

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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**MEMORANDUM**

**December 9, 2022**

**To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform**

**Fr: Committee Staff**

**Re: Committee on Oversight and Reform Hybrid Hearing on “The Rise of Anti-LGBTQI+ Extremism and Violence in the United States”**

On **Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ET, in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and on the Zoom video platform**, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hybrid hearing to examine how the surge of anti-LGBTQI+ policies advanced in legislatures across the country and the proliferation of extreme anti-LGBTQI+ rhetoric are fueling violence against LGBTQI+ people in the United States, including the mass shooting that took place at the LGBTQI+ nightclub, Club Q, in Colorado Springs last month.

**I. BACKGROUND**

LGBTQI+ people—in particular, transgender people and LGBTQI+ people of color—have historically experienced health and economic inequities in the United States. The Center for American Progress found that, in 2020, more than one in three LGBTQ people living in the United States had faced discrimination, including over 60% of transgender Americans.<sup>1</sup> In addition, LGBTQI+ youth disproportionately experience housing insecurity, and LGBTQI+ students are also more likely to face discrimination and bullying in classroom settings.<sup>2</sup>

In recent years, state legislation and policies targeting the ability of LGBTQI+ people to live authentically has surged—culminating in a record-breaking number of anti-LGBTQI+ bills advanced nationally in 2022. In the most recent state legislative sessions, 344 pieces of anti-LGBTQI+ legislation were introduced in states across the country, and 25 anti-LGBTQI+ bills

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<sup>1</sup> Center for American Progress, *The State of the LGBTQ Community in 2020* (Oct. 6, 2020) (online at [www.americanprogress.org/article/state-lgbtq-community-2020/](http://www.americanprogress.org/article/state-lgbtq-community-2020/)).

<sup>2</sup> The Trevor Project, *Homelessness and Housing Instability Among LGBTQ Youth* (Feb. 3, 2022) (online at [www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/homelessness-and-housing-instability-among-lgbtq-youth-feb-2022/](http://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/homelessness-and-housing-instability-among-lgbtq-youth-feb-2022/)); The Trevor Project, *2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health* (online at [www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/](http://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/)) (accessed Dec. 8, 2022).

were enacted.<sup>3</sup>

The proliferation of anti-LGBTQI+ legislation has corresponded with a surge in anti-LGBTQI+ rhetoric and extremism, including on social media and other online forums.<sup>4</sup> At the same time, rates of violence targeting LGBTQI+ people have increased.<sup>5</sup>

## II. HEARING PURPOSE

The hearing will examine how extreme anti-LGBTQI+ legislation and rhetoric are fueling a surge in violence against the LGBTQI+ community and undermining the ability of LGBTQI+ people to live authentically. The hearing will also evaluate policies that protect and advance the health, safety, and rights of LGBTQI+ people in the United States.

## III. WITNESSES

### **Olivia Hunt**

Policy Director  
National Center for Transgender Equality

### **Jessie Pocock**

Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director  
Inside Out Youth Services

### **Ilan Meyer**

Distinguished Senior Scholar for Public Policy  
The Williams Institute

*Additional witnesses to be announced.*

Staff contacts: Miles Lichtman, Anya Crosby Olsen, Sarah Jackson, Daniel Yim, Max Whitcomb, and Harry Manin at (202) 225-5051.

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<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Campaign, *Press Release: Human Rights Campaign Responds to Tragic Fatal Shooting at LGBTQ+ Nightclub in Colorado Springs; Calls Attention to Rise in Anti-LGBTQ+ Hate and Senseless Gun Violence* (Nov. 20, 2022) (online [www.hrc.org/press-releases/human-rights-campaign-responds-to-tragic-fatal-shooting-at-lgbtq-nightclub-in-colorado-springs-calls-attention-to-rise-in-anti-lgbtq-hate-and-senseless-gun-violence](http://www.hrc.org/press-releases/human-rights-campaign-responds-to-tragic-fatal-shooting-at-lgbtq-nightclub-in-colorado-springs-calls-attention-to-rise-in-anti-lgbtq-hate-and-senseless-gun-violence)); Human Rights Campaign Foundation, *An Epidemic of Violence 2022: Fatal Violence Against Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People in the United States in 2022* (Dec. 5, 2022) (online at <https://reports.hrc.org/an-epidemic-of-violence-2022>).

<sup>4</sup> Center for Countering Digital Hate and Human Rights Campaign, *Digital Hate: Social Media's Role in Amplifying Dangerous Lies About LGBTQ+ People* (Aug. 10, 2022) (online at <https://hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/CCDH-HRC-Digital-Hate-Report-2022-single-pages.pdf>).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*