



**Urgent**

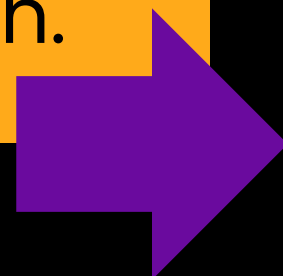
# CALL TO ACTION

**LGBTQ+ Inclusion at Risk in  
Howell Mountain Schools**



**On August 19th**, the Howell Mountain School District will vote on an **"opt-out"** policy for LGBTQ+ inclusive books and lessons.

This could limit what students learn and harm LGBTQ+ youth.





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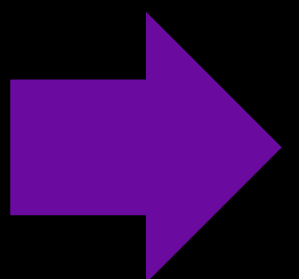
# **CALL TO ACTION**

## **What's Happening**

Some school board members want to let parents “opt out” of books & lessons that include LGBTQ+ people and families.

**Sounds harmless?** It's not.

Opt-out policies = **erasing LGBTQ+ people from the classroom.**





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## **What's an "Opt Out" Policy?**

An "opt-out" policy lets parents remove their kids from certain lessons from school curriculum.

In this case, Howell Mountain School District is voting to require "opt-out" permission before students can access books or lessons that include LGBTQ+ people.

It might sound small, but it creates an unequal education.

Some kids learn about the full diversity of the world — others don't.





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## Why This Matters:

### When students don't learn about LGBTQ+ people:

- Students will miss out on learning about diverse families.
- LGBTQ+ students feel invisible and it **creates stigma** around LGBTQ+ people and families.
- Sends a message that our stories are not safe to learn.
- Other students miss the chance to learn respect and empathy.
- LGBTQ+ youth already face higher rates of bullying and mental health struggles. This elevates that risk.



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## **What CA Law Says:**

**California Education Code requires schools to:**

- Teach inclusivity and represent diverse communities
- **Ed Code § 220** – No discrimination in schools, including on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity..
- **Ed Code § 51204.5** – Instruction must be inclusive of LGBTQ+ people's contributions to history.
- **Ed Code § 51500-51501** – Schools can't promote bias or exclude groups in instruction.



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## **What CA Law Says:**

**California Education Code requires schools to:**

- Follow the **FAIR Education Act**, which says LGBTQ+ history and contributions of LGBTQ+ people must be taught.

Opt-out policies go against the spirit of these laws.

**Opt-out rules for LGBTQ+ content are not required by California law.**



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## The Real Impact:

### Opt-out policies may:

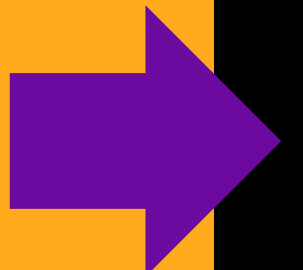
- Create two separate curriculums — one inclusive, one not.
- Make LGBTQ+ students and families feel invisible. **Silence = Erasure**
- Lead to **self-censorship** by teachers, afraid to face backlash.
- LGBTQ+ books, history, literature, and families disappear from the curriculum.
- Chip away at hard-won protections and representation.
- **Creates the conditions for bullying and isolation towards LGBTQ+ youth.**



# What You Can Do:

## Your Voice Matters:

- **Show up** and join the Queer Leaders Coalition to give Public Comment at the Howell Mountain School Board meeting:
  - Tuesday, August 19th, 5:00 PM
  - 525 White Cottage Rd N, Angwin, CA
- **Send respectful** letters of concern to Howell Mountain Superintendent and Board Members before August 19th:
  - Josh Munoz, Superintendent
  - [jmunoz@hmesd.org](mailto:jmunoz@hmesd.org)
- **Write** Letters to the Editor at the Napa Register and Press Democrat
- **Share & Repost** this information:  
Awareness Matters!!







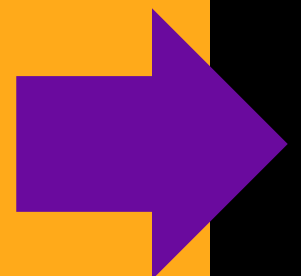
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## **Our Message:**

### **Inclusive education is not optional – it's the law**

- We stand with LGBTQ+ students and families impacted by harmful decisions on our lives.
- LGBTQ+ students deserve to see themselves, their families and history represented without barriers to access.
- Napa County schools should teach truth, not fear.
- LGBTQ+ books, history, literature are valuable to California education curriculum.
- Vote & speak out for an inclusive, safe education for every child.





# Queer Leaders Coalition

## **WE WON'T BE QUIET ABOUT INJUSTICE.**

LGBTQ+ and queer liberation is collective liberation.

We know that the safety, dignity, and freedom of LGBTQ+ people—especially Black, brown, undocumented, disabled, trans, and working-class folks—are inseparable from the freedom of all oppressed communities.

If you want to be involved in our work in a greater capacity, visit our website to learn more (link in bio) or email us at:

[napaqueerleaders@gmail.com](mailto:napaqueerleaders@gmail.com)

**We are all in this together!**