



OUTRIGHT
VERMONT

hope, equity, power!
FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH

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Thursday, April 30, 2026

To Chair Bongartz, Vice Chair Weeks, and the members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Please accept Outright Vermont's support for the passage of H.931, the miscellaneous education bill which crucially updates the membership of the Hazing, Harassment, and Bullying Prevention Advisory Council. It also revises the Council's charge to provide better direction for its work, including more regular reviews of HHB model policy for schools, and strengthens its relationship with the legislature with new hearing and reporting requirements.

H.931 expands membership of the Council ensuring that youth, families, and educators have a seat at the table when discussing best practices and policy recommendations for ensuring that all youth have equitable access to education settings.

No policy or decision should be made on behalf of someone without the full and direct participation of the people affected by that action. Ensuring that youth from Outright, Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network, parents and caregivers, and violence prevention experts from the Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Office of Racial Equity is an important move to ensure that those most impacted by HHB policy decisions are a part of the conversation.

We can build better systems by centering the needs and voices of youth in our communities and schools. H.931 elevates the voices of LGBTQ+ youth, youth of color, and youth with disabilities in the policy decisions that directly impact their lives.

We know that when we create space and listen to youth, they can tell us what they need to thrive. Thank you for your consideration.

With gratitude,

Amanda Rohdenburg,
Senior Director of Advocacy & Land Stewardship, Outright Vermont