



City of Seattle

Seattle LGBTQ Commission

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PRESS RELEASE

Seattle LGBTQ Commission Opposes Federal Anti-LGBTQ Actions

SEATTLE – The Seattle LGBTQ Commission, along with the Seattle Human Rights Commission, Commission for People with disAbilities, and Immigrant and Refugee Commission are deeply disturbed by the recent wave of anti-LGBTQ & anti-immigrant actions by the United States Federal Government.

This includes President Trump's planned ban on transgender individuals serving in our military, rolling back protections of trans students from using the bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity, ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), as well as Attorney General Jeff Sessions' argument that federal civil rights laws do not protect individuals from discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our commissions are committed to advancing human rights and justice for all people. President Trump's inability to directly denounce white supremacy and violence directed at marginalized communities is unacceptable. We unequivocally oppose racism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia and antisemitism. We will continue to speak out against President Trump's administration, while also taking actions to dismantle structures of oppression that still exist here in our own city.

President Trump's proposed transgender military ban is nothing more than blatant discrimination. Every American who wants to serve should have the right to do so. Transgender American service members should be honored for their bravery and commitment to our collective well-being.

President Trump's decision to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) is yet another way to criminalize and further marginalize immigrants, which include members of our LGBTQ community. The Commissions stand with immigrants, including those who are undocumented. According to the Williams Institute at UCLA, there are an estimated 267,000 undocumented LGBTQ people living in the US.

These federal actions are just the first steps in the removal of LGBTQ rights in America. Our commissions remain vigilant and will take any necessary action to protect equality in our community. We applaud local leaders like Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson for calling on Congress to stand with transgender service members and undocumented immigrants and U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal's resolution to censure President Trump. Know that these commissions are here to defend the Seattle LGBTQ community and our rights.