



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHOENIX PRIDE STATEMENT REGARDING
GOV. DOUG DUCEY’S SIGNING OF
ARIZONA SENATE BILLS 1138 AND 1165

PHOENIX — **Phoenix Pride** has issued the following statement in response to the signing into law of Arizona Senate Bills 1138 and 1165 by Gov. Doug Ducey, earlier today:

“Phoenix Pride condemns, in absolute terms, the signing into law today of Arizona Senate Bills 1138 and 1165.

“The adoption of these toxic and vile bills makes plain that Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey is as ignorant and bigoted towards transgender individuals – and especially children – as his colleagues who floated and fostered these harmful and hateful acts through the Arizona Legislature.

“Gov. Ducey and his legislative colleagues will have blood on their own hands as a direct result of these bills becoming law. The blood of transgender kids who turn to self-harm, because our state government sees fit to tell them that they

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cannot live as they are — live their true life — is now on Gov. Ducey’s hands. The blood of young transgender athletes, who may find that their dream of pursuing athletics while embracing their true identity has now been dashed, and who instead choose to sacrifice themselves rather than live a lie or surrender those dreams, will be on this governor’s hands. The blood of transgender individuals who suffer acts of violence, motivated by attackers who are emboldened by this government sanction of hatred and bigotry, will be on Gov. Ducey’s hands.

“In his letter regarding the bill signings, the governor stated that the legislation will ‘[ensure] that transgender individuals continue to receive the same dignity, respect and kindness as every individual in our society.’ That is a morally and intellectually bankrupt assertion in a state that does not offer statutory protections in employment, housing or public accommodations on the basis of gender identity or gender expression. It is further evidence of this governor’s ignorance and callous disregard for the transgender Arizonans who are our family and friends, colleagues and neighbors, classmates and teammates — and who are each and all also his constituents.

“The people of Arizona will not forget, nor turn a blind eye to, these actions, aimed at harming Arizona’s already vulnerable transgender population, and specifically, the children and adolescents most at risk within that population.

“Last week, we pointed out that there is no place in American democracy for vicious attempts to marginalize and dehumanize anyone, especially innocent children. We stand by that statement just as strongly today, and we will be continuing to support efforts to overturn these vicious actions, through the courts or by any other legal means available.

“We will continue to fight for the rights of the Arizona LGBTQ+ community and for the rights of all people who are marginalized or oppressed by the ignorance, hatred and religious fervor of some, when it is translated into vile and bigoted policies that affect us all. We stand for Humanity, and we will not back down in the face of tyrannical acts that seek to strip that Humanity from the most vulnerable individuals among us – those who most need it affirmed.”