



**North County LGBTQ Resource Center**  
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### **Adults bully school boards and target kids in anti-LGBTQ+ culture war**

Across the country, laws and policies that legalize discrimination and promote the erasure of the LGBTQ+ community continue to target those most vulnerable among us — our children. Laws targeting LGBTQ+ students, and particularly transgender youth, prohibit participation in school programs, deny and criminalize affirming medical care, even prohibit discussion about or visual representation of LGBTQ+ life, history, or culture.

California has a number of laws to protect against discrimination and provide for equal access for all citizens, including LGBTQ+ people. While these laws offer greater protections than in many other states, attacks are still launched at our community and our children. The North County LGBTQ+ Resource Center has seen an uptick in reports of LGBTQ+ content being targeted at local school libraries and a deteriorating atmosphere for LGBTQ+ youth at other local campuses. Misguided parent groups have called for books to be banned at school libraries in Solana Beach and Poway. Transgender students are the targets of slurs in Encinitas and San Dieguito schools. Faculty advisors for GSA clubs (Gender Sexuality Alliance) in Carlsbad and Vista school districts are being harassed for supporting LGBTQ+ youth.

So-called conservative tactics encourage parents and other groups to challenge local school boards with accusations of providing “sexualized” content to students and demanding the removal of books that include LGBTQ+ material. It’s another example of how misinformation, coupled with extreme political or religious ideology, will stop at nothing to pursue a failing agenda of hate and discrimination. This bullying encourages an unsafe atmosphere for LGBTQ+ students in our schools and, in California, pressures school districts to break the laws that guarantee equal access, privacy, and protections from discrimination, specifically AB1266 and the FAIR Education Act.

Among the false narratives being advanced is that “sexualized” materials are being used to promote or “groom” young children towards an LGBTQ+ lifestyle. Notwithstanding the assumption this makes about the normality, or lack thereof, of being an LGBTQ+ person, California law already requires libraries, librarians, and school districts to select for age-appropriate materials when it comes to race, gender, and sexuality. Additionally, schools have a duty to provide inclusive curricula for all students, and that includes age-appropriate human development education and gender and sexuality education. When complaints target only one category of materials, such as a concentrated focus on LGBTQ+ related materials and do so by way of threatened lawsuits and protracted negative publicity, the only “grooming” taking place is the kind that shows kids how bullies strive to dominate through manipulation and lies.

The aforementioned California laws align with LGBTQ+ youth, their families, and those school districts strong enough to stand against dangerous bullies. We in the LGBTQ+ community are

sadly all too familiar with attacks like these, but our resilience and dedication to equality means we don't back down to bullies who would see us pushed back into the closet or make our children feel broken and unwanted. We will protect the rights of our youth, just as we fight to protect the rights of all youth.

We ask for our allies to stand with us and repel the assault against our community and our children. We need your support to drown out the voices that bully and pressure local school boards to break the laws that protect our students. We need local officials, business leaders, and faith organizations to stand up and remind their communities that lies and discrimination have no place in our society and especially not in our schools.

If you have school-aged children, pay attention to what is happening at the schools, in school board meetings, and in social media chat rooms. If someone starts targeting LGBTQ+ books, policies, or education don't let it go unchallenged. Speak up for LGBTQ+ equality at a local school board meeting and denounce censorship.

Everyone can learn the truth about California's laws and must be willing to stop misinformation when they see it or hear it. Reach out to your local LGBTQ+ community organization, like the North County LGBTQ+ Resource Center in Oceanside, to report problems or for more information.

#### CONTACT:

General Questions about the North County LGBTQ Resource Center  
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