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LGBTQ+ Advocates Condemn Anti-trans Threats and Violence, Urge Protections for Queer Youth

WISCONSIN (June 9th, 2022) – Young people in Wisconsin are facing a spike in anti-transgender harassment this spring. Anti-transgender extremists in Kiel, WI have even threatened to bomb schools and libraries following a Title IX investigation into an incident of anti-trans bullying and harassment in a local middle school. These threats come amid a nationwide trend in harmful rhetoric and extremist political attacks on transgender students, from curriculum censorship laws to health care bans to sports participation bans.

Megin McDonell (she/her), Executive Director of Fair Wisconsin, the leading statewide organization advocating for LGBTQ+ people, issued the following statement in response:

“We can all agree that kids deserve to feel safe at school. Students should be able to focus on learning, without fear of being treated differently, bullied, or even bombed. But right now, anti-trans extremism is putting young people in harm’s way – from school staff perpetuating harmful anti-transgender rhetoric to vigilante extremists threatening violence. These extremists don’t represent the majority of us in Wisconsin who strongly support equal rights and opportunity for everyone, including LGBTQ+ people. We urge our elected officials and school leaders to counter these attacks by enforcing existing comprehensive non-discrimination policies, continuing active investigations into these incidents, and investing in additional support for young people facing discrimination and harassment. We’ll keep working with local and state leaders to build a safe, inclusive community where all kids, including trans kids, can grow up happy and healthy.”

About Fair Wisconsin

Fair Wisconsin works to build a fair, safe, and inclusive Wisconsin for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people by advancing, achieving, and protecting LGBTQ civil rights through lobbying, legislative advocacy, grassroots organizing, coalition building and electoral involvement. With a statewide board of directors and a full-time staff, Fair Wisconsin represents the Badger State in the Equality Federation, the national alliance of state-based LGBTQ advocacy organizations and is a proud member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee and Community Shares of Wisconsin. Learn more: www.fairwisconsin.com.

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