



**Statement of LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. in Response to  
Targeting by Congressional Republicans  
July 19, 2023**

Yesterday Republican members of the House Appropriations Committee voted to strip Community Project Funding for The Pryde, the first LGBTQ-affirming and welcoming affordable senior housing in Massachusetts, along with funding for two LGBTQ community centers in Pennsylvania. This action marks the first time in history that Congress has denied Community Project Funding simply because it benefits the LGBTQ community.

Earlier this year LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. partnered with Pennrose Companies, a national housing development company, in seeking a federal earmark for capital funding for The Pryde. Our proposal, supported by U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, as well as State Senator Liz Miranda, State Representative Rob Consalvo, Boston City Councilors Ricardo Arroyo, Ruthzee Louijeune, Julia Mejia, and Michael Flaherty, and numerous community organizations, was one of ten Community Funding projects selected by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. It was approved as part of the final 2024 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development spending bill that was taken up by the House Committee on Appropriations yesterday.

Despite overwhelming community support and meeting all of the criteria for Community Project Funding and despite approval by the subcommittee, the Republican majority in the Appropriations Committee approved an amendment to strike funding for The Pryde, along with the William Way Community Center and the LGBT Center of Greater Reading in Pennsylvania.

Gretchen Van Ness, Executive Director of LGBTQ Senior Housing, thanked Congresswoman Pressley for her support and condemned the Committee's actions. "Last year, with the unwavering support of our Congresswoman and other elected officials, we broke ground at The Pryde, the first LGBTQ-affirming and welcoming affordable senior housing community in Massachusetts. This targeting of vulnerable LGBTQ elders who, like all seniors, deserve to grow old in community that supports them and is free from harassment and discrimination, is unconscionable and deeply wrong. The construction and renovation work to complete the adaptive reuse of the historic former Rogers Middle School in Hyde Park will continue."

"We will not be stopped," Van Ness continued, and she pledged that the construction of The Pryde will be completed. "For the hundreds of low income and economically vulnerable LGBTQ older adults and others who are waiting – many in unsafe circumstances – for the opportunity to

apply for housing at The Pryde, please know that the work continues and we will soon make history when we open our doors to our first residents.”

LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. is the only nonprofit organization in New England solely devoted to the creation of LGBTQ-affirming affordable senior housing. For more information, visit our website at <https://www.lgbtqseniorhousing.org/> or reach out to us at (857) 342-3292 or [info@lgbtqseniorhousing.org](mailto:info@lgbtqseniorhousing.org).

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