

October 23, 2018

Dear all,

Rainbow Center and Oasis Youth Center have a clear message for our friends and for the Trump administration: the transgender and gender-non-conforming (GNC) community will not be erased.



Throughout the years, Rainbow Center and Oasis have collaborated in providing programs and services by and for transgender and GNC individuals throughout Pierce County and beyond. **Our centers are refuge, gathering places, and spaces to build community and be our truest selves. This will never change.**

The recent news about a possible change in the definition of gender and sex by the Trump administration is of great concern for all of us. **Rainbow Center and Oasis know from experience that gender is a spectrum, and that it can never be as binary. This misguided understanding of sex and gender also has negative consequences for the intersex community, ignoring their existence all together.** Rainbow Center and Oasis will not be idle as our community is attacked with flawed arguments based more on religious dogma and not in science. Together, we reaffirm our support for transgender, gender-non-conforming, and intersex people.

Our agencies are also grateful that here in Washington State and in the City of Tacoma, we all are protected from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. We also applaud Washington State Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler's support of transgender people.

Moreover, Rainbow Center and Oasis will continue to follow the lead of transgender and GNC leaders who have already shared their concerns with this proposed changes. The National Center for Transgender Equality has rejected any attempt to erase transgender and GNC people [and you can read their statement here](#).

We encourage transgender, GNC, and intersex people to reach out to our agencies for support and community during this difficult time. We also encourage our community members to reach out to one of the many local groups that offer safe space for the community, such as [Gender Alliance of the South Sound](#), [Gender Diversity Parents Group](#), [Saturday Morning "T"](#), and [Tacoma T-Men](#).

If your agency or group wants to sign onto this statement please [complete this form](#) by Thursday, October 25. We will update the statement with additional signors as we receive them.

As always, together, we are stronger. Once again: #WeWontBeErased

Always in Solidarity,

J. Manny Santiago

Executive Director

Rainbow Center

Seth Kirby

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Oasis Youth Center