

Erasing the LGBTQ Community

[HB 1565](#) - [Rep. Basye](#) (R-47, Rocheport) | [SB 786](#) - [Sen. O'Laughlin](#) (R-18, Shelbina)

These "Don't Say Gay" bills interfere with school curriculum and send a harmful, exclusionary message to Missouri students.

Discussing LGBTQ people and acknowledging a person's sexual orientation or gender identity is normal and healthy – it's not inherently "inappropriate."

- These bills would deem LGBTQ content in our public schools "inappropriate."
- These bills would let parents sue schools for including LGBTQ speakers and curriculum unless parents are given advanced notice.
- Inclusive curriculums teach a more accurate version of history, and including LGBTQ speakers, guests and information in schools has a positive effect on students' self image and overall worldview.
- Students should have the right to form clubs like gay-straight alliances that support LGBTQ students.

All students deserve sex education – this is a shared value in Missouri.

- Good sex education is medically accurate, comprehensive and inclusive – meaning it acknowledges and affirms the role of sexual orientation and gender identity in health and development and provides a strong framework in human sexuality that youth can carry into adulthood.
- Restricting what students can learn – and how they learn it – does a disservice to our youth and jeopardize their health and development for years to come. These bills take us in the wrong direction by chilling schools' speech around any issue related to gender identity or sexual orientation.
- Parents can already opt out of sexual health education that doesn't fit with their values, but these bills encourage lawsuits against schools – lawsuits they can't and shouldn't have to afford.

These "Don't Say Gay" bills are censorship, and they would lead to absurd results.

- Under this bill, schools would have to notify parents before a teacher could say, "George Washington was our first president. He was married to a woman named Martha," because this sentence refers to both his gender identity ("**He**") and his sexual orientation (*he is married to Martha*).



Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri

Instead of trying to target LGBTQ students with exclusionary legislation, the Missouri Legislature should be working to ensure that everyone is equal under the law in our state – regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

- Under Missouri law, it is still legal to fire, evict, or deny service to an individual just because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This is wrong, and lawmakers should pass the Missouri Nondiscrimination Act (MONA) to fix it.