

June 10, 2016

President Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of our organizations, representing a diverse group of faith traditions and beliefs, we commend your administration's recent guidance to schools across the nation to ensure that transgender students are treated with dignity, respect, and consistent with the requirements of federal law. Your administration's leadership on this issue is crucial in ending the discrimination transgender people, especially youth, face daily.

Many of our sacred texts remind us that the spark of the Divine is present in every human being. We learn from this teaching that all people must be treated equally, with dignity and respect.

Students deserve an educational experience that is inclusive and embracing. Unfortunately, in far too many communities, transgender and gender nonconforming individuals are significantly more likely to experience discrimination, harassment and even physical violence. This may occur in the context of access to, for example, restrooms, educational programs and activities consistent with their gender identity. This is sadly even more true in the wake of the passage of harmful and discriminatory legislation in certain states, especially those that perpetuate false narratives about bathroom safety. Your administration's support of transgender people, including the thorough guidance on emerging practices for schools, provides meaningful and tangible steps towards full inclusion and equality for transgender people in the United States.

We thank you for your leadership and commitment to upholding our American values of equality and justice for all. And, we remain dedicated to ensuring that transgender individuals, as well as lesbian, gay and bisexual people, are treated with dignity and respect in all aspects of life.

Sincerely,

African American Ministers in Action Equal  
Justice Taskforce  
American Jewish Committee (AJC)  
Anti-Defamation League  
Avodah  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Chicago Sinai Congregation  
Congregation Netivot Shalom  
Global Justice Institute  
Habonim Dror North America  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of  
America, Inc.

Interfaith Alliance  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater  
New Haven  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Keshet  
Land of the Sky United Church of Christ  
Methodist Federation for Social Action  
Moishe Kavod House  
National Council of Jewish Women  
North American Federation of Temple Youth  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Clergy Advocacy Board

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College/Jewish  
Reconstructionist Communities  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Religious Institute  
Secular Policy Institute  
The Association of Jewish Family and Children's  
Agencies

The First Congregational Church of Auburn, UCC  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness  
Ministries  
Women of Reform Judaism

CC: Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch  
Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr.  
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell  
Democratic Leader Harry Reid  
House Speaker Paul Ryan  
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
Governors of all 50 states  
Lt. Governors of all 50 states