

PRESS RELEASE – November 30, 2016

PFLAG Austin Expressing Support for Dripping Springs ISD School Board on Restroom Use Policy

PFLAG Austin equivocally supports the Dripping Springs ISD School Board in their enlightened and inclusive decision to make restroom use by a transgender girl a non-issue, as it should be. PFLAG Austin are pleased that the girl can live her life as normally and equally as all other girls in her school.

Attempts to make restroom use a safety issue speak more to the mindset of advocates of segregation and bigotry than to actual safety. There is no evidence that transgender people are a safety threat. Indeed, [transgender women are 1.8 times more likely to experience sexual violence. Nearly 80% of transgender people report experiencing harassment at school when they were young.](#) In general, [LGBTQ people are more likely to be target of hate crimes than any other minority group.](#) With that reality, it is impossible to make the case that population transgender children are a threat to other children.

Some parents have asserted that it is not proper for transgender children to share restrooms and showers with cisgender children because of differences in anatomy. There is concern that some children will feel uncomfortable. Anna Nguyen, President of PFLAG Austin says: "If discomfort is an issue, what shall we do when some students feel uncomfortable around differently abled students? Students with darker skin tones? Students with autism? Should we have policies to exclude them as well?"

"We believe that treating one minority differently is bigotry," Ms. Nguyen continues. "We should be encouraging children to embrace diversity and to be compassionate to others, not to be judgmental and exclusionary. We cannot claim moral high grounds of 'family values' and 'Christianity' and yet be practicing something else."

PFLAG Austin is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and approved chapter of PFLAG National. Their mission is to support Central Texas LGBTQ people, as well as the parents, families, and friends of LGBTQ people, by offering free monthly support groups. PFLAG also provides education and outreach at public events such as TDOR and Austin's LGBTQ Pride events.

For more information, please visit www.pflagaustin.org.

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