

## North Carolina's "Don't Say Gay" Bill



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Steve,

Raised in rural Anson County, I'm a board member at the New Rural Project (NRP) and a proud leader in our region's LGBTQ+ community. My work with Equality NC and on the board of Charlotte's Farewell to Summer Foundation is so fulfilling, and I love giving back to the Anson community that raised me.

I'm reaching out because on the first day of Pride month (June 1) the North Carolina Senate passed its own version of the "Don't Say Gay" bill – House Bill 755. [This bill would ban discussions on gender or sexuality with early elementary school students and require teachers and school support staff to out gay, gender-nonconforming, or transgender students to their families.](#)

This bill is designed to try to scare parents and is a solution in search of a problem, as sexual orientation and gender identity are **not** a part of our state's K-3 education.

As someone who was a rural LGBTQ+ youth, some of the safest relationships I had growing up were with my teachers from Anson County. Rural youth already have less access to mental health resources and affirming spaces, and this bill compounds the

marginalization of our LGBTQ+ youth with the forced outing of LGBTQ+ students and penalties on teachers, staff, and school health professionals who provide affirming support.

**[Can you contribute \\$10, \\$20, or \\$50 today to fund our voter outreach efforts to ensure we elect officials this November who stand up for LGBTQ+ youth?](#)**

Like HB2 (the notorious Bathroom bill), policies like HB 755 are out of step with what the voters of North Carolina want, which is why NRP's work to educate and mobilize voters is so important. Your contributions go a long way in helping us share the truth with voters and expand our outreach so we can stop extremist policies like this one.

Thank you for your support.

With gratitude,

Jamie Hildreth  
New Rural Project Board Member

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