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RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS STOKE HATRED OF LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AS A DISTRACTION



DALLAS, TX (June 7, 2022) — This past weekend marked the celebration of Pride month with hundreds of thousands of people attending festivals and parades designed to unify the LGBTQ+ community and allies. During Pride, we celebrate life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness together. Meanwhile, extreme right-wing fanatics aligned with the Texas GOP used it as an opportunity to display new and violent tactics against our community, taking aim at a family-friendly drag show with the admirable goal of raising money for non-profit organizations supporting homeless and abused LGBTQ+ youth.

State Representative Bryan Stanton used the innocuous drag show to announce that he will propose legislation to ban children from drag shows and events he deems “inappropriate” for kids. Stonewall Dallas counters that parents, not extremists, should determine what is and is not appropriate for their children. Right-wing online social media accounts claim that drag shows are “grooming” young people. The only kind of “grooming” these children received was acceptance and tolerance of themselves and others. We emphatically denounce Stanton’s proposed legislation.

“Let’s be clear -- the manufactured outrage by right-wing fanatics aligned with the Texas GOP is not only designed to test new tactics in further assaulting the LGBTQ+ community, but also to distract from Republican failures to truly protect Texas children from gun assaults and mass shootings in schools, churches, shopping malls, and other public venues around the state,” said Todd Hill, President of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. “If Bryan Slaton and Dade Phelan really want to protect Texas children, they can start by banning assault-style weapons and pursuing other methods to ensure Texas children are safe in schools and other public venues from gun assaults.”

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas denounces violence against our community under all circumstances. The tactics displayed by reactionary extremists aligned with the GOP is concerning, and it is only the beginning of a clear plan to step up their assault on LGBTQ+ rights and protections earned by blood, sweat, tears, and death by many in our community. It is also a plot to embolden further assault on the community heading into the 2022 General Election. Texas Republicans -- we are not your punching bag or guinea pigs for how to conduct brutal and intimidating tactics against your political opposition. As a community, we must remain vigilant and prepare for the worst from those who wish us harm. It is essential that we encourage every eligible voter to elect Democrats at all levels of government in Texas.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas was founded in 1996 by local activists. Our membership numbers in the hundreds including former and current elected officials. We are one of the largest political organizations in Dallas County and one of the largest chapters of Stonewall Democrats in the United States.

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