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Parents, Families, and  
Friends of Lesbians and  
Gays promotes the health  
and well-being of gay,  
lesbian, bisexual, and  
trans-gendered persons,  
their families, and their  
friends through  
SUPPORT to cope with an  
adverse society  
EDUCATION to enlighten  
an ill-informed public  
ADVOCACY to end dis-  
crimination and secure  
equal civil rights.

# Oregon Central Coast Chapter

April 2016

## Take Action

States across the nation are declaring a War on Bathrooms in bills and laws to keep trans people from using the bathroom congruent with their sexual identities. Details are on p. 2. Links to petitions are below:

**North Carolina:** [http://www.shameonmccrory.com/?utm\\_campaign=adv\\_lgbt1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=cooper&rf=em16\\_160326\\_adv\\_gq\\_lgbt1\\_ful\\_\\_rc](http://www.shameonmccrory.com/?utm_campaign=adv_lgbt1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cooper&rf=em16_160326_adv_gq_lgbt1_ful__rc)

**Transgender student in Tennessee:** [https://www.change.org/p/tennessee-state-house-don-t-punish-transgender-students-for-who-we-are?utm\\_source=action\\_alert&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=548561&alert\\_id=bXRgJPWwvA\\_395qqWHpifwmB8b7pl61ftLLwD2bs1tOg8tRjJ9P6o4%3D](https://www.change.org/p/tennessee-state-house-don-t-punish-transgender-students-for-who-we-are?utm_source=action_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=548561&alert_id=bXRgJPWwvA_395qqWHpifwmB8b7pl61ftLLwD2bs1tOg8tRjJ9P6o4%3D)

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**Kentucky Fried Chicken deserves praise.** Georgia Carter, 27, was fired from a local KFC in Virginia one hour after she was hired because the manager discovered that she is transgender. He told her, “Me and my supervisor think that’s a problem. We don’t know what bathroom you could use.” What the manager did was legal because Virginia protects most classes except for sexual orientation or gender identity. After Carter’s experience was televised on local news, she received a call from KFC Corporate who told her that the firing was against company policy. KFC’s anti-discrimination policy includes gender identity and sexual orientation. The manager who fired her is now fired.

Conservative wars against gays and lesbians now move to a focus on discrimination against transgender people—using the need for basic health in using bathrooms as a means of humiliating and marginalizing them. You can read more about this on pp. 1, 2, 5, and 6. As editor, I urge you to sign every petition you see that opposes these punitive ballot measures, bills, and laws that result in higher suicide rates and greater emotional trauma.—Nel Ward

## Conservatives Declare ‘War on Bathroom Use’

At one time, anti-LGBT discrimination laws were based on sex. Now the focus seems to have moved to who gets to use which bathroom. **North Carolina’s** legislators cost taxpayers \$42,000 at the end of March when they called a special session to overturn Charlotte’s ordinance banning discrimination against LGBT people. In 12 hours, they introduced, passed, and had signed a law to prevent any cities and counties from passing anti-discrimination policies. The focus was on banning transgender people from using restrooms aligned with their gender identity. As the icing on the cake, the law also bans city minimum wages from surpassing the state’s \$7.25 an hour.

In an immediate backlash, the NBA may pull its All-Star Game from Charlotte next season. NCAA suggested that its 20 high-profile games during 2017 and 2018 might be moved out of the state. Other businesses—including American Airlines, Biogen, Dow Chemical, and Paypal—expressed opposition to the new North Carolina law which goes into effect immediately because of its emergency status.

**Tennessee’s** House had dropped a bill to keep transgender students from using the bathrooms matching their gender identities, but a committee member brought it back to life. The bill has now moved on to the Senate Finance Committee after passing that chamber’s education committee. GOP governor, Bill Haslam, opposes the measure because it would jeopardize as much as \$1 billion in federal funding. Other opponents argued that the unnecessary legislation would harm transgender students.

GOP Rep. Mark White initially supported the legislation but changed his position after talking with a transgender high school student who had testified that he could only use the teachers’ restroom at his school and often returned home dehydrated and with stomach aches. White continues to oppose the bill.

A **Kansas** bill would put a bounty on transgender students: both K-12 and university students who witnessed transgender classmates going into a bathroom not matching the birth gender could sue the school for \$2,500. The bill would also cover other school facilities including locker rooms and showers. Missouri is pushing a similar bill.

**Virginia’s** bill would fine transgender students \$50 for every time that they use bathrooms congruent with gender identities. **Indiana** is considering a \$5,000 charge and a year in prison for everyone in the state who used what the bill considers the “wrong” facilities. The charge of a “single sex public facility trespass” would be considered a Class A misdemeanor.

**Minnesota** lawmakers have disclosed a bill banning transgender people from using bathrooms matching their gender identities. Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton, who signed the state’s first gay marriage statutes, promised a veto.

Unhappy that Republicans in the **Washington** state legislature did not overturn a state law ensuring equal access to restrooms and other facilities, a group of conservatives filed a ballot initiative to declare “null and void and of no effect” the rules guaranteeing bathroom access for transgender people in perpetuity and for all municipalities. Gender identity has been protected in Washington since 2006, but the Human Rights Commission issued specific rules for the law last December. In order for the measure to be on the ballot, petitioners must collect at least 246,372 valid signatures by July 8, 2016.

**Illinois, Kentucky, and Wisconsin** legislatures are also targeting transgender people, including students.

In all, 17 states are considering 44 anti-transgender bills. Some of these also try to limit the ability of transgender people to access gender-affirming health care and create state-sanctioned anti-transgender discrimination. Even Oregon legislature introduced a bill to stop the Oregon Health plan from providing assistance coverage of specified treatments for transgender people. Fortunately, that bill never got out of committee. (More on p. 5)

# *Politics on Our Side*

After marriage equality was legalized, the good news slimmed down, but it seems to be stronger after Antonin Scalia's death.

**New York City:** Mayor Bill de Blasio signed an executive order guaranteeing people access to single-sex facilities consistent with their gender identity at city facilities, including offices, pools and recreation centers, without the need to show identification or any other proof of gender.

**Philadelphia:** Private companies must display gender-neutral signage on single-occupancy bathrooms.

**Alabama:** A year after the state Supreme Court defied the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality, Alabama dropped a case urging the court to ban same-gender marriages in the state. Ultra-conservative Chief Justice Roy Moore recused himself because he had issued an administrative order for probate judges not to issue marriage licenses to same-gender couples, but he filed an opposing opinion arguing that the state's ban is valid under the U.S. Constitution.

In another loss for **Alabama**, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday ruled in favor of a lesbian mother denied adoption rights by the state of Alabama after she moved to the state from Georgia, where she was the lawful parent of children she had raised from birth. Alabama had tried to deny the mother her adoptive rights by stating that Georgia "was not empowered" by law to recognize her as the children's mother. The Supreme Court based its decision on the Constitution's full faith and credit clause, which instructs states to accept and enforce judgments obtained in other states.

**California:** Michelle-Lael Norsworthy has won an historic settlement with the state

almost a year after a federal judge ordered the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide her gender-affirming surgery while she was incarcerated. The state paroled her after 30 years before she could receive the surgery. According to the settlement, the state will no longer appeal the ruling and provide almost \$500,000 to cover attorney's fees and costs. Norsworthy began hormone therapy in 1999 but remained housed in a men's prison for her entire incarceration.

**Kentucky:** U.S. District Court Judge David Bunning has ruled that altered marriage licenses issued by county clerk Kim Davis to same-gender couples are valid. Davis had removed her name, title, and personal authorization from the licenses so that she could get out of jail. Bunning said that the court would continue to monitor Davis and her office. The state's AG had said that the licenses were valid, and newly elected governor, Matt Bevin, ordered county clerks' names removed from marriage license forms.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the Vatican ambassador to the United States who invited **Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis** for an audience with the Pope, has been "retired." Viganò will be replaced by Archbishop Christophe Pierre according to the Washington Post.

In another case, the **Kentucky Supreme Court** unanimously ruled that a lesbian mother, separated from her partner, may petition for joint custody of her daughter.

**United States:** The Senate Armed Services Committee forwarded the nomination of openly gay Eric Fanning to be Secretary of the Army to the full Senate in early March. He was nominated almost six months ago; during the past five months, there has been no permanent person in that position.

### **Millennials More Flexible**

Less than 48% of Americans aged 13-20 would describe themselves as “exclusively heterosexual”.

More than 70% of 13 to 20-year-olds “strongly agreed” that public spaces should be required to provide gender neutral bathrooms.

The survey states that these are “clear patterns across the different questions that show that Gen Z has a more complex and less binary approach to gender than millennials.”

### **Kenyans See Gay Video**

Google has refused to remove a YouTube video with a gay music video despite demands from the Kenya Film Classification Board. Art Attack’s remix of Macklemore & Ryan’s song “Same Love” is the first gay music video available in the country.

### **First Asexual in Comics**

After introducing a gay character who married his partner, Archie Comics is delving into another sexual minority--asexuality. “Jughead No. 4,” released in February, addresses the protagonist’s asexuality in his discussion with gay classmate Kevin about school and dating.

At least one percent of the population may be asexual, but media representation is almost nonexistent. More about asexuality here:  
[www.care2.com/greenliving/what-is-asexuality.html](http://www.care2.com/greenliving/what-is-asexuality.html)

## **From the PFLAG Chair—**

Ineka Estabrook reports that PFLAG presented LGBT+ 101 at OCCC to an audience of about 30 people with the NHS GSA doing most of the talking.

The reconstituted Trans Support Group meets at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesdays of the month at the Newport Chalet—the same location and time as the Trans Parents Support Group but at different tables.

Women's Foundation of Oregon is hosting a Listen to Her Tour, an interactive town hall to hear directly from women and girls about the issues that affect them most. The group has asked PFLAG to invite lesbians and trans women to hear our voices. The meeting is April 5, 7:00-8:30 pm at the Samaritan Center for Health Education in Newport. Dinner and childcare are available and free.

NHS GSA president, McKenzie Figuracion, is a Loyalty Days princess. The coronation is at the Newport Performing Arts Center, April 30, 7:00-9:00 pm where one of the four princesses will be chosen queen. Figuracion was also awarded the \$1,000 OCC PFLAG scholarship this year. She plans to attend Portland State University in the fall and major in Psychology and Queer Studies, ultimately becoming a counselor.

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## **My Protest to the Human Rights Campaign— Nel Ward**

I have been angry with the Human Rights Campaign since the day that it endorsed Gordon Smith for Oregon’s U.S. senator. Although Smith may have supported a hate crimes bill, he was seriously anti-LGBT in almost every other way. Now, the HRC has not only had no strategy for blocking North Carolina’s anti-LGBT law but also endorsed Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL) in his campaign against Rep. Tammy Duckworth in the current election. Their justification is that Kirk supported the Equality Act after he discovered that his son is gay, but his HRC score is 78 out of 100 percent.

Duckworth has a 100-percent score and a good chance of taking the Senate seat. HRC is backing a white male with a lesser score over a woman of color with a perfect score, a combat veteran who lost both her legs in the Iraq war. This argument is not GOP versus Democrat: it’s about the person who can best block anti-LGBT laws. With this endorsement, the HRC fails to speak for the LGBT community.



# Good News from around the World

**Botswana:** The country's top court has ruled that the government cannot ban LGBT rights advocates from forming political action groups. Two years ago, the High Court ruled that LGBT groups can campaign on HIV/AIDS prevention and fight anti-gay legislation. The government has now lost its appeal to the Court of Appeals, despite its penal code punishing same-gender sex, what it calls "unnatural offenses," with a prison term of up to seven years. No Botswana law outright bans homosexuality as an identity, and a 2010 employment law prevents LGBT employees from being fired based on sexual orientation or HIV status—a law that the United States does not have.

**Italy:** Senators have legalized civil unions for same-gender couples although the country does not recognize their ability to adopt children. The bill now goes to the lower chamber where it is expected to pass. The nation is the last in Western Europe to take such action. Same-gender marriage is legal in 19 countries and regions of two others. A family court in Rome just legalized an adoption by a lesbian couple—a first in the country.

**Mexico:** Jalisco has become the fourth jurisdiction in the country to permit marriage equality after Mexico's Supreme Court struck down language in a Jalisco state law that defines marriage as between a man and woman. Last year the Supreme Court issued a ruling declaring it unconstitutional for Mexican states to bar same-sex marriage, but it did not invalidate state laws. Couples have to sue for the right to marry and wait for court rulings in each case. The newest ruling allows all same-gender couples to wed in Jalisco, home to the country's second-largest city, Guadalajara.

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**More on the Conservatives War on Bathroom Use:** A new study using data from the National Transgender Discrimination Survey correlates the high suicide rates of transgender teens with bathroom restriction for transgender teens because of the discrimination, harassment, and marginalization. Even after controlling for interpersonal victimization, the data shows that denial of access to restrooms had a significant relationship to suicidality.

Like voting restrictions, these "fear of bathroom" bills are a solution in search of a problem: no study has ever found one single reported case of a trans person attacking someone in a public restroom although a trans student in California was beaten and sexually assaulted in a school bathroom in 2014.

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal are to be praised for vetoing discrimination bills, a "bathroom" bill in South Dakota and a misnamed "religious freedom" bill in Georgia.

Conservative philosophy indicates that government geographically closest to people is best able to respond to public needs—unless those decisions are not in alignment with conservative thought. State lawmakers accuse the federal government of overreach, but the same lawmakers preempt local governments.

Georgia's transgender James Parker Sheffeld, 36, tweeted North Carolina's Gov. Pat McCrory, who signed the bill for the sake of "etiquette" and "privacy" and included his photo (right): "It's now the law for me to share a restroom with your wife."



# People Who Make a Difference

**Henry Seaton**, a transgender student in Tennessee, has a petition (p. 1) asking people to help prevent the state's legislature's proposed ban on transgender students using restrooms in public schools and universities "that correspond with our gender identities." He wrote, "I often lay in bed too afraid to attend school. But I'm still fighting here.... If we shine a spotlight on fear and misinformation, we can show Tennessee lawmakers that we won't tolerate legislation that harms transgender students."

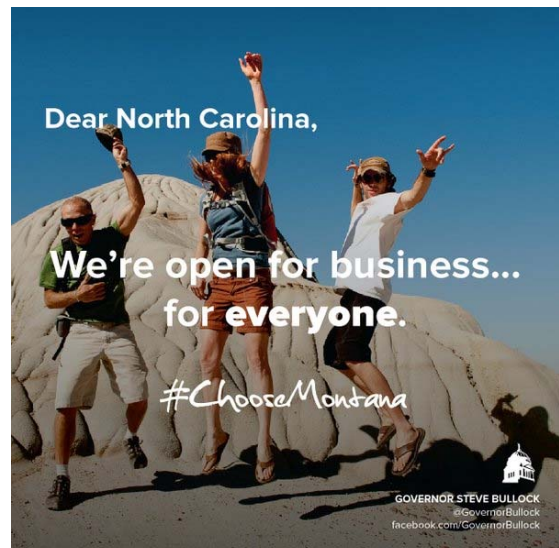


San Francisco Mayor **Ed Lee** has issued a ban on publicly funded city employee travel to North Carolina after its governor, Pat McCrory, signed into law the bill that overturns protections for LGBT people. At the same time, he praised Charlotte (NC) Mayor Jennifer Roberts and cities like hers that have passed bans on LGBT discrimination. **Theresa Sparks** (above), who is transgender and serves as executive director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, joined Lee in his condemnation of North Carolina's legislation of "bigotry, intolerance, and discrimination against the LGBT community."



Right: Message from Montana's Gov. **Steve Bullock** to North Carolina. Bullock is running for reelection against software mogul and anti-LGBT activist Greg Gianforte, a major donor to Focus On The Family and the Heritage Foundation.

Thanks to every North Carolina Democrat in the Senate who walked out of the chamber rather than vote on the bill that legalizes anti-LGBT discrimination. The remaining GOP Senators then approved the bill 31-0.



## President Obama Praises DeGeneres

In February, Ellen DeGeneres invited President Obama on her show to thank him for his support for the gay community and the progress made under his leadership. In return, he praised her for her work: "As much as we've done with laws and ending Don't Ask Don't Tell, etc., changing hearts and minds, I don't think anyone has been more influential than you on that." The clip is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RecREW7iZz8>

## WPA Rejects "Curing" LGBT People

The World Psychiatric Association has declared that attempts to "cure" LGBT people of their sexuality are ineffective and harmful. Its membership of 200,000 psychiatrists from 118 countries affirms same-gender orientation and romantic relationships as healthy expressions of human sexuality. It seeks to decriminalize same-gender relationships, as well as a variety of gender identity expressions plus full support for "anti-bullying legislation; anti-discrimination student, employment, and housing laws; immigration equality; equal age of consent laws; and hate crime laws providing enhanced criminal penalties for prejudice-motivated violence against LGBT people."

## LGBT Group First in NY Parade

For the first time since the original St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City in the 1700s, a LGBT group was allowed to march. The Lavender and Green Alliance participated under its own banner with 300 people including NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio. Last year, parade organizers permitted OUT@NBCUniversal, LGBT employees at NBC, to march in the parade, most likely because NBC televises the event.

# OCC PFLAG Calendar

**April 5, 7:00 pm:** Listen to Her Tour (see p. 4)—Samaritan Center for Health Education, Newport

**April 6, 7:00 pm:** Trans Support Group and Trans Parents Support Group—Newport Chalet

**April 9, 7:00-10:00 pm:** Damsels Divas and Dames! – A Benefit for HIV Alliance - Hult Center, Eugene

**April 12, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

**April 13, 9:30 am:** Presentation to Lincoln County Board of Commissioners for their declaration of Upstander Week—Courthouse, 225 W. Olive, Newport (All invited)

**April 13, 6:00-7:30 pm:** PFLAG Meeting, GSA Report for Upstander Week —St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**April 24, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Coast Women's Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

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The PFLAG OCC Basic Needs Grants provides 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 [pflag-occ@gmail.com](mailto:pflag-occ@gmail.com) for an application.

**Researchers at Illinois need people over 18 who live in the U.S. and identify as transgender and/or gender-nonconforming** willing to discuss language used to describe gender identity. The study defines "transgender" and "gender-nonconforming" for any person whose gender identity currently differs from the one assigned at birth. K.R. Roberto is conducting the research under the supervision of Dr. Kathryn La Barre, Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. One survey takes approximately 10-20 minutes; another task requires about 30-60 minutes. Participants may choose to complete either one or both and also volunteer to be interviewed about their experiences. The initial survey is at <https://illinois.edu/sb/sec/3390592>.

## Join PFLAG!

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

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

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

Make check payable and mail to:  
Oregon Central Coast PFLAG  
PO Box 2172  
Newport, OR 97365

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