the Trump-Pence regime and their insidious agenda. Traveling through Detroit, Madison, Milwaukee, Columbus, Cincinnati, Reno, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Tempe and Philadelphia, I got a chance to see firsthand how energized all of you — HRC's 3 million members and supporters — are all across the country.

In Wisconsin, we campaigned with our hero and champion, Sen. Tammy Baldwin, as we helped energize Equality Voters. In Arizona, I joined a meeting of LGBTQ and Latinx advo-

cates working toward equality across movements. In Las Vegas, we held a get-out-the-vote rally on the eve of Nevada's state primary — and the next day, Equality Voters helped deliver major wins for HRC-endorsed candidates across Nevada. And in nearly every state I visited, I met with youth leaders and community advocates who are helping to create a brighter future for LGBTQ young people.

This is only a snapshot of some of the incredible leaders and grassroots activists I've met on the road, but one thing couldn't be more apparent: Our community is energized, organized, and we're fired up to win in November. That became even more clear as thousands took to the streets to demand this administration reunite families and end family separation and detention at the border.

To each of you who have already signed up to volunteer in your communities, we thank you. And if you haven't yet, I hope you'll join us between now and Election Day. You are literally changing your communities and the world through your advocacy, organizing to defeat anti-LGBTQ politicians, and even running for office yourselves.

The simple truth is that we need to win elections in order to pass protections at the national, state and local levels. Equality Voters — family, friends, neighbors and colleagues who are willing to make a candidate's position on equality the deciding factor in who gets their vote — can help us harness our power to put champions in office who will pass protections for the most vulnerable in our community.

If you're outraged by what's happening in America today and fearful about the future of the Supreme Court and our country, the best way to fight back is at the ballot box this November. I encourage you to ask everyone you know if they are registered to vote. They can check their registration, register, request an absentee ballot and more right here at hrc.org/vote.

When we turn out, we win. And this November, we must do exactly that.

In Solidarity,

Chad Griffin
President
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HRC staff and volunteers celebrate Pride in San Juan after they worked to rebuild homes for LGBTQ families in five cities across Puerto Rico.



Cover: The LGBTQ community and our allies now make up a powerful voting bloc that could derail the Trump-Pence administration's anti-LGBTQ agenda.

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HRC Volunteers and Staff Work to Rebuild Homes for LGBTQ Families in Puerto Rico

“LGBTQ COMMUNITIES FIGHT AGAINST BIGOTRY. WE STAND IN THAT FIGHT TOGETHER. WE MUST COMBAT HATE IN ALL FORMS. HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA, XENOPHOBIA, MISOGYNY, RACISM MUST BE REJECTED.” — KHIZR KHAN

HRC was proud to join Interfaith Alliance, Muslims for Progressive Values, Gold Star father Khizr Khan, Urooj Arshad of Advocates for Youth (right) and other incredible Muslim leaders at our interfaith iftar held in observance of the holy month of Ramadan.

This iftar — which is the evening meal eaten to break the daily fast during Ramadan — served as an interfaith gathering of people from diverse backgrounds with a particular emphasis on LGBTQ rights and Islam's inherent values of inclusivity and justice.



Photos: Helen Parshall, Marty Rouse, Nicole Michaelis, Michael Toumayan

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51%

of young people living with HIV don't know their status. And, despite declining HIV infection rates across the country, youth age 14 to 24 continue to be at a high risk of acquiring HIV, especially young Black and Latinx men and transgender women.

That's why HRC Foundation has put together *HIV 101* for college and university campuses, outlining many of the critical steps higher educational institutions can take to improve student health and well-being.

HRC has also just released a vignette to the guide for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which will empower HBCU students and faculty to take steps to combat HIV on their campuses. You can find both guides at hrc.org/HIV.



A Workplace Divided

It's a story told by LGBTQ people time and time again: We aren't seen or valued at work for who we are; employers miss out on the full spectrum of our untapped potential; we hide in plain sight because we feel unwelcome to be ourselves at work.

HRC Foundation's latest report, *A Workplace Divided*, presents data from the most recent of three national studies conducted by HRC on the work environment of LGBTQ

employees. It demonstrates that workplace inclusion is often driven by non-work-related sharing: When LGBTQ workers answer simple questions like, "What did you do over the weekend?" they are often subjected to a double standard, with their answers seen as "inappropriate" or discomforting by coworkers. By validating LGBTQ workers' experiences, HRC hopes to inform actionable solutions. Read the report yourself at hrc.org/workplace.



Pakistan Protects Trans People

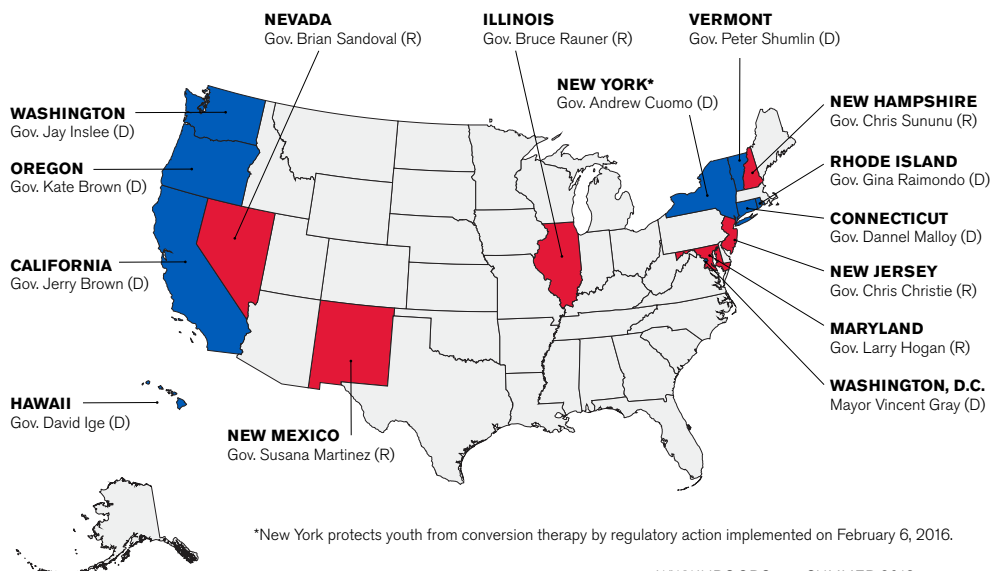
Earlier this year, transgender advocates and allies in Pakistan achieved a historic victory by securing nationwide non-discrimination protections for transgender people.

The "Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018" provides comprehensive protections for transgender people across employment, education, health care, housing, public transportation and a host of other areas.

"This is a victory for the entire transgender community in Pakistan," said Jannat Ali (*left*), a 2018 HRC Global Innovator and transgender activist and artist in Pakistan. "I am proud to have played a part in researching, drafting, and advocating for this crucial legislation."

PROTECTING YOUTH FROM CONVERSION THERAPY

More than a dozen governors across the country, in blue and red states alike, have signed legislation into law or enacted regulations to protect LGBTQ youth from the dangerous and debunked practice of so-called "conversion therapy."



A close-up, slightly low-angle shot of a Black man with a goatee, smiling broadly. He is wearing a purple sweater with a brown and white patterned stripe on the sleeve, over a white collared shirt and a dark tie with small white dots. He is sitting in a white office chair. The background is a blurred office setting with warm lighting.

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HRC President Chad Griffin was in Oklahoma to speak out against SB 1140, a license to discriminate in child welfare services bill.

Fighting for LGBTQ Families and Kids in Oklahoma and Kansas

By Nick Morrow

This year, two state legislatures passed anti-LGBTQ bills that their respective governors signed into law. The two states — Kansas and Oklahoma — passed similar bills that provide a “license to discriminate” in the provision of child welfare services.

The laws (SB 1140 in Oklahoma and HB 284 in Kansas) allow child welfare organizations — including adoption and foster care agencies — to turn away qualified Oklahomans seeking to care for a child in need, including LGBTQ couples, interfaith couples, single parents, married couples in which one prospective parent has previously been divorced or other parents to whom the agency has a religious objection.

The biggest barrier to placing children with families is a lack of qualified prospective parents; having the state give contractors and subcontractors a license to discriminate, thereby limiting the pool of prospective parents for no legitimate reason, is unconscionable.

Throughout the legislative sessions in both states, HRC was on the ground, partnering with local organizations such as Freedom Oklahoma and Equality Kansas

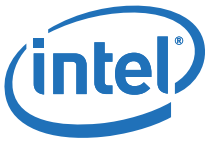
and working within the state capitols to defeat or lessen the impact of these bills. While both bills were signed into law, HRC and our partners were able to shine a spotlight on these discriminatory laws by holding press conferences and releasing letters signed by businesses, child welfare organizations, faith leaders and more. HRC President Chad Griffin also traveled to Oklahoma City and Topeka to stand with local leaders and talk about the discriminatory nature of these harmful laws.

This year, HRC released a report, *Disregarding the Best Interest of the Child: License to Discriminate In Child Welfare Services*, detailing the harms of efforts to write anti-LGBTQ discrimination by child welfare agencies into law. Statistics suggest that an estimated 2 million

LGBTQ adults in the U.S. are interested in adoption, but the LGBTQ community often remains an untapped resource when it comes to finding families for children and youth in foster care. Research consistently shows that LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in the foster care system, as many have been rejected by their families of origin because of their LGBTQ status, and are especially vulnerable to discrimination and mistreatment while in foster care.

HRC will continue to mobilize for future legislative fights and push back on any attempts to discriminate against the LGBTQ community. In both Oklahoma and Kansas, HRC will stand alongside local leaders and LGBTQ Oklahomans and Kansans to mitigate the laws' effects. 🏳️‍🌈

HRC and our partners were able to shine a spotlight on these discriminatory laws by holding press conferences, and releasing letters signed by businesses, child welfare organizations, faith leaders and more.



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BUILDING OUR POLITICAL POWER

By Prianka Srinivasan

There are approximately 10 million LGBTQ voters across the country, and we made up a sizeable 5 percent of the total electorate in 2016. Tens of millions more pro-equality allies are committed to supporting the rights of LGBTQ people and other vulnerable groups. In the six HRC Rising states alone — Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — HRC has identified more than 6 million Equality Voters who support pro-LGBTQ policies, from marriage equality and adoption by LGBTQ parents, to laws that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

This is a historic moment for the LGBTQ movement. Despite mounting attacks on LGBTQ people from the highest levels of government, on-the-ground support for our rights is growing like never before. The LGBTQ community and our allies now make up a powerful voting bloc that could derail the Trump-Pence administration's anti-LGBTQ agenda and pull the brakes on their politics of hate and fear.

"It's not enough to resist the hateful policies and attacks coming from the Trump-Pence regime — we've got to

accelerate the pace of progress toward full equality and secure protections for LGBTQ people in states and communities across the country," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "The power and determination of the 10 million LGBTQ voters and our tens of millions of allies across America will only continue to grow stronger in the face of discriminatory attacks on our rights and freedoms."

Midterm elections may not enjoy the hype of presidential elections, but this year they offer us a unique opportunity to take the reins of our political future by putting more pro-equality allies in Congress that will stand up to bigotry in the White House and defend our rights. We are already witnessing this change — through HRC Rising, we are rallying grassroots support for pro-equality candidates in critical battleground states and competitive congressional districts. Record numbers of pro-equality and LGBTQ candidates are running for office up and down the ballot, signalling a growing desire to fight back and get our country back on the right path.

HRC is building infrastructure and training activists nationwide to seize on this momentum, mobilize Equality Voters,

deliver wins for pro-equality candidates and lay the groundwork for future state and federal legislative victories. To find out how you can join the fight, visit takeaction.hrc.org.

Attorneys General — Defending Equality in the Courts

In October 2017 — just three months after Trump's hastily tweeted ban on transgender troops — 15 state attorneys general across the country came together to oppose the discriminatory ban, filing a brief in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The brief, led by HRC-endorsed Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey — the nation's first openly LGBTQ attorney general — stated that barring transgender service members from openly serving was unconstitutional and that the "purported justifications for reinstating the ban are contradicted by research, reason, and experience."

Their outspoken condemnation, combined with their legal authority to take substantive action, highlights the increasingly important role state attorneys general have played in blocking the Trump-Pence administration's anti-





Photos: Evan Vucci / AP; Helen Parsshall, Marty Rouse, Thinkstock

LGBTQ agenda. State attorneys general are now on the front lines in the fight for equality, willing to defend the rights of the communities they represent in public and in the courts.

“The role of state attorneys general in protecting the civil liberties of all Americans — especially the LGBTQ community — has never been more important,” said HRC Senior Vice President for Policy and Public Affairs JoDee Winterhof.

In addition to threats from the current administration, LGBTQ people are under attack from extremist groups like the Alliance Defending Freedom. Electing pro-equality state attorneys general gives us a fighting chance to stand up to anti-LGBTQ attacks in our courts. We need state attorneys general who are willing and committed to defending the rule of law fairly and equally for all Americans.

“As Nevada attorney general, you have my commitment that I’ll fight

to uphold and defend the rights of all Nevadans,” said state Sen. Aaron Ford, who HRC is endorsing in his campaign to become Nevada’s attorney general. “I’m proud to have fought alongside HRC and Nevada’s LGBTQ community to ensure everyone is treated equally under the law.”

Here are five HRC-endorsed state attorneys general from HRC Rising priority states who we can count on to defend LGBTQ rights and move equality forward.

Maura Healey

(D-MA) - Healey devised the strategy, built the case and argued the first successful challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act. She is the first openly gay attorney general in the nation and has made the fight for equality a hallmark of her campaign.

Aaron Ford

(D-NV) - A former law clerk and math teacher, and current majority leader of the Nevada Senate, Ford has a long record of public service and fighting for the rights of all Nevadans.

January Contreras

(D-AZ) - A former assistant attorney general in Arizona and senior adviser at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Contreras has spent her career fighting for every American’s right to live safely and freely.

Steve Dettelbach

(D-OH) - As a 20-year career federal prosecutor, Steve Dettelbach has spent his career working to make Ohio safer and protect the rights of every Ohioan.

Josh Kaul

(D-WI) - A former assistant U.S. attorney and current litigator specializing in voting rights, Kaul has fought for the equal rights of every American. 🏳️‍🌈





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LGBTQ RIGHTS,
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
& HEALTH CARE.



On July 9, Donald Trump announced his nominee for the Supreme Court: Brett Kavanaugh, an extreme conservative who was handpicked by anti-LGBTQ, anti-choice organizations intent on undermining our civil rights.

In response, HRC has called on the Senate to reject Kavanaugh and to appoint a fair-minded constitutionalist to the nation's highest court.

"In nominating Brett Kavanaugh, Donald Trump has followed through on his threat to nominate a justice who would undermine LGBTQ equality, women's reproductive rights and affordable healthcare," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "Now, the Senate has a responsibility to fulfill its constitutional duty, serve as a check on this reckless president and reject Brett Kavanaugh's nomination."

The prospect of a Justice Kavanaugh threatens to erode our nation's civil rights laws, block transgender troops from bravely serving this nation and allow a license to discriminate against LGBTQ people in every aspect of American life.

The next Supreme Court justice will shape civil and constitutional rights jurisprudence in the country for decades to come. In the coming years the

Supreme Court will be asked to decide critical issues for the LGBTQ community including:

- Whether our nation's non-discrimination laws include protections for LGBTQ people — as many lower courts have already concluded. This would impact employment, housing, healthcare and education civil rights statutes.
- Whether individuals and organizations have a license to discriminate against LGBTQ people when receiving taxpayer dollars to provide critical services.
- Whether LGBTQ people and families can be turned away from businesses open to the general public, simply because of who they are or whom they love.
- Whether qualified transgender people can be excluded from serving in the military, simply because of who they are.

Kavanaugh currently serves as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. During his tenure, he has clearly established a judicial philosophy that the personal beliefs of individuals should dictate the lives of others. Kavanaugh has ruled that an employer's religious beliefs should be

allowed to override their workers' access to birth control.

While refusing to answer whether he believed *Roe* was correctly decided during his confirmation hearing for the DC Circuit, once on the bench he wrote that his colleagues had "badly erred" by determining that an undocumented immigrant teen should have access to an abortion.

In dissenting against the Affordable Care Act, Kavanaugh claimed that "the President may decline to enforce a statute... when the President deems the statute unconstitutional, even if a court has held or would hold the statute constitutional."

We, the American people, have made it clear: we want progress to continue moving forward, not take several steps back. With Kavanaugh, a pick covered with Trump and Pence's anti-equality fingerprints, we risk undoing all the success we've worked so hard together to accomplish.

We will fight Kavanaugh's nomination tooth and nail. Keep in mind — this may not be Trump's last Supreme Court nominee. That's why we need to vote this November like our rights depend on it — because they do. 🇺🇸

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Groundbreaking Survey Shows LGBTQ Youth Continue to Face Hurdles

95% say they have trouble sleeping at night; 77% report feeling depressed or down over the past week.

By Mark Lee

When Makayla Humphrey (below) came out at the age of 10, she was grateful to have the support of her mother. Others in her life, however, were not as accepting. “They always had something negative to say, like telling me I was confused and telling me I was too young to be gay,” she says. “Maybe this is not what I’m supposed to do,” she thought. “Maybe this is not who I am.”

Unfortunately, this lack of support and affirmation is all too common among LGBTQ youth across the country. To better understand the needs of young people like Humphrey, the HRC Foundation’s Public Education and Research team, in collaboration with researchers at the University of Connecticut, conducted a groundbreaking survey of more than 12,000 LGBTQ youth nationwide. Beyond studying experiences at home, in school and in their communities, the 2018 HRC Youth Survey also collected demographic and mental health data to better understand

LGBTQ youth who experience intersectional barriers to success.

Unfortunately, several findings serve as a sobering reminder of the important work we have yet to do to ensure that LGBTQ youth feel affirmed and supported. Only 5 percent of respondents reported that all of their teachers and staff at school are supportive of LGBTQ people, and just 24 percent said they can “definitely” be themselves at home. In addition, 77 percent reported feeling depressed or down over the past week, while 95 percent said they have trouble sleeping at night.

“LGBTQ youth — and especially youth of color and trans youth — face substantial threats to their well-being, which can explain higher rates of depression, anxiety and overall stress,” says Liam Miranda, HRC’s senior research manager. “While our study finds better mental health outcomes for youth who have received psychological and emotional counseling, we must increase access to these critical resources and continue to foster LGBTQ inclusion in our communities.”

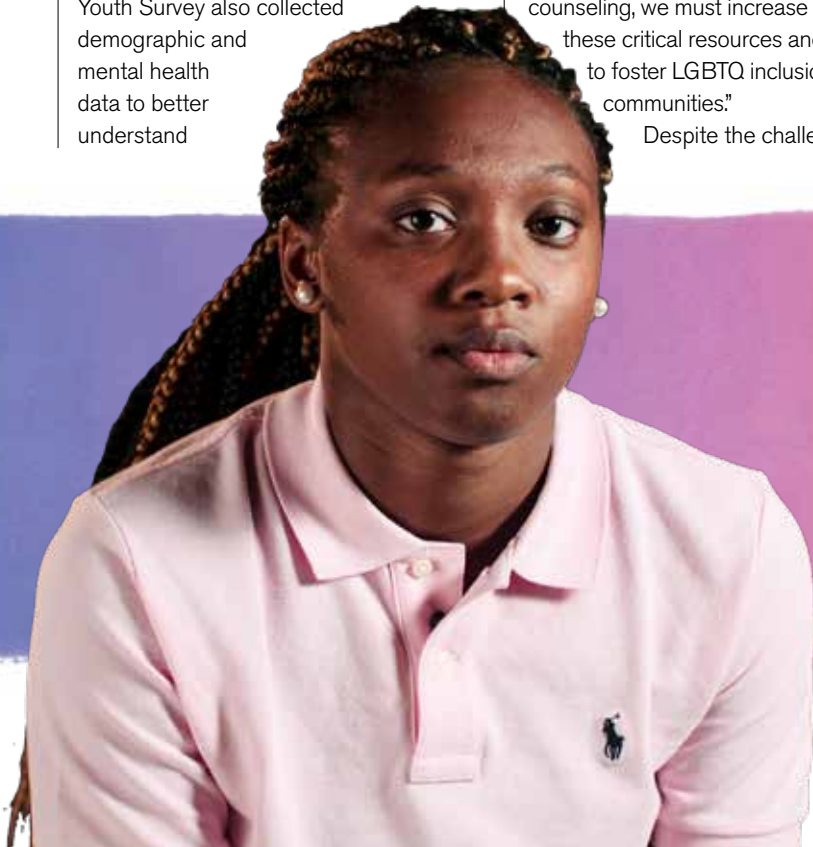
Despite the challenges many

youth face in their lives, HRC’s survey also found that LGBTQ youth are resilient and proud of who they are. Encouragingly, 93 percent of respondents reported that they accept their LGBTQ identities and have pride in being a member of the LGBTQ community.

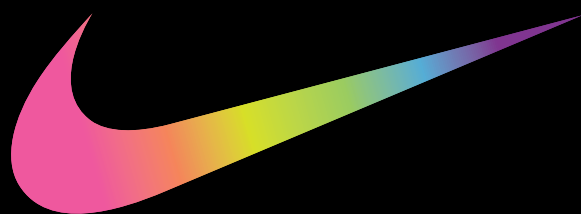
“Even in the face of tremendous adversity, 88 percent of youth told us that they are able to see themselves in the future as happy and successful LGBTQ adults,” says Ellen Kahn, report co-author and director of HRC’s Children, Youth & Families Program. “But we can’t just leave it up to youth to be courageous. As adults, parents and believers of equality, we must all keep working to ensure that every LGBTQ child knows that they are loved and supported.”

After attending college, Humphrey plans to become a high school basketball coach and counselor. “No one as a young child should go through things that I’ve been through,” she says. HRC thanks the thousands of youth who shared their experiences in the survey. To read more of their stories and learn how you can be a greater advocate for LGBTQ youth, please visit hrc.org/youth. 🏳️‍🌈

Photo: Nicole Michaelis



BETRUÉ



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SUPREME COURT ON ANTI-LGBTQ DISCRIMINATION: WHAT THE MASTERPIECE RULING MEANS

The Supreme Court of the United States issued its decision in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* in June, narrowly ruling that the state of Colorado's enforcement of its civil rights law was flawed, while reaffirming that LGBTQ Americans should not face discrimination in the provision of goods and services. As a result, anti-LGBTQ extremists did not win the sweeping "license to discriminate" that they had been hoping, and our nation's civil rights laws remain intact.

"The fact remains that LGBTQ people face alarming levels of discrimination all across the country and HRC's efforts to advance equality are as urgent as ever," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "With LGBTQ people at risk of being fired, evicted or denied services in 31 states, HRC continues to build momentum for the Equality Act, to elect pro-equality candidates up and down the ballot, and is fighting in every corner of our country to advance policies that protect LGBTQ people from being targeted for who they are or whom they love."

Masterpiece Cakeshop involved a baker who refused to serve a gay cou-

ple in violation of Colorado's statewide non-discrimination law. Represented by the SPLC-designated hate group Alliance Defending Freedom, the baker — who lost before the Colorado Supreme Court — claimed that he should be able to discriminate against LGBTQ people on religious freedom and freedom of speech grounds. The Trump-Pence administration filed an amicus brief in this case in support of the baker's claim.

HRC organized two major amicus briefs in the case. The first brief included more than 240 bakers, chefs, restaurateurs and other culinary industry leaders from all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C. It was inspired by HRC Foundation's annual "Chefs for Equality," which brings together renowned chefs, pastry chefs and mixologists for an evening of food, drinks and music to benefit the fight for LGBTQ equality.

Additionally, dozens of major corporations spoke out in another HRC-led amicus brief. These companies sent a powerful message to the Supreme Court, as well as LGBTQ people and allies across the nation. With one voice, they made clear that a business owner's personal beliefs should

never be reason enough to discriminate against a customer because of who they are or whom they love.

Though the Supreme Court's ruling may have narrowly found in favor of this particular baker in this particular case, opponents of full equality are already trying to distort the Court's ruling by encouraging business owners to continue to discriminate against LGBTQ people. Only 20 states have non-discrimination protections like Colorado's law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in services and public spaces. Federal non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people are critical to achieving full equality.

The bipartisan federal Equality Act would provide clear and consistent non-discrimination protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity across key areas of life, including employment, housing, federally funded programs, public spaces and services, education, credit and jury service.

HRC continues to push for the passage of the Equality Act to ensure that every business in the country will always be open to all. 🏳️

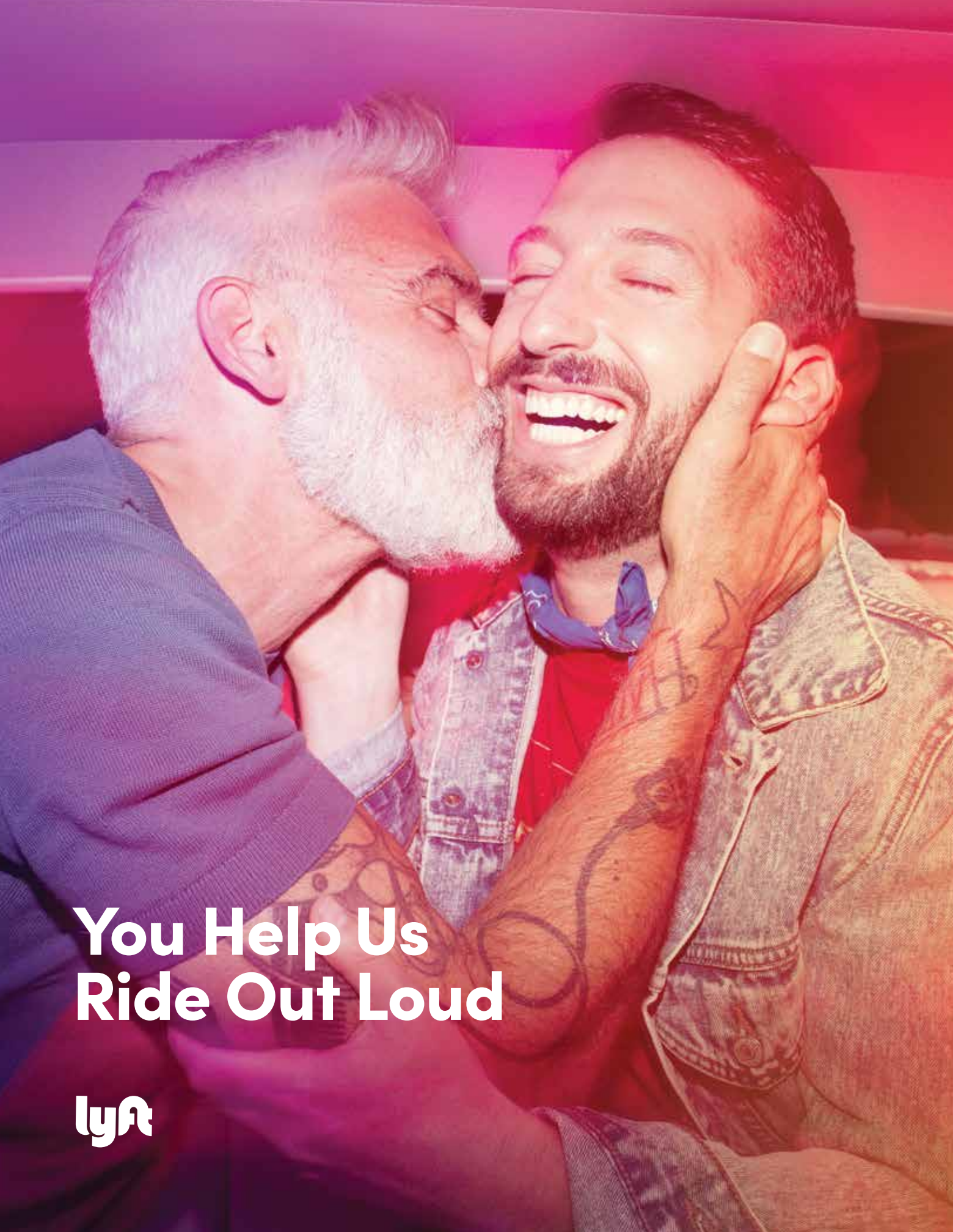
AROUND THE COUNTRY, businesses are showing their support for the LGBTQ community in the wake of the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* ruling by proudly stating their places of business will not turn away anyone based on who they are or whom they love.

HRC's **OPEN TO ALL** toolkit allows you to download a display sign of your own. You can also access more information and additional resources on how to get involved following the *Masterpiece* ruling.

"While the Supreme Court's decision did not deliver the sweeping "license to discriminate" that anti-LGBTQ extremists were hoping for, we know they won't stop here," said HRC Senior Vice President of Communications and Marketing Olivia Dalton. "That's why, in the wake of this ruling, we are urging Americans in every corner of the country to come together in solidarity to reject discrimination."

Find the toolkit at hrc.im.OpenToAll





**You Help Us
Ride Out Loud**

lyft

PRIDE on



It's been one year since ride-sharing company Lyft introduced their Ride Out Loud campaign, where Lyft riders could help accelerate equality by rounding up their fare and donating the difference to HRC. Through this initiative, Lyft has raised \$1.4 million for HRC, and jump-started a strong partnership between our two organizations along the way.

This Pride season, Lyft is once again boosting its efforts to celebrate equality and committing to end stigma and discrimination against the LGBTQ community. Its latest Round Up and Donate campaign for Pride 2018 is designed to harness our community's potential to effect change: For those who opt in, Lyft will automatically round up their fares to the nearest dollar and donate the change to the HRC.

In 2017, HRC honored Lyft with the Corporate Equality Award for its unwavering commitment to the LGBTQ community. We are proud to have Lyft as HRC's Platinum Partner.

"Lyft has been a trailblazing corporate ally to the LGBTQ community, both with its inclusive internal policies for employees and its outspoken executives who have made clear that the company strongly supports pro-equality legislation and policies across the country," said Deena Fidas, director of the Workplace Equality Program at the HRC Foundation.

Through its support of HRC, Lyft is committed to creating an atmosphere where everyone feels welcome, comfortable and respected — both in and out of the car. 🏳️

RIDE OUT LOUD WITH ROUND UP & DONATE

Through the Round Up and Donate campaign, Lyft users have generated over \$1.4 million for the Human Rights Campaign. The next time you use Lyft, please consider rounding up and telling your friends.

If you don't have an account:

- 1 Download the Lyft app
- 2 Open an account
- 3 Click on the icon in the top left corner (may be your picture)
- 4 Select settings
- 5 Select round up and donate
- 6 Click on HRC
- 7 You're good to go!

If you do have an account:

- 1 Click on the icon in the top left corner (may be your picture)
- 2 Select settings
- 3 Select round up and donate
- 4 Click on HRC
- 5 You're good to go!



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FAMILIES BELONG TOGETHER

HRC WAS PROUD TO MARCH WITH OUR PARTNERS TO DEMAND THAT WE REUNITE FAMILIES AND END THE TRUMP-PENCE ADMINISTRATION'S DANGEROUS AND CRUEL POLICY.



On Saturday, June 30, HRC staff, members and supporters dressed in white and joined our civil rights partners in Washington, D.C., and across the nation, in cities including Las Vegas, Reno, Columbus, Cincinnati and Dallas, for #FamiliesBelongTogether rallies. In a powerful display of solidarity, we marched together with NCTE, Voto Latino, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, LGBT44, Latino44 and other organizational partners to demand that the administration offer a legitimate fix to their cruel policy that separates and detains children.

We've seen it all over the news: The U.S. government is detaining and forcefully separating innocent children from their parents as they attempt to cross the border from Mexico, all at the cruel behest of the Trump-Pence administration. Trump has tried and failed terribly to "fix" this problem created by his own administration with a tepid executive order. But the order is no solution — instead, it keeps detained children imprisoned indefinitely and fails to reunite many families already ripped apart.

We will not be quiet in the face of this injustice. In addition to the national marches, HRC urged people on social

media to take action and hold the Trump-Pence administration accountable for their cruel policy.

Both on the ground and online we sent a loud message to the Trump-Pence administration: Tearing families apart is inhumane and shameful. Jailing families together offers no solution. This is wrong — and it's on all of us to do something about it.

Let's pull the emergency brake on the Trump-Pence administration and elect pro-equality candidates into office this November. Register to vote at hrc.org/vote. 🇺🇸

Photo: Helen Parshall



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Cargill is proud of its 100 percent rating on the Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index as a top workplace for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) employees.

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CALLING ALL HRC MEMBERS!

This November, midterm elections are more important than ever and will determine just what our country stands for. With Trump backing them, bigoted anti-equality politicians think they'll win at the polls – but they clearly don't know that **MILLIONS** of HRC members and supporters are **OUT to VOTE** against them!

Let's **mobilize, organize** and **make our voices heard**. All politics are local, and there are many ways for you to have an impact this election year. Let's kick anti-equality politicians out of office and prevent new ones from being elected. Let's take back our country! **We're calling on all our members to:**



Mark Your Calendars!

Election Day is **November 6, 2018**. To find your polling place go to hrc.org/vote



Register to Vote!

Text **VOTER** to **30644** and we'll help you check your voter status and register to vote.



Volunteer in Your Area!

For ways to get involved in your community and make a difference nationwide, check out hrc.org/volunteer

YOUR VOTE MATTERS



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— *Harvey Milk*

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CURRENT AS OF JULY 1, 2018

HRC'S GALA EVENTS

**ORANGE COUNTY
GARDEN PARTY**

AUGUST 4, 2018

- Jeff Brumett & Marc LaFont
- Private Residence in Orange Park Acres, CA
- hrcorangecounty.org

SAN DIEGO DINNER

AUGUST 11, 2018

- Clarione Gutierrez & Tessa Cabrera
- Hotel del Coronado
- hrc.org/sandiegodinner

CLEVELAND DINNER

AUGUST 18, 2018

- Dabney Conwell, Rick Taylor & Nathan Boone
- Hilton Cleveland Downtown
- hrclevelandgala.com

NATIONAL DINNER

SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

- Rachael Gresson & Sherie Hughes
- Washington Convention Center
- hrcnationaldinner.org

SEATTLE DINNER

SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

- Alan Meraz & Andrew LaBadie
- Sheraton Seattle Hotel
- hrc.org/seattledinner

ST. LOUIS DINNER PARTY

SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

- David Stetter & Amy Pakett
- St. Louis Union Station Hotel
- hrc.org/stlouisdinner

TWIN CITIES DINNER

OCTOBER 13, 2018

- Minneapolis Convention Center
- hrc.org/twincitiesdinner

SAN FRANCISCO GALA & AUCTION

OCTOBER 20, 2018

- Lisa Allen & Jim Murphy
- Westin St. Francis
- sfrcgala.org

CHICAGO DINNER

OCTOBER 27, 2018

- Penelope Garcia & Tory Mitchell
- Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
- hrc.org/chicagodinner

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LO QUE MARÍA JAMÁS SE PODRÁ QUITAR (WHAT HURRICANE MARIA CAN NEVER TAKE)

By Helen Parshall

Driving through the San Juan metropolitan area in May 2018, the effects of Hurricane María on Puerto Rico were immediately visible. Back-to-back hurricanes in September 2017 caused catastrophic damage to homes and structures across the island, leaving most without power, communications capability or clean water. The majority of traffic lights were still dark and several buildings bore scars that eight months hadn't been able to heal.

From May 13 through to San Juan Pride on June 3, HRC joined volunteers from organizations across the U.S. to work on the ground with #ReconstruyeO, a project of the Puerto Rico-based organization Waves Ahead, to rebuild homes for LGBTQ families in five cities across the island.

"Being a queer *Boricua** coming home to Puerto Rico with the resources I've gained and the support of HRC to help my people is a source of incredible pride for me," said Lisbeth Melendez Rivera, HRC Director of Faith Outreach and Training. Melendez Rivera is from Caguas, a city south of San Juan.

While volunteers and supporters have made progress in providing critical services to rebuild lives and busi-

nesses in Puerto Rico — particularly by offering health care and connecting communities in the nine months since the storm — advocates on the ground say there remains a lack of adequate resources and visibility to address the unique needs of LGBTQ people.

The HRC team was concentrated in Candelero Arriba, Humacao, working with Ricky, Waleska and Natividad, whose lives had been overturned by the storm. More than eight months after Hurricane María, their three families were all still largely without reliable power.

The storm tore off the entire upstairs of Ricky's home and destroyed his salon, forcing his nine-person family to live out of just two rooms.

Waleska, a single mother and ally in the community, had to move all her things into the second stall of her garage after the hurricane because the second floor of her home had been destroyed by the rain.

And while Natividad's entire family owns houses throughout the parcel of land, because Federal Emergency Management Agency only recognizes the title holder when giving aid, he could not receive federal support to rebuild his home. HRC staff and vol-

unteers were on hand to help install a new roof, windows, and provide a fresh coat of paint to Natividad's home.

The final day of the trip was spent celebrating Pride in San Juan, a day that Melendez Rivera described as "incredibly meaningful."

"Marching in Pride after three weeks of work was such a celebration of who we are and a demonstration of LGBTQ people can do," Melendez Rivera said. "This trip showed people that even in the worst of circumstances, you can do something with nothing."

This Pride, our hearts remain with Puerto Rico as the next hurricane season sets in. At events across the country, we recognize the qualities that define the strength of the LGBTQ community — our ability to be resilient in the face of adversity, to unite at critical times of need and to help those of us who are most vulnerable. Time and time again we saw these qualities on display in Puerto Rico. HRC is proud to support this vital, life-saving work and to have celebrated Pride with the community.

Show your support for the LGBTQ community at Pride. Visit hrc.org/Pride to find an event near you. 🇺🇸

**Boricua*: Derived from the indigenous Taino name for Puerto Rico 'Boriken'

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