“DON’T SAY GAY” BILL PASSES IN FLORIDA. WHAT’S NEXT?

The Parental Rights in Education bill, which aims to restrict teachers’ ability to discuss or teach anything related to sexual orientation and gender identity within classrooms, was signed into law at the end of March by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Supporters of the legislation say that it will improve parents’ ability to control the information that children receive regarding LGBTQ+ topics, therefore giving them increased parental control and authority. However, it has been dubbed the “Don’t Say Gay” law by critics because it could effectively eliminate people’s right to even mention something related to the LGBTQ+ community within a school environment.

The legislation states that “classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity” in kindergarten through grade 3, and also “in certain grade levels or in a specified manner,” is prohibited. Many feel that this wording is ambiguous and does not directly outline what is prohibited. Opponents of the bill argue that this ambiguity could result in the ban being extended beyond the 3rd grade and applied to all K-12 classrooms.

“This kind of ever-present possibility of having to defend oneself will have its own chilling effects,” said Clay Calvert, a professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, to NBC News. He, along with all Florida teachers, will be subject to possible legal action if he teaches anything that may be interpreted as discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Florida has become a catalyst for a slew of anti-LGBTQ bills, inspiring many other states, such as Alabama, Ohio, Louisiana and New Jersey, to introduce similar legislation. Many LGBTQ+ rights advocates, including Equality Florida, have filed a lawsuit against Ron DeSantis aiming to block the law. “This effort to control young minds through state censorship—and to demean LGBTQ+ lives by denying their reality—is a grave abuse of power,” the lawsuit says.

The Trevor Project found in 2020 that kids who attend LGBTQ+ affirming schools have reduced rates of depression and anxiety, Goldberg explains that talking about sexual orientation and gender identity with young children helps reduce stigma around sexual and gender diversity. “Talking about these things doesn’t confuse children — it allows them a space to discuss things they’re already wondering about and curious about,” Goldberg said.

Creating safe environments is essential to all children and teens, whether they identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community or not. Providing support and understanding from those around them creates an environment of empathy and understanding among peers.

In 2020, gun-related injuries became the leading cause of death among children and teens in the United States. So far this year, there have been over 27 school shootings. As Republican leaders across the country continue to ban and vilify LGBTQ+ discussions, us kids are left wondering: Why won’t they target what’s really hurting us?

Ambiguous: Capable of being understood in two or more possible ways
Catalyst: Something that provokes or speeds significant change or action
Demean: To lower in character or dignity
Homophobia/Transphobia: Dislike or prejudice against transsexual, transgender or gay people
Non-binary: Gender identities that are not solely male or female
Stigma: Social characterization of a behavior or condition as a sign of disgrace
Empathy: The ability to understand and share the feelings of another
**U.S. Women’s Soccer Champions Finally Get the Recognition They Deserve**

Republican lawmakers and some parents have begun challenging books that introduce topics such as LGBTQ+ and RBG’s time, which they argue are “controversial” and “divisive.” In particular, discussions regarding systemic racism, white privilege and male privilege have been targeted, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. State legislators have claimed that these books cause students to feel guilt or shame over their race or sex.

The quotes represented by these so-called divisive books are often left out of mainstream media and are fed to like their existence is unimportant. For Black, Hispanic, Native American and LGBTQ+ kids, it can’t be overstated to see themselves within literature. According to the American Library Association, 27% of the books that are challenged by the NEA, by banning these books, local and state legislators are communicating to marginalized kids that their experiences and identities are not valued.

In 2019, the IndyKids Junior Gavel Club, led by two girls, lifted the ban on March 23, but changed their mind the next month. “We think the conversations have the potential to inspire real positive change and happen at our school,” said one of the authors. According to the NEA, by banning these books, local and state legislators are communicating to marginalized kids that their experiences and identities are not valued.

**The gender pay gap is the difference in the wages earned by a woman versus a man for the same work.”**

**May and will now pay both teams equally. “This is a win for women in sport and a win for athletes,” said the Federation.**

The U.S. Soccer Federation upheld their pledge in 2019, which earned them around $30 million. For the men, compensation was significantly less than the men’s team, despite the fact that they are a higher-ranking team, with a World Cup win and a trip to the semifinals in 2019.

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Achieved Its Goal of Equality?

Title IX Turns 50: But Has It been possible without Title IX. The team's legal battle for equal pay is IX standards and continue to discriminate against women. In from participating in school sports. Title IX should now, by

LGBTQ+ youth. Most of these bills limit the healthcare to gain funding for their facilities and equipment, and there were no women's sport championships. "There has been a significant increase in the number of young girls playing sports since Title IX was enacted," says lawyer Amy Trask in an interview with CBS Sports. Our country has a long history of sexism and discrimination based on gender, which is why laws like Title IX are so important. Enforcing
discrimination

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MARKER

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Meet an IndyKids Reporter... Zahra Latheef!

Twelve-year-old Zahra Latheef lives in Texas, where she has been homeschooled since kindergarten. She has been writing for IndyKids for just over two years now. Zahra is also a budding audio journalist and took part in the recent IndyKids Climate Series Podcast.

How did you first get involved with IndyKids and what do you most enjoy about the writing process?

My mom signed me up for a writing workshop, and I was assigned to write about houselessness. I really enjoyed it, so I kept writing articles for IndyKids. I enjoyed getting advice from my mentor, writing the articles, and receiving feedback on them published. I was assigned fun and interesting topics to write about, like the underwater youth climate movement and the ban on coral-damaging sunscreen. I also had an amazing opportunity to participate in a climate podcast which discussed the problems facing climate change and how to prevent it. What motivated you to become a kid journalist?

I was motivated knowing that the current issues I write about will educate young people like myself. What advice do you have for kids who want to start writing?

Don’t be nervous! You can do anything you set your mind to. Your mentor will be there to help and guide you. Also, you should start reading articles about world issues so that you become broad-minded and guide you. Also, you should start reading articles on important issues, so they broaden their understanding. What topics do you most enjoy writing about and feel most passionate about?

I enjoy writing about climate change because it’s a huge problem. I enjoy traveling to different places and learning about different environments. Climate change has a huge impact on the weather, ecosystems and our way of life. Learning about it helps me to understand how important reducing waste and fossil fuel usage is.

GRACE STEVENS • age 11

Future Once Again Are Striking for Our Planet’s Kindergarten

Are the youth activists are calling on the wealthiest countries to start taking action on climate change. The protesters are calling on wealthier countries to begin paying reparations. The “Green your school” initiative, the biggest youth moral duty,” Greta Thunberg said to the Guardian in 2019. The activists want wealthier countries to be held accountable for the damage they have caused and to invest in reducing some of the damage the climate crisis has already caused, and make changes that will prevent future damage. But passing out money is only a short-term solution. Wealthier countries could more to invest in making their lifestyles less carbon intensive.

With the climate movement has continued during COVID-19, we need to rekindle hope and strikes to push our leaders to act,” said Liv Schroeder, national co-executive director and policy director for Climate News. “Young people are angry, and I want fossil fuel executives to be as scared as we are.”

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A new reforestation project called “Planting the World” was launched recently in Ukraine. The project is called “Planting the World” because it aims to reforest 1% of the earth’s land surface, which is approximately 5,000 square kilometers. The project is expected to be completed in 2050. The project is financed by the government of Ukraine and is supported by international organizations such as the UN and the World Bank.

Once sprouted, green onions and lettuce can be reused for cooking and grown again! Onions & carrots will sprout and eventually require soil.

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Thank you for your continued support!

Now more than ever, we need sources of media for our youth that center the stories of people of color, immigrants, women, workers and LGBTQIA+ communities. IndyKids is the nation’s only social-justice-oriented newspaper written by kids for kids. Now in its 16th year in print, IndyKids is distributed to classrooms and households in 35 states, helping thousands of youth think more critically about the news of the world. Plus, it’s free and ad-free!

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