



Thank you for taking action to support the LGBTQ+ community in the face of this harmful policy from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

We encourage you to copy and send the following letter to religious leaders of your faith communities, elected officials, and local media outlets as a Letter to the Editor.

Below is some helpful contact information:

Media

[Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)

[Cleveland Scene](#)

[Call and Post](#)

[Cleveland Jewish News](#)

[Crain's Cleveland Business](#)

[Cleveland.com](#)

[Ideastream Public Media](#)

[News 5 Cleveland](#)

[The Chronicle-Telegram](#)

[Akron Beacon Journal](#)

[The Morning Journal](#)

[Geauga County Maple Leaf](#)

[Medina Gazette](#)

[The Daily Record](#)

[Ashland Source](#)

Elected Officials

Cuyahoga County

[Cuyahoga County Council](#)

[County Executive Chris Ronayne](#)

[Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb](#)

[Cleveland City Council](#)

[All other mayors in Cuyahoga County](#)

Geauga County

[Geauga County Commissioners](#)

[Chardon City Council](#)

Medina County

[Medina County Commissioners](#)

[Brunswick City Council](#)

Lorain County

[Lorain County Elected Officials](#)

[Lorain Mayor](#)

[Elyria Mayor and City Council](#)

Wayne County

[Wayne County Commissioners](#)

[Wooster City Council](#)

Summit County

[Summit County Council](#)

[Akron Mayor](#)

Ashland County

[Ashland County Commissioners](#)

[Ashland City Council](#)

Lake County

[Lake County Elected Officials](#)

[Mentor City Council](#)

Statewide and National

[Find your state representative](#)

[Find your state senator](#)

[Find your US representative](#)

[Senator Sherrod Brown](#)

[Senator JD Vance](#)



Dear (),

As a [member/ally] of the LGBTQ+ community, I am writing to urge you to actively and vocally oppose the new anti-LGBTQ+ policy from the Cleveland Diocese. This policy perpetuates harm against a community that is already under attack, going against the values of love and compassion that Catholicism teaches.

Data from the Trevor Project proves a direct correlation between identity affirmation and positive mental health among LGBTQ+ youth. Conversely, when transgender children's pronouns and name are not honored, suicidal intention increases. Moreover, research has shown that LGBTQ+ people face increased psychological consequences when they are forced to conceal their identity, as the Diocese prescribed.

It's already hard enough to be LGBTQ+. Discrimination and misinformation about LGBTQ+ people is worsening, especially targeting trans youth. Our identities shouldn't be political; like all young people, trans kids are looking to be themselves in a world that is growing increasingly hostile towards them.

Usually, this hostility stems from a place of ignorance. Our ask, therefore, is for people and organizations to open their hearts and minds, to realize that people who are different from you are not a threat to you. LGBTQ+ people are already part of the Cleveland Diocese Community; to say queer identities are unwelcome and will not be recognized in parishes and schools within the diocese is a direct rejection of the people who hold them.

Institutions can and do change; until 1973, the American Psychological Association (APA) classified homosexuality as a mental illness. It took years and plenty of hard work, but today, the APA calls on psychologists to take the lead in removing the stigma associated with being LGBTQ+.

I call on the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland to do the same by reversing a policy that amplifies hate, not the truth of God's created reality. I hope that you use your platform to join me in doing the same and help advocate for the many LGBTQ+ individuals in our community that you represent.

With Pride,