LGBTQ Youth and Their Families Need Support, Not Politically Motivated Attacks

JASMYN calls on all people who care about the health and welfare of their communities to speak out against the ongoing attacks on LGBTQ youth and their families. JASMYN condemns anti-LGBT policies that are driven by politics and do not serve the best interests of youth or the communities in which they live. These ongoing attacks on LGBTQ youth and the families will have a negative impact on their health and well-being. LGBTQ youth are already found to experience health risks at rates higher than their peers due to being targeted for unfair and abusive treatment.

We know from data collected during the 2019 Duval County Youth Risk Behavior Survey that self-identified LGB students report these following adverse experiences at significantly higher rates than their non-LGBT identified peers:

- Significantly more likely to report not going to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)
- Significantly more likely to report they were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property (such as a gun, knife, or club, one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)
- Significantly more likely to report they were bullied on school property (ever during the 12 months before the survey)

Is it no surprise then that LGB identified youth also were:

- Significantly more likely to report they felt sad or hopeless (almost every day for >=2 weeks in a row so that they stopped doing some usual, ever during the 12 months before the survey)
- Significantly more likely to report seriously considered attempting suicide (ever during the 12 months before the survey)
- Significantly more likely to report attempting suicide (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)
We need more robust conversations in our community about how we can eliminate these disparities. We believe supporting youth to be their full authentic selves with the support of their families and communities is critical.

We support the federal guidelines issued by Health and Human Services via the Office of Population Affairs. Transgender and non-binary youth do, in fact, benefit from being able to socially transition and should have access to gender affirming, life-saving, health care.

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