

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florida LGBTQ Legislative Caucus Stands United in Pride and Resistance

June 28th, 2025 marks the 56th Anniversary of Stonewall

TALLAHASSEE, FL — This Pride Month, the members of Florida's LGBTQ Legislative Caucus—**Senator Shevrin Jones** (D-Miami Gardens), **Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith** (D-Orlando), **Representative Michele Rayner** (D-St. Petersburg), and **Representative Mitch Rosenwald** (D-Oakland Park)—reaffirm their commitment to celebrating the power and resilience of Florida's LGBTQ+ communities, while continuing to resist the growing wave of anti-LGBTQ attacks taking place across the state and the nation.

"For generations, Pride has been both a celebration and a call to action," said Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith. "We honor the bravery of the Stonewall trailblazers who fought for our freedom, and reaffirm our commitment to carrying that legacy forward in the halls of the Florida Capitol and beyond. We're also unwavering in our commitment to stand with the transgender community, especially trans youth and their families, who are facing unprecedented attacks under the Trump administration."

Since 2021, LGBTQ+ Floridians have faced an unprecedented barrage of hostile legislation targeting their freedom, dignity, and very existence—from restrictions on affirming healthcare and education, to efforts to silence LGBTQ+ voices in classrooms and public spaces—and continues to lead the nation in the number of anti-LGBTQ state laws in effect.

"We will not be pushed back into the shadows," said Senator Shevrin Jones. "Pride is not just about parades—it's about joy, visibility, resistance, and the power of community and showing up as you are."

The lawmakers emphasized the critical role of community organizing, civic engagement, and allyship in advancing equality and defeating extremism. They also pledged to continue introducing and supporting legislation that protects LGBTQ+ rights, uplifts marginalized voices, and ensures every Floridian can live with safety and dignity.

"In the face of rising hate and harmful legislation, our resilience shines brighter than ever, and our communities remain stronger together" said Representative Michele Rayer. "And to our allies—now is the time to stand up, speak out, and take action. Our rights are not negotiable, and together, we will protect them and each other."

This Pride Month, the LGBTQ Legislative Caucus encourages Floridians to celebrate loudly, organize boldly, and remember that the road to justice is not walked alone.

*"To every LGBTQ+ young person wondering if they belong—you do," said **Representative Rosenwald**. "And we will keep fighting for a Florida where you can thrive without fear."*

Last November, Floridians doubled LGBTQ representation in both the Florida House and Senate with the election of Rep. Mitch Rosenwald and Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith.

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