

## **2023 Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities' Position Statement on Anti- LGBTGEQIAP+ Legislation**

More than 320 pieces of legislation targeting queer and trans people have been introduced in state legislatures across the country as of February 18th, 2023 (ACLU, 2023). These pieces of legislation include threats to LGBTGEQIAP+ people by targeting access to accurate identification information, civil rights legislation, free speech and expression, healthcare, public accommodations, schools and education, and other issues that target queer and trans communities across our country. These legislative attacks continue to primarily target gender expansive youth. SAIGE recognizes how necessary it is to protect the physical and mental health of LGBTGEQIAP+ individuals in this country. Legislation that allows and/or mandates discrimination toward queer and transgender individuals are recognized by our association to be harmful.

We at SAIGE acknowledge that systems of oppression including harmful legislation contribute to adverse mental health outcomes including increased risk of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. As counselors, we commit to nondiscrimination and the prevention of harassment and are committed to the well-being of these communities. According to the American Counseling Association Nondiscrimination Position Statement, this commitment includes, but is not limited to, “access to learning environments that are free of discrimination, bullying, and harassment; access to restrooms and changing facilities that are safe and affirming for gender non-conforming youth and adults; and use of preferred names.” SAIGE recognizes the negative psychological impact that anti-LGBTGEQIAP+ legislation has on these populations across the country. We stand in solidarity with those who are being targeted by this harmful legislation, and we stand in opposition to legislation that unfairly targets LGBTGEQIAP+ individuals, their families, and medical and mental health professionals who work with these populations.

*The American Counseling Association is committed to nondiscrimination and to the prevention of harassment in all forms—verbal, physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological—including protections for transgender, gender non-conforming, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Every human being on earth is unique and uniquely important. Each person embarks on the adventure of life guided by their own spirit, outlook, and traits of character. These facets help to shape and guide the course of every human journey. Everyone is equal on this path.*