

July 22, 2020

Randy Karschner
President
Bloomsburg Fair
620 West Third Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Mr. Karschner:

As organizations that work every day to support LGBTQ Pennsylvanians, we were shocked, disgusted, and outraged by the vile public display of transphobic bigotry at the Bloomsburg Fair's Fireman's Relief Carnival.

Our organizations know how harmful this action was because we understand the effects of transphobia on the people we serve. We recognize how transphobia leads to higher rates of violence and suicide. We witness how transgender people are denied housing and public services. We feel the effects of pervasive anti-transgender bullying and harassment in schools. The public display of bigotry at your event perpetuates this violence.

We are also outraged by the disregard for the sound scientific leadership of our Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine. A study from Drexel University demonstrated that her COVID-19 actions have already saved more than 7,000 lives. Dr. Levine deserves our respect. She does not deserve the barrage of anti-transgender attacks she has experienced, including from your organization.

Transphobia is not a good image for community events including the Bloomsburg Fair, and many businesses throughout Pennsylvania understand that. Our organizations represent tens of thousands of LGBTQ Pennsylvanians and we are demanding that the Bloomsburg Fair take decisive corrective action in apologizing for your significant anti-transgender events this past week. Anti-transgender actions are not a Pennsylvania value.

WE DEMAND:

- A written apology to Dr. Rachel Levine, posted publicly and mailed to her office. Not an excuse, an actual apology which recognizes the hurt and the harm done.
- A donation of an equal amount of funds as raised in the dunk tank to offset this transphobic act to support community education programs on transgender inclusion in Columbia County. We ask that the donation be directed to the Columbia Montour Pride Working Group of the [Coalition for Social Equity](#) which offers education, support, and advocacy for LGBTQ people in Columbia and Montour Counties.

- The posting of an LGBTQ-inclusive non-discrimination policy on the Bloomsburg Fair's website, which all fair vendors must affirm each year.
- Explicitly support statewide LGBTQ non-discrimination protections in Pennsylvania.
- Commit the entire Board and staff of the Bloomsburg Fair to receive training on LGBTQ cultural awareness and equity facilitated by transgender individual(s) who are compensated for their time and expertise.
- Provide a complimentary vendor space at the next two Bloomsburg Fairs to be used as an LGBTQ welcome and resource center which would be staffed by the Coalition for Social Equity and other community inclusion organizations in north central and northeast Pennsylvania.

SIGNED,

Alder Health Services, Harrisburg
 Allies for Health and Wellbeing, Pittsburgh
 Alphabet Soup LGBTQ+ Support Group, Williamsport
 Attic Youth Center, Philadelphia
 Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, Allentown
 Centre LGBTQA Support Network, State College
 Columbia Montour Pride + Coalition for Social Equity, Bloomsburg
 Crawford Area LGBT+, Meadville
 The Curve, York
 Diversity Huntingdon, Huntingdon
 Doylestown Pride Festival, Doylestown
 Dreams of Hope, Pittsburgh
 Eastern PA Trans Equity Project, Allentown
 Erie Gay News, Erie
 Gettysburg Pride, Gettysburg
 Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Inc., Erie
 Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation, Pittsburgh
 Independence Business Alliance, Philadelphia
 Keystone Business Alliance, Harrisburg
 Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition, Lancaster
 LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania, Harrisburg
 LGBT Center of Greater Reading, Reading
 LGBT Elder Initiative, Philadelphia
 LGBT Equality Alliance of Chester County, Phoenixville
 Mazzoni Center, Philadelphia
 Mifflin Juniata LGBT+ Alliance, Lewistown
 NEPA Rainbow Alliance, Wilkes-Barre
 New Hope Celebrates, New Hope
 NWPA Pride Alliance, Erie

Pennsylvania Youth Congress, Harrisburg
PFLAG Danville, Danville
PFLAG Greensburg, Greensburg
PFLAG York, York
Philadelphia Family Pride, Philadelphia
Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus, Philadelphia
Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia
Queer NEPA, Scranton
Rainbow Room, Doylestown
Rainbow Rose Center, York
Reading Pride Celebration, Reading
SAGA Community Center, Hatboro
Spectrum, Reading
Spectrum, York
Trans Advocacy Pennsylvania, East Petersburg
TransCentral PA, Harrisburg
TransFamily NWPA, Erie
TransYOUning, Pittsburgh
TriVersity Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity, Milford
Washington County GSA, Washington
West Branch Pride, Williamsport
Westmoreland LGBTQ Interfaith Network, Irwin
William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia