April 27, 2023

Speaker Matt Regier
Montana House of Representatives
1301 East 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620
Matt.Regier@legmt.gov

Speaker Charles McCall
Oklahoma House of Representatives
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 401 Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Charles.Mccall@okhouse.gov

Dear Speaker Regier and Speaker McCall,

We, the undersigned who proudly lead LGBTQ+ legislative caucuses and proudly serve as LGBTQ+ lawmakers across the country, stand in solidarity with Montana State Representative Zooey Zephyr and Oklahoma State Representative Maureen Turner, as they face censure for simply doing the work they were elected to do and defend the rights and dignity of transgender, non-binary, and intersex people.

As state legislatures across the country eviscerate healthcare access for transgender youth and adults, deny the right to education and individual self-expression, and undermine our essential freedoms, LGBTQ+ legislators and our accomplices are fighting back. While it may be uncomfortable for some lawmakers to be confronted with public outcry and forthright debate, that is the purpose of the legislative process and the freedom your constituents and duly elected representatives inherently have in your state capitol, and every state capitol in our nation.

As LGBTQ+ lawmakers, we refuse to be silenced. Rep. Zephyr’s and Rep. Turner’s censure undermines the representation of the tens of thousands of people who elected them to serve. As elected officials, we have the right to be heard, to advocate for our constituents, and to stand up for LGBTQ+ people and the freedoms of all of the residents in our states. Actions that strip lawmakers of their voice from their duly-elected positions undermine the people’s will and represent a direct threat to our democracy everywhere.

From Montana to Oklahoma, courageous transgender and non-binary state lawmakers across the country are standing up for their constituents and defending our freedoms. We are protecting the right to bodily autonomy, championing healthcare access for all, and advocating every child has access to public education. Although you’ve undemocratically barred Rep. Zephyr and Rep. Turner you cannot silence us. We the undersigned, on behalf of our 300+ LGBTQ+ elected colleagues across the country, proudly stand in solidarity with Montana Rep. Zooey Zephyr and Oklahoma Rep. Maureen Turner.

Sincerely,
Arizona LGBTQ Legislative Caucus
Representative Oscar De Los Santos, Co-Chair
Representative Patty Contreras, Co-Chair

California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus
Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair
Assemblyperson Christopher Ward, Vice Chair

Colorado Democratic LGBTQ+ Caucus
Representative Brianna Titone, Chair
Representative Leslie Herod

Connecticut
Representative Raghib Allie-Brennan
Representative Jeff Currey

Delaware LGBTQ+ Caucus
Senator Marie Pinkney, Co-Chair

Florida
Senator Shevrin Jones
Representative Michele Rayner-Goolsby

Georgia
Senator Kim Jackson
Representative Sam Park
Representative Park Cannon

Illinois
Representative Kelly Cassidy

Kansas
Representative Heather Meyer
Representative Brandon Woodard

Maryland
Delegate Ashanti Martinez
Delegate Gabriel Acevero

Michigan Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus
Representative Laurie Pohutsky, Chair
Senator Jeremy Moss, Co-Chair
Representative Jason Hoskins

Minnesota Queer Caucus
Representative Leigh Finke, Chair
Representative Brion Curran, Vice Chair
Senator Erin Maye Quade

Senator D. Scott Dibble
Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten
Representative Sydney Z. Jordan
Representative Liz Reyer
Representative Heather Keeler
Representative Athena Hollins

Nevada LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus
Senator Dallas Harris, Chair
Assemblyperson Sarah Peters, Vice Chair

New York
Senator Jabari Brisport
Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Assemblyperson Danny O'Donnell
Assemblyperson Deborah J. Glick

North Carolina
Senator Lisa Grafstein
Representative Deborah Butler
Representative Allison Dahle
Representative Vernetta Alston

Pennsylvania LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus
Representative Jessica Benham, Co-Chair
Representative Malcolm Kenyatta, Co-Chair

Rhode Island
Senator Tiara Mack

Virginia
Senator Adam Ebbin
Delegate Danica Roem
Delegate Mark D. Sickles
Delegate Dawn M. Adams

Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus
Senator Mark Spreitzer, Chair
Senator Tim Carpenter
Assemblyperson Lee Snodgrass
Representative Greta Neubauer
Representative Marisabel Cabrera