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PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families, and their friends through

SUPPORT to cope with an adverse society

EDUCATION to enlighten an ill-informed public

ADVOCACY to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

# **Oregon Central Coast Chapter**

**May 2019**

**The editor of this newsletter uses Q as an inclusive term for the all the sexual minority LGBTQ+ spectrum.**

## **Take Action**

After a Harrison County assistant principal, Lee Livengood, acted abusively toward a transgender student in the bathroom, he was put on partially unpaid suspension but then fully reinstated because he “apologized” to the boy . The entire letter read: “I am deeply sorry for raising my voice while in the bathroom on 11/27/18. I promise it won’t happen again.” An adult had heard Livengood say, “I’m not going to lie. You freak me out.” After the ACLU of West Virginia became involved in the case, the county Board of Education decided not to renew Livengood’s contract. He is suing with the complaint that he was not a probationary employee as the district maintained. You can sign a petition to support the boy: [https://action.aclu.org/petition/wv-justice-for-michael?social\\_referer\\_transaction=2467741&ms=sbsocial](https://action.aclu.org/petition/wv-justice-for-michael?social_referer_transaction=2467741&ms=sbsocial)

A characteristic of Q haters is that they associate everything that Q people do with sex. Watch Pat and Andy in this advertisement as they get to know each other in the aisles of Walmart. <https://www.cnsnews.com/blog/michael-w-chapman/walmart-promotes-homosexuality-new-video-love-aisle> The right-wing side is going ballistic; you can support Walmart by going to <https://www.walmart.com/> Press the Feedback link at the lower right side of the page, and type in your comments about the advertising in the box.

**Thanks to Gov. Kate Brown, Oregon is one of five states that will use exceptions and waivers to enlist transgender members despite the new policy to keep transgender people from entering military service. Information on p. 3.**

## First Gay Presidential Candidate an Example to Q People

“Coffee after church gets a little rowdy sometimes,” South Bend (IN) mayor and presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg joked to his audience when a heckler in Iowa attacked him for being gay. Buttigieg added, “The good news is the condition of my soul is in the hands of God. But the Iowa caucuses are up to you.” Anti-gay protesters organized throughout Iowa by the leader of Operation Rescue, a virulently anti-abortion organization, were drowned out by supporters chanting “Pete.”

As the first viable gay presidential candidate—he’s in third place in the polls at nine percent—Mayor Pete, as he is called because of his difficult-to-pronounce last name, has gained strong visibility throughout the country. In addition to his quick mind and sense of humor, he makes sense to people from both parties, even those who may have been homophobic a few years ago.

Pete is as strong in his religion as he is in his love for his husband, Chasten Buttigieg. To another heckler, he said, “That gentleman believes that what he is doing is in line with the will of the creator. I’d do it differently. We ought to be able to do it differently.”

On MSNBC, Rachel Maddow had an excellent interview with Mayor Pete about both his policies and his sexual orientation. It culminated in a discussion between Maddow and Lawrence O’Donnell, the news host who follows her, and Q issues. The three links below provide the entirety of the interview and discussion with O’Donnell:

<https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/pete-buttigieg-democrats-have-to-reclaim-the-values-argument-1494493763929>

<https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/buttigieg-on-coming-out-as-gay-you-only-get-to-be-one-person-1494442563786>

<https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/buttigieg-american-interests-and-american-values-are-inseparable-1494496323606>

Mayor Pete will appear at a Fox town-hall on May 19. The live event will take place in Claremont (NH) at 7:00 pm and will be moderated by *Fox News Sunday* anchor Chris Wallace, one of the better Fox hosts.

Pete Buttigieg’s husband is also becoming known on television. His seven-minute speech at the HRC 2019 Gala Dinner in Houston is well worth watching. As Chasten Buttigieg (aka Chasten Glezman) said, “Your zip code should not determine [your rights].”

[https://www.hrc.org/videos/chasten-buttigieg-speaks-at-the-2019-hrc-houston-dinner?](https://www.hrc.org/videos/chasten-buttigieg-speaks-at-the-2019-hrc-houston-dinner?fbclid=IwAR1Kq4CrIqGfPVIxLSBBMEbq7oWOF4OUgO2vPwx-i5UE7h-3A0oRSEcyjCk)

[fbclid=IwAR1Kq4CrIqGfPVIxLSBBMEbq7oWOF4OUgO2vPwx-i5UE7h-3A0oRSEcyjCk](https://www.hrc.org/videos/chasten-buttigieg-speaks-at-the-2019-hrc-houston-dinner?fbclid=IwAR1Kq4CrIqGfPVIxLSBBMEbq7oWOF4OUgO2vPwx-i5UE7h-3A0oRSEcyjCk)

The Buttigieg’s were married on June 16, 2018 during South Bend’s LGBTQ Pride Week. In this short video, Chasten (above right) talks about his first date with Pete and the response to Pete’s campaign. <https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2019/04/chasten-buttigieg-talks-first-date-mayor-pete-adorable/>

For the first time in U.S. history, people can see the possibility of a Q person achieving the highest office in the land.



# Politics on Our Side

**An excellent website that tracks all current Q bills in the United States.** <https://www.freedomforallamericans.org/2019-legislative-tracker/>

**Chicago (IL):** Lori Lightfoot, featured in last month's newsletter, became the first out lesbian black mayor of the city by 74 to 26 percent. She won all 50 precincts.

**Andover (KS):** The public library will keep three youth books with Q characters in the juvenile section after a board vote of 6-1. *George, Lily and Dunkin*, and *I Am Jazz*—all with elementary or middle school trans characters—received challenges as “indoctrination of children” that requested the titles be moved to the adult or young adult section. A former school librarian and board member pointed out that moving books from recommended sections hides them from their intended audience.

**Arizona:** The repeal of a 28-year law stopping a Q-inclusive health education in public schools means that teachers can openly talk about HIV and AIDS with their students. The legislature now has six openly gay men. The repeal followed the state AG's refusal to defend the anti-Q curriculum law after a lawsuit in opposition to it. New language focuses on HIV and AIDS, but lifting the restriction opens up classrooms to including positive Q content.

**California:** Maj. Gen. Matthew Beevers, a high-ranking officer in the state's National Guard, will use exceptions and waivers to enlist transgender members despite the new policy to keep transgender people from entering military service. Four states joined California in this policy: Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington. Although subject to federal law, state National Guards are controlled by their governors.

**Massachusetts:** With Gov. Charlie Baker's signature on a bill banning gay conversion therapy for minors, 16 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico have taken this action to protect Q youth under 18 years of age.

**Nevada:** If the Democratic majority House passes SB 97, approved in the Senate by 19-2, Nevada may become the fourth state to ban so-called gay and trans panic defenses that revictimize Q people who have been assaulted and/or murdered. The first three states are California, Illinois and Rhode Island. Another six states are working on similar legislation: Georgia, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington along with Washington, D.C.

**United States:** Five Republicans and 233 Democrats in the House voted to pass HR 124, authored by Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-MA), that “strongly opposes President Trump's discriminatory ban on transgender members of the Armed Forces.” It also rejects “the flawed scientific and medical claims” used to justify the transgender military ban and “strongly urges the Department of Defense” to refuse to implement the policy.

Seventy percent of the public believe transgender people should be able to serve in the U.S. military—94-3 percent among Democrats and 75-16 percent among independents. Republicans oppose transgender people in the military by 50-40 percent.

**United States:** Because of support from some congressional members, the transgender flag is flying in the Capitol, some of them for Trans Visibility Week and others permanently. Reps. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Andy Levin (D-MI), Lori Trahan (D-MA), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Ayanna Presley (D-MA), and Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) put the flags outside their offices, and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) tweeted a picture of the transgender flag.

**India:** State of Manipur appointed an openly transgender beauty pageant queen to urge the approximately 500,000 trans people to vote in general elections.

## News Bits

Q-rights by zip codes: the **best—and worst—places for Q** people to live in the U.S. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/25/opinion/sunday/worst-and-best-places-to-be-gay.html>

A new study, this one from Germany, concluded that **“gender surgery significantly improves quality of life for the majority of patients”**—75 percent of them to be specific. The research involved 158 transgender female patients who received surgery between 1995 and 2015.

By June, American Airlines, Alaska Airlines, Delta, United Airlines, JetBlue, and Southwest will permit passengers to put **“unspecified” or “undisclosed” for gender.** Currently five states and D.C. permit “X” instead of “M” or “F” on state-issued identification; Maine will join these states.

**Bisexual people have poorer mental health** than either heterosexuals or gays and lesbians due to internalized biphobia, less supportive partners, and heterosexual relationships. Self-reported problems include depression and anxiety disorders, eating disorders, PTSD, self-harm, and suicidal ideation.

Bisexuals represent the largest percentage of Q youth and are most likely to be suicidal because of victimization and depression. They face greater stigmatization by both heterosexual and gay/lesbian communities and are more subject to bullying and forced sexual intercourse.

## Frederic Nominated for NW Queer Hero

Marci Grace Frederic was identified as male at birth in Toledo, Oregon where, in her earliest memories, she perceived herself differently from the person the world knew. Her gender dysphoria started about four when she realized she felt like a girl who was non-binary in her toy interests—enjoying boy toys and also stuffed animals and Barbies.

She attended schools in Toledo but couldn't take the ridicule; she dropped out, eventually earning her GED at the community college. While working in Portland, she suffered back injuries requiring surgery and rehab. She then returned to the Coast where her injuries forced her to go on disability.

In 2014 she confronted her gender identity following the death of her father and her exit from a violent relationship. Turning to her therapist, internet videos, and visibility of trans people like Jazz Jennings and Caitlyn Jenner, she started her own transition in 2016 with hormone therapy, a new name, and new wardrobe.

Marci launched the first transgender support group on the Central Coast because she was feeling isolated and wanted others to have a safe space to share joys, pain, and helpful resources. “This community is very helpful--I feel like I have not only friends, but family,” she said. Marci is also working with others to improve services for transgender individuals at local hospitals.

For her publicly transitioning in her conservative hometown and for her creating a support network for her trans siblings, PFLAG OCC proudly nominates Marci Grace Frederic as a NW Queer Hero.—Jeanne St.John

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## Opportunity to Participate in Research

This online questionnaire study assesses romantic relationship satisfaction in LGBTQ+ people and factors that may affect satisfaction. Requirements for participation:

- 1) Be at least 19 years old;
- 2) Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, or queer;
- 3) Be currently in a romantic relationship or have at least one previous romantic relationship.

This research was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board of Auburn University (IRB # 19-029 EP 1902). The anonymous questionnaire, which takes 20 to 30 minutes, may be emailed to others. Information and questionnaire: [https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9zVMTaotb9KPah7](https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9zVMTaotb9KPah7)

# LGBTQ Students and Suicide

## A Viewpoint by Jeanne St.John

“Suicide is not caused because of their LGBT identify, but rather by how the world reacts to their identity.” (John Ayers, UCSD researcher)

It’s encouraging to see the focus on student suicide by the area newspapers.

As the Chair of the Oregon Central Coast PFLAG Chapter, I want to share some of the information that motivates our volunteers every day. PFLAG is the extended family of the Q (LGBTQ) community. We’re made up of LGBTQ individuals, family members and allies. Our Central Coast chapter started in 2008 following the suicide of a Newport High Q student who had no acceptance or support at home—and not enough at school or in the community.

Research by the Family Acceptance Project shows that Q youths "who experience high levels of rejection from their families during adolescence (when compared with those young people who experienced little or no rejection from parents and caregivers) were more than eight times likely to have attempted suicide, more than six times likely to report high levels of depression, more than three times likely to use illegal drugs..."

PFLAG offers support and education to families of Q students to ensure greater acceptance from their homes and encouragement to deal with the bullying and abuse they may find in many schools.

- ◆ Some facts about Q suicide from the Trevor Project:
- ◆ Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ Q youth seriously contemplate suicide at almost three times the rate of others.
- ◆ Q youth are almost five times as likely to have attempted suicide.
- ◆ Each episode of Q victimization, such as physical or verbal harassment or abuse, increases the likelihood of self-harming behavior by 2.5 times on average.
- ◆ 24 percent of the suicide deaths in the 12-14 age group were among Q youth in 2013-2015.
- ◆ Schools are “second home” to most teens and Q students are among the most vulnerable in our schools.

Their everyday lives are often a series of insults, threats, or even physical violence. According to the latest nationwide GLSEN School Climate Survey, in the last year Q students:

- ◆ 87% experienced harassment or assault based on personal characteristics, including sexual orientation, gender expression, gender, etc.
- ◆ 57% were sexually harassed at school.
- ◆ 49% experienced cyberbullying.
- ◆ 29% were physically harassed (e.g., pushed or shoved).

LGBTQ students in rural/small town schools faced more hostile school climates than students in urban and suburban schools, including experiencing higher rates of biased language, victimization, and anti-LGBTQ discriminatory school policies and practices; and were least likely to have LGBTQ-related school resources or supports.

This semi-annual survey has consistently indicated that specific school-based supports are related to a safer and more inclusive school climate, including: supportive educators, LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum, inclusive and supportive policies, and supportive student clubs, such as Gay-Straight Alliances or Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs).

For the last 10 years our PFLAG OCC Chapter has focused on preventing Q teen suicides in several ways. PFLAG has helped establish GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance) clubs at high schools and middle schools in Lincoln County. Most high schools and two middle schools have active GSA clubs this year—and a PFLAG volunteer who supports their efforts.

PFLAG has also provided staff training with LGBTQ101 and Trans 101 workshops for school staff and students. Many of these workshops were co-led by students who became proficient teachers of adults. PFLAG has also assisted schools with plans for students who changed gender identity and provided training for mental health staff, healthcare providers, and others who work with teens and their families.

For more information: [www.pflagocc.org](http://www.pflagocc.org).

# People Who Make a Difference

**Kaycee Cook**, a substitute teacher at McCormick Junior High School in Cheyenne (WY), was fired after she reported students wearing Confederate flag t-shirts and handing out disgusting racist and homophobic fliers in the school. Cook, also the advisor for the school's Gay Straight Alliance club, was banned from the building. Students were told they could not display the hateful, racist Confederate and swastika paraphernalia, but administration also banned rainbow flags, clothing, bracelets, and pins. After one day, the school district superintendent told reporters rainbow flags were not banned "as long as students do not use them to incite other students." Cook was also rehired. Cheers to Kaycee Cook for standing up to the bullies.



**Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)** spoke about her gender-nonconforming child while urging the House to pass proposed Q rights legislation that would amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act and other federal laws to include Q people as a protected class. She discussed problems of Q discrimination, family rejection, internalized transphobia, and denial to bathroom or housing access as risk factors for suicide.

**Trent Miller**, a straight man, started a Twitter movement after he offered to take his friend Bryce Richard, a gay nursing student in New Orleans, to the school's spring formal. Bryce told Trent he hadn't asked him to the event because Trent is straight. Trent texted back, "Bryce, we've been buddies for years & it kinda hurts my feelings u think I still care what people say." The story resulted in a storm of tweets from other gay/straight friendships. The best statement: "Everybody needs a Trent!"



**Jess Guilbeaux, 23**, can return to the University of Kansas, thanks to the generosity of people who watched her on Netflix's *Queer Eye*. At the age of 16, she came out to her foster parents who immediately forced her out of their home. She managed to graduate from high school by working as a waitress but couldn't continue her Computer Science studies at the university because of financial problems. A GoFundMe site raised over \$100,000 for her university costs; any money remaining will be donated to GLAAD.

**"Anastasia Vasilyeva"** was awarded nearly \$28,000 in damages and lost wages after she was fired for being transgender. A Russian first, the ruling may impact both Q and women's rights. Fifty percent of transgender Russians say they have been fired or denied employment because of their gender identity, and transgender people are not permitted driver's licenses.

## PFLAG Opportunities

PFLAG Board Retreat on May 4 will review and renew PFLAG program offerings including monthly meetings, community education, school contacts, advocacy, etc.

The Trans Support Group now meets twice monthly—the second Friday at Toledo Public Library and the fourth Wednesday at St. Stephens.

Welcoming Churches websites and newsletters are being reviewed with the hope that more churches will include brief welcoming statements on their home pages and include more detailed statements. The brochure about all welcoming churches in Lincoln County is being updated by Ardis Letey and Elizabeth Jones of the Q Task Force.

Board members: Lisa Norton, Debbie Spicer, Bruce Fairman, Claire Hall, Dawna McLain, Jeanne St John, and Waverly Sudborough (OCCC). New Board member Amy Shumate will join the Board at its May retreat.

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Q books/authors in the past: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/07/t-magazine/gay-children-book-authors.html>

## Media Matters:

NBC portrayed a young transgender person's coming out on "Thelma and Louise," the April 21 episode of the dramedy *Good Girls*, when **Sadie (Isiah Stannard) tells his mother** he identifies as a boy. Sadie had earlier hinted at explorations of gender identity. Stannard self-identifies as a trans person.



On *DC's Titans*, deaf, **genderqueer actor Chella Man** will play Jericho, the son of villain Deathstroke. The character's vocal cords has been severed, forcing Jericho to communicate through sign language and control people's bodies and voices through eye contact.

**Miami:** "Queer Miami" exhibit celebrates the 50th Stonewall anniversary with a look back at 100 years of crimes and discrimination against South Florida's Q community, its development, the Q movement, and marriage equality.

**Kikis with Louie**, a YouTube series features conversations about challenging issues facing queer youth: relationships, sexuality, health, culture, and more. It aims to normalize stigmatized conversations about HIV, STIs, healthy relationships, etc. A new video is released twice a month for ten months beginning in November 2018. <https://advocatesforyouth.org/campaigns/kikis-with-louie/>

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**May 4:** PFLAG Board Retreat

**May 8, 6:00-7:30:** PFLAG Meeting—Being LGBTQ at OCCC, Waverly Sudborough; Preview of June 1 Yachats Pride; Presentation of PFLAG Scholarships—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**May 10, 5:00-7:00 pm:** Trans Support Group—Toledo Public Library, 173 NW 7th Street

**May 12, 11:00 am:** Out Oregon Coast Breakfast at Newport Café—Newport

**May 14, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBT & Allies Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

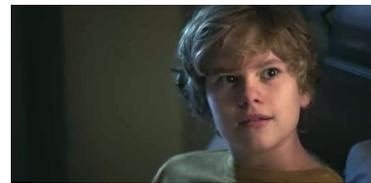
**May 22, 6:00-7:30:** Trans Support Group—St. Stephens, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**May 22, 6:00 pm:** Coastal Queers & Peers Game Night and Socializing—Café Mundo, Newport

**May 26, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Women at Nana's for Lunch—NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

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**The PFLAG OCC Basic Needs Grants provide emergency or urgent relief to LGBT+ people in Lincoln County. Individuals of any age who identify as LGBT+ (or their caregivers) and who demonstrate a financial need for medical aid, housing, transportation, or food can apply. The maximum grant is \$250. Much of the Grant's resources come from other LGBT+ people and straight allies. Contact PFLAG OCC at [pflagocc@gmail.com](mailto:pflagocc@gmail.com) for an application.**



## Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my annual membership fee.\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Household (\$35)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$25)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student/Limited Income (\$15)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

Make check payable and mail to:

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