

## The California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus Budget Requests

1. Funding to promote the creation of an online cultural competency and anti-bullying training, as well as community resources, for the support of LGBTQ+ pupils and strategies to increase support for LGBTQ+ pupils, which is critical to improving overall school climates. (One-time Prop 98 General Fund cost of \$3 million.)
2. An allocation of funding to address California's ongoing HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and sexually transmitted disease (STD) epidemics. (General Fund cost of \$19 million; \$6 million one-time investment and \$13 million ongoing.)
3. Appropriation of funds supporting transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex (TGI) communities. (Ongoing General Fund cost of \$15 million.)
4. An allocation of funds for the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program which is administered by the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to protect our most vulnerable communities and provide critical security assistance to nonprofit organizations that are at risk of hate-motivated violence. (One-time General Fund cost of \$50 million.)
5. An allocation of funds for the preservation and public accessibility of LGBTQ historical archives across the state of California. (One-time General Fund cost of \$750,000.)
6. Appropriation of funds to launch a pilot project for LGBTQ+ community college students. LGBTQ+ students seeking higher education were heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this will allow California to increase enrollment and retention of LGBTQ+ students statewide. (One-time Prop 98 General Fund cost of \$10 million.)
7. Funding to assist the National LGBTQ Center for the Arts' opening in manner that is centered on public safety. (One-time General Fund cost of \$1.7 million.)

**Investing in the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTQ+ Students.** LGBTQ+ students are often the most disconnected students on campus, leading to poor retention rates and struggles to excel. Investing in community colleges programs that build support structures are vital to a equitable recovery — not only for the LGBTQ community, but also higher education at large. High quality and comprehensive LGBTQ+ cultural competency training and professional development are critical to ensuring that inclusive anti-bullying, anti-harassment, and anti-homophobia policies are properly implemented. Furthermore, we must ensure that school staff will protect student privacy and refer to students by their correct names and gender pronouns at all times. School facilities must be safe and accessible for transgender and gender non-conforming students. Lastly, we must ensure that school functions provide affirming and welcoming spaces, and school staff are fully prepared to identify and support students at risk of suicide.

**Ending the Epidemics.** HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) remain among the most serious public health issues in California. The ongoing epidemics of HIV, HCV, and STDs are interrelated, and they affect similarly vulnerable populations. However, we can effectively address these issues using many of the same prevention and treatment tools. The epidemics are also driven by similar social and economic conditions, including stigma, poverty, and unstable housing. We must make multi-pronged investments to restore the state's depleted public health infrastructure and reduce new transmissions. By expanding existing programs, funding demonstration projects for HIV seniors, and

implementing a Master plan on HIV, HCV, and other STDs, we can make progress in ultimately ending these epidemics.

**Protecting Vulnerable Communities from Hate-Motivated Violence.** Members of the API, LGBTQ, African-American, and Jewish communities remain the most frequent targets for hate-motivated violence. This competitive grant program supplements limited federal funding and enables a diverse range of nonprofits to secure critical security enhancements such as reinforced doors and gates, high-intensity lighting and alarms, and other security-related improvements.

**Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund.** California produces some of the most forward-thinking legislation to advocate for transgender, gender-nonconforming, and intersex (TGI) communities, but state spending for these communities remains critically low. To build a California for all, we must continue to look at specifically vulnerable populations and how California can work to support them. These funds will create designated pools of money across state departments and agencies for TGI-specific services — such as housing, job training, healthcare, and re-entry programs — that organizations serving these communities can access.

**Safeguarding LGBTQ+ History.** We know California understands the importance of preserving and sharing the history of our diverse LGBTQ+ communities. The archives are a vital tool to reversing the effects of historical discrimination, which has too often erased our stories from mainstream narratives. Without our archives, our diverse communities' stories are in danger of being lost forever. By continuing this vital work, we will ensure a better future for all LGBTQ+ Californians, one that is rooted in a greater understanding of our past.

**Preservation of the Arts.** In order to open the doors and provide a safe space for LGBTQ+ performers and audiences at the National LGBTQ Center for the Arts, an extensive installation of HVAC and air circulation and filtration systems is needed. This is both an issue of public safety as well as accessibility. This one-time request was brought on by the unanticipated COVID-19 crisis. Support will provide the necessary resources for a safe reopening and urgent renovations needed to this historic building, which will be a cornerstone for all of California's LGBTQ+ communities.