

Unidos por los **DERECHOS TRANSGÉNERO** en Puerto Rico
United for Transgender Rights in Puerto Rico
24 West 25th Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10010

Honorable Thomas Rivera Schatz
President of the Senate of Puerto Rico
Senado-El Capitolio
P.O. Box 9023431
San Juan, PR 00902-3431

April 19, 2017

Dear Mr. President of the Senate of Puerto Rico

Recently you signed an administrative order limiting the civil and human rights of transgender individuals in Puerto Rico. Banning our Puerto Rican transgender brothers and sisters, who are Senate employees, from using the restroom and wardrobe that corresponds to their gender identity is a step backwards in the civil rights movements and struggles for equality.

We have seen substantial progress in response to protections of communities already marginalized and targeted by discrimination, hatred, homophobia and transphobia around the world. For far too long Transgender & Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) citizens have not been explicitly protected under Human Rights Law. In a national transgender survey just released a few months ago, it was found that:

- 29% of the respondents were living in poverty. That is two (2) times the rate of the U.S. population!
- 30% reported being fired, denied a promotion, or mistreated on the job
- 15% were unemployed. That is three (3) times higher than the national average (5%). Transgender people of color were unemployed at four (4) times the average!
- 16% reported owning a home. That compares to a 63% average nationwide
- 30% reported being homeless at one time in their life
- 70% of those using a homeless shelter reported some form of mistreatment
- 80% of LGBTQ students, mostly transgender students, are harassed in school throughout their lifetime
- Is it any wonder that 40% of the respondents had attempted suicide?

Transgender and gender non-conforming communities are in need of permanent explicit protections from harmful discrimination in housing and employment, and the same access to government-owned facilities, and services afforded to the general public and to the services of privately owned businesses.

Recently you signed an administrative order limiting the civil and human rights of transgender individuals in Puerto Rico. Banning our Puerto Rican transgender brothers and sisters from using the restroom and wardrobe that corresponds to their gender identity is a step backwards in the civil rights movements and struggles for equality. This action mirrors our current federal administration on anti-trans policy. The LGBT community and the advocacy efforts in Puerto Rico, have advanced the protections of all LGBT citizens. This administrative order, has exposed the Puerto Rican transgender community to persecution, discrimination and lack of legal protection.

We urgently request that you revoke this order to ensure the safety and equality of all Puerto Rican citizens. We know you are well aware that justice knows no gender. Gender Expression is a Human Right and the undersigned organizations, community leaders, advocates and individuals ask you to eliminate discriminatory practices towards all citizens in Puerto Rico.

In solidarity,



Guillermo Chacon
President, Latino Commission on AIDS
Founder, Hispanic Health Network

Melissa Mark-Viverito
New York City Council
Speaker



Jimmy Van Bramer
New York City Council
Majority Leader



Helen Rosenthal
New York City Council Member



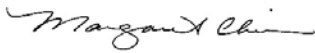
Carlos Menchaca
New York City Council Member



Ydanis Rodriguez
New York City Council Member



Ritchie Torres
New York City Council Member



Margaret Chin
New York City Council Member



Antonio Reynoso
New York City Council Member



Daniel Dromm
New York City Council Member

Liz Krueger
New York State Senator, 28th District

Jose Joaquin Mulinelli
Director Ejecutivo, Coai, Inc.

Pedro Julio Serrano
Fundador, Puerto Rico Para Tod@s

Jose Calderón
President, Hispanic Federation

Luis Scaccabarozzi
Latino Commission on AIDS
Senior Director of Health Policy & Advocacy

Organizations:

AAMA-Minorities Action Program	Houston	TX
ACRIA	New York	NY
ACT UP	New York	NY
ADAP Advocacy Association	Washington	DC
AID FOR AIDS	New York	NY

AIDS Action Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
AIDS Alabama	Birmingham	AL
AIDS Education Training Center	USA	USA
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Chicago	IL
Alianza Americas	Chicago	IL
Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolinas	Raleigh	NC
Altamed	Monterrey Park	CA
Amida Care	New York	NY
Amor que Sana, Inc.	Ponce	PR
APLA Health	Los Angeles	CA
Arianna Center	Miami	FL
Asociación Puertorriquena		
Pro-bienestar de la Familia, Inc. (Pro-Familia)	San Jan	PR
Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans	Houston	TX
Bienestar Human Services	Los Angeles	CA
Bills Kitchen	Hato Rey	PR
Boom!Health	Bronx	NY
Borinquen Health Center	Miami	FL
Bronx Family Health Center /Family Practice	Bronx	NY
Brothers Health Collective	Chicago	IL
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center	New York	NY
CALOR	Chicago	IL
CARECEN San Francisco	San Francisco	CA
Casa Joven del Caribe, Inc.	Toa Alta	PR
Casa Ruby	Washington	DC
Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health		
New York University, Silver School of Social Work	New York	NY
Centro Ararat	Ponce	PR
Centro de Salud familiar La Fe, Inc.	El Paso	TX
Chelsea Collaborative	Chelsea	MA
Citizens Alliance Pro LGBTT Health of Puerto Rico	San Juan	PR
Clínica del Pueblo	Washington	DC
Clínica Esperanza / Hope Clinic	Providence	RI
Coai, Inc.	San Juan	PR
Coalición de Coaliciones	Ponce	PR
Colectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo	Queens	NY
Community Renewal Team Inc.	Hartford	CT
Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ
Congreso de Latinos Unidos	Philadelphia	PA
El Centro Hispano	Raleigh	NC
ENLACES/USMBHA	El Paso	TX
Equality Alabama	Birmingham	AL
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement	Los Angeles	CA

FLUX - a division of AIDS Healthcare Foundation	Los Angeles	CA
Gay and Bisexual Latino Men of NYC	New York	NY
Gay Men of African Descent	Brooklyn	NY
GLSEN	New York	NY
GMHC	New York	NY
Harlem Pride	New York	NY
Harlem United	New York	NY
Heritage Health and Housing	Manhattan	NY
Hetrick-Martin Institute	New York	NY
Hispanic Federation	New York	NY
Housing Works	New York	NY
Human Rights Campaign	Washington	DC
Iniciativa Comunitaria	Hato Rey	PR
Intercambios Puerto Rico	Fajardo	PR
Latin American Health Institute	Boston	MA
Latino Gay Men and Trans HIV Advocacy	Washington	DC
Latino Outreach and Understanding Division of AHF	USA	USA
Latinos D	New York	NY
Latinos in the Deep South	Raleigh	NC
Latinos Salud	Wilton Manors	FL
Latinos/as Contra SIDA, Inc.	Hartford	CT
Louisiana Latino Health Coalition for HIV/AIDS Awareness	New Orleans	LA
MCCNY Charities, Inc.	New York	NY
Mission Neighborhood Health Center	Los Angeles	CA
Montefiore Medical Hospital	Bronx	NY
Mount Sinai	New York	NY
Mujeres Unidas Contra el SIDA	San Antonio	TX
NASTAD	Washington	DC
National Association of Hispanic Nurses	USA	USA
National Black Justice Coalition	Washington	DC
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.	New York	NY
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health	New York	NY
National Latino AIDS Awareness Day	USA	USA
National Latino Hepatitis Awareness Day	USA	USA
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund	Washington	DC
National Medical Hispanic Association	USA	USA
Oasis, Latino LGBTs Wellness Center	New York	NY
Open Arms	Jackson	MS
Open Health Care Clinic	Baton Rouge	LA
Pacientes de SIDA Política Sana (PSPS)	San Juan	PR
Positive Images Enterprises, Inc.	Oakland Park	FL
Positive IMPACT Health Centers	Atlanta	GA
Prevention Access Campaign	New York	NY
Pride Action Tank	Chicago	IL

Pride Center of Western New York	Buffalo	NY
PROCEED, Inc.	Elizabeth	NJ
Project Inform	San Francisco	CA
Project VIDA	Chicago	IL
PSPS	San Juan	PR
Puerto Rico CONCRA	Rio Piedras	PR
Puerto Rico Para Tod@s	San Juan	PR
San Francisco AIDS Foundation	San Francisco	CA
SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy	Columbia	SC
Sister Love, Inc.	Atlanta	GA
St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction	Bronx	NY
Tennessee Dept. of Health	Nashville	TN
The LGBT Center	New York	NY
The Miguel Urgell Charitable Foundation	Los Angeles	CA
The NYC LGBTQS Chamber of Commerce Inc	Bronx	NY
The Puerto Rican Cultural Center	Chicago	IL
Thrive Alabama	Huntsville	AL
TransLatina Coalition	Los Angeles	CA
TransLatina NY	New York	NY
TransLucent	Ponce	PR
Treatment Action Group	New York City	NY
Truevolution	Riverside	CA
United States Living with HIV Caucus	New York City	NY
University of Mississippi Medical Center	Jackson	MS
VALGO	Queens	NY
Valley AIDS Council	Harlingen	TX
VIDA/SIDA, A Program of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center	Chicago	IL
Voces Latinas	Queens	NY
Whitman-Walker Health	Washington	DC

Individuals:

Javier Rios	Albuquerque	NM
Gia Scaccabarozzi	Gainesville	FL
Rossana Agron	Chicago	IL
Craig Coup	Grapevine	TX
Aaron Austin	Washington	DC
Ernest Hopkins	San Francisco	CA
Annette Gaudino	Bronx	NY
Hanna Tessema	Washington	DC
Jeremiah Johnson	New York	NY
Ashwini Hardikar	Brooklyn	NY

Viviana Gonzalez	San Juan	PR
Ricardo Jimenez	Chicago	IL
Jasmine Lugo	Chicago	IL
Sylvia Correa	Chicago	IL
Professor Rebecca Jordan-Young	New York	NY
Socrates Cabrera	New York	NY
Chelsea Amato	Brooklyn	NY
Lucciano Reberte	Queens	NY
Bobby	Providence	RI
Rachel Bookbinder	Brooklyn	NY
Michael Leon	Macon	GA
D'hana Perry	Brooklyn	NY
Eric Amaya	Chicago	IL
Celia Grace Murnock	Belleville	NJ
Blaz Bush	Brooklyn	NY
Shaymey Gonzalez	Bronx	NY
Jason Leider	Bronx	NY
Vanessa Ramos	New York	NY
Ana Adorno	Morovis	PR
Luis Santiago	New York	NY
Leandro Rodriguez	New York	NY
Robert Murayama, MD	New York	NY
John Hatchett	Sunnyside	NY
Francisco j Becerra	Bayamon	PR
Richard Clarkson	New York	NY
Yanira Arias	San Ramon	CA
Jose	Toa Alta	PR
Vanessa Bohm	San Francisco	CA
Dee Colon	New York	NY
Maria Echeverria	Chicago	IL
Roberto Sanabria	Chicago	IL
Edwin Cortes	Chicago	IL
Kamil Torres	Chicago	IL
Julieta Giner	Durham	NC
Juanita García Avilés	Chicago	IL
Ken O'Brien	New York	NY
Zenaida Lopez	Chicago	IL
Samarie	Perth Amboy	NJ
Luna Luis Ortiz	New York	NY
Sonia Santana	Indianapolis	IN
Kevin Santana	Chicago	IL
Geniz Hernandez	Chicago	IL
L. Alejandro Molina	Chicago	IL

Stephen Crowe	Brooklyn	NY
Suzy Lopez	New York	NY
April Agne	Birmingham	AL
Jorian	Philadelphia	PA
Mervin Otero	New Windsor	NY
John Colon	Fort Lauderdale	FL
Levis Torres	Homestead	FL
Harris Adell	Bronx	NY
Jorge Benitez	New York	NY
Janet Rodriguez	Hartford	Ct
Ilia M. Otero Cruz	Guaynabo	PR
Roberto Olmo	Charlotte	NC
Laura Moya	New York	NY
Liliana Cubano	Bayamon	PR
Mercedes Diaz	Franklin Park	NJ
Moisés Agosto-Rosario	Oxon Hill	MD
Nancy Cheak-Zamora	Columbia	MI
Francisco Diaz	Bronx	NY
Susan Witte	New York	NY
Elizabeth Boylan	Brooklyn	NY
Gabriel Soto	Brooklyn	NY
Sabrina Vicente	Bronx	NY
Kissie Morales	Boston	MA
Amber Holt	Tulsa	OK
Maryline Alexis	Brooklyn	NY
James SC Bloomfield	Rochester	NY
Carmen Morales	North Babylon	NY
Krystal Rivera	Bronx	NY
Rhona Collins	Winchester	VI
Tamara	Bronx	NY
Nilda	New York	NY
Renee Reopell	New York	NY
Matthew McClain	Silver Spring	MA
Maura Duff	Rochester	NY
Maria Cruz	Queens	NY
Haley Kerr	Miami	FL
Gabriel Pagan	Ponce	PR
Yaritza Bartolomey-Cotto	Aguadilla	PR
Gabriela Betancourt	New York	NY
Harold Cruz	Allentown	PA
Jose Berdecia	New York	NY
Marco Castro-Bojorquez	Los Angeles	CA
Ruth	San Juan	PR

Sharon Pennock	Havertown	PA
Christine Rodriguez	Oakland	CA
Connie Jones	New York	NY
Estefany Bologna	Jackson	MS
Mauro Julca	Brooklyn	NY
Ángel Hernández	Arecibo	PR
Manny Lacayo	New York	NY
James G. Schiller, PhD	Putnam Valley	NY
MIGUEL AGUERO	Washington	DC
Julia Andino	New York	NY
Andrew	Los Angeles	CA
Jeffrey Hamilton	Abilene	TX
Paul Caccamise	Rochester	NY
Jose D. Leandro	Atlanta	GA
Rosa E. Martínez Colón	Arecibo	PR
Saúl Aviña, Jr.	Chicago	IL
Andrea Boyce	Joshua Tree	CA
Luis Alvarez	Atlanta	GA
Luis Mares	New York	NY
David J Perez	New Port Richey	FL
Tania Rodriguez	Mayaguez	PR
Vincent Guilamo-Ramos	New York	NY
Annette Anthony	Brooklyn	NY
Lidia Santana	Queens	NY
Marisabel Roman-Afanador	San Juan	PR
Hilda Sandoval	Los Angeles	CA
Dan Merkan	Jacksonville	FL
Marielane	Caguas	PR
Katherine Diaz	New York	NY
Migdalia Santiago	Brooklyn	NY
Elizabeth Marie Rivera	Brooklyn	NY
Jorge L Cienfuegos Szalay	Bayamon	PR
José Javier Martínez	San Juan	PR
Demetria Cain	New York	NY
Carlos E. Rodriguez-Diaz	San Juan	PR
Maria Colon	Bronx	NY
John Bartlett	Durham	NC
David H Glusman	Merion	PA
Vivika Westwood	Bronx	NY
Richard L. Crank	Lawrence	KS
Claudia Sofía Garriga López	New York	NY
Robert Ortiz	Novato	CA
Angel Rodriguez Figueroa	Teaneck	NJ

Alberto Jacinto	New York	NY
Héctor Cariño	New York	NY
Lilly Cubano	Baltimore	MD
Diana Mendez	New York	NY
Kristina Ramos-Baldwin	Bronx	NY
Daniel Leyva	Queens	NY
Luis Scaccabarozzi	Mount Vernon	NY
Wilfredo Morel	Peekskill	NY
Devin Diaz	New York	NY
Selena Chavez	Queens	NY
Karen Cruz	Mount Vernon	NY
Gerardo Pineda	Queens	NY
Jose Tineo	Queens	NY
Edgar Perez	Perth Amboy	NJ
John Hinton	Bronx	NY
James Thomas	Bronx	NY

List in formation