



March 6, 2019
Senate education committee

Thank you for inviting me to testify today to an act relating to ethnic and social equity studies standards for public schools

My name is Brenda Churchill, I represent the LGBTQIA Alliance of Vermont as Liaison at the state house.

I just want to recap what the Alliance is, who i represent, and what I am doing here this afternoon.

The LGBTQIA Alliance of Vermont is comprised of representatives from a range of LGBTQIA organizations and individuals from the broader Vermont community. Our mission is to anticipate and collaboratively respond to proposed & enacted laws, policies, actions, and community-level crises that impact on LGBTQIA Vermonters.

The Alliance provides expert advice to elected officials, political activists, state agencies, community based & professional organizations, and other interested parties on representing and protecting the interests and rights of LGBTQIA Vermonters. The group seeks to fairly represent the collective voice of LGBTQIA Vermonters through advocacy, community building, education, and representation.

Today, I want to illustrate what this bill will help bring to all students in Vermont by giving you all a quiz! Normally, after a few days of lecturing (in this case testimony) a teacher would want to see what the level of comprehension students retained thru the lecture. In this case I want to do a test before hand to see what you know or, maybe more importantly, what you don't know.

I am going to read a list of 12 names (and one bonus name) and I want you to give yourself a point for everyone you recognize, I will have one bonus name at the end.

Sylvia Rivera

Marsha P Johnson

Josephine Baker

Karl Heinrich Ulrich

Michael Dillon

Virginia Woolf

Bayard Rustin

Eleanor Roosevelt

Frida Kahlo

Nancy Cardenas

Simon Nkoli

Ifti Nasim

And Bonus:

Christine Hallquist

So, how did you do? Let me read the brief bios per the national geographic article found here

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/06/historical-lgbt-figures-activists-culture/>

These names and how they have influenced history need to be taught to all our students regardless of whether they are LGBTQ or straight.

When students know these people who have made history, the knowledge reduces anxiety LGBTQ experience and makes school environments safer for all.

Contributions by these members of my community should be recognize for achievements to human kind. Please support S46.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify.