

Leadership Day 2026

Youth To The Table: Listen To Youth Voices!



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Youth Leadership Action Kit

Today, you're going to make a difference.

LGBTQ+ youth deserve to be involved in decisions that affect their lives. Vermont's decision makers should hear from YOU, so they can learn from your experiences and build a better future, together!

Use this Action Kit to send a message to decision makers.

1. Read through our Key Issues Guide.
2. Pick an issue you are passionate about – it can be one we listed, or one of your own!
3. Tell your reps why this issue matters to YOU.
4. Finally, mail your letters and art directly to the statehouse.

Your message can take whatever form you choose.

The possibilities are limitless! You can:

- Write down a story about your life
- Explain what you would like legislators to do to make a difference
- Draw an image to inspire legislators to act
- Something else of your choosing!

Your letter will make a difference.

Legislators use letters from their constituents to understand what issues matter to people they represent. They may even reference your letter to decide how they should vote on important legislation.

Let's get started!

Key Issue:

Solidarity with Immigrant Communities

Why It Matters To LGBTQ+ Youth

The current administration's policies against immigrants restrict the right to move freely and to access education. Sanctuary schools can help youth to protect ourselves and our peers, and make schools safer so that all students can attend and learn without fear.

How You Can Make A Difference

Write To Your Legislators

Urge them to pass [S.227](#). "This bill proposes to require all Vermont schools to adopt a policy that would prevent the school from providing sensitive information about a student to a federal agency and would require that a federal immigration authority present a judicial warrant before entering the nonpublic area of a school."

Know Your Rights

Understand legal protections for immigrant students and educate others. Learn more with the [Vermont ACLU's Back to School Toolkit](#) on student rights.



Who To Contact

Senator Seth Bongartz

Senate Committee on Education, Chair
Vermont State House
115 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05633



Learn More

Education Justice Coalition (Vermont)

Put pressure on your school leadership to protect all students. Learn from the Education Justice Coalition's [Sanctuary Schools Organizing Toolkit](#) to make your school a safer place for all students to learn. Check it out with this QR code:



Key Issue:

Gender Affirming Healthcare

Why It Matters To LGBTQ+ Youth

Access to age-appropriate, medically necessary gender-affirming care is associated with significantly lower rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide risk among transgender youth. For many young people, this care is not about comfort or preference, it is about survival. Recognizing and protecting access to medically necessary gender-affirming care is a public health imperative.

How You Can Make A Difference

Write To Your Legislators

Legislators including Rep. Tiffany Bluemle, Rep. Daisy Berbeco and Rep. Troy Headrick have been working hard to protect access to gender-affirming healthcare in Vermont. Tell them to keep up the good work and let them know why this is so important.

Talk To Your Providers

Ask your local health clinics and providers to commit to continuing to provide gender-affirming care, even if federal regulations change.

Who To Contact

Representative Tiffany Bluemle

Vermont State House
115 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05633



Learn More

Vermont and Beyond

Read more about the scope and impact of Gender Affirming Care and track the swiftly changing national landscape of care access through this [policy tracker](#). And remember – you are valid exactly as you are! Together we will work to protect access to this vital care in Vermont.



Key Issue:

Hazing, Harassment, and Bullying

Why It Matters To LGBTQ+ Youth

BIPOC youth, LGBTQ+ youth, female youth, and youth with IEPs are significantly more likely to be threatened, harassed, and bullied at school than their peers. Students have the right to learn in a safe and respectful space, and hazing, harassment, and bullying make that impossible. The needs of those directly impacted by this issue, primarily students and their families, have not been centered in revising state HHB policies – and it's time for that to change.

How You Can Make A Difference

Join Narratives for Change

Join the Narratives for Change project to tell your story about hazing, harassment and bullying and organize for a better HHB system, one that supports the youth who are most impacted by harm. Check out the recent youth-led press conference this January! Visit edjcoalitionvt.org to learn more.

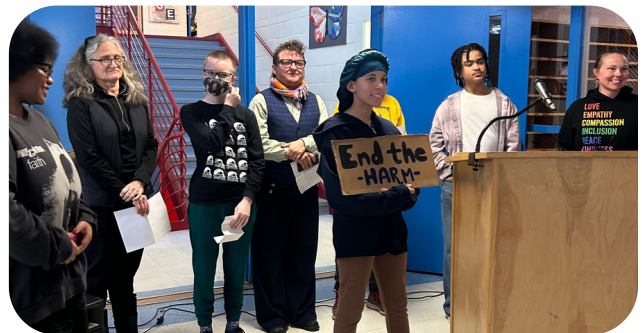
Write to HHB Advisory Council Chair Rebecca McBroom

Urge Chair McBroom to ensure that the recommendations from impacted youth are reflected in the updated draft policy written by the Agency of Education.

Who To Contact

Rebecca McBroom

Hazing, Harassment and Bullying
Advisory Council Chair
rmcbroom@vtnea.org



Learn More

Attend the Statewide Youth Gathering on April 3, 2026

The Education Justice Coalition is hosting a day-long retreat for youth. The theme is Stronger Together: United for Justice in a Time of Repression. Connect with other youth and learn how to organize for change! Register with this QR code:



Key Issue: Housing & Mutual Aid

Why It Matters To LGBTQ+ Youth

LGBTQ+ youth and especially LGBTQ+ youth of color experience significantly higher rates of homelessness than cisgender, straight, white youth. Plus, the overall unhoused population in Vermont tripled since 2020. All people deserve safe and accessible housing, full stop. We want to make sure that the most marginalized youth – such as LGBTQ+ youth, youth with disabilities, and youth of color – are centered in efforts to create accessible housing in this state.

How You Can Make A Difference

Write to your Legislators

Urge them to pass [H.657](#), a bill that would allow homeless youth to receive certain support services even if they don't have a parent or guardian with them. Include support for [H.839](#), a bill that supports unaccompanied youth to access transitional housing. Check out the bills to learn more!

Who To Contact

Representative Jubilee McGill

House Committee on Human Services
Vermont State House
115 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05633



Learn More

Food Not Bombs (Burlington, VT)

Organize mutual aid for unhoused folks in your community. Check out [Food not Bombs](#) in Burlington to make food for our neighbors!

Spectrum Youth Services

[Spectrum Youth Services](#) is a social-service organization that has programs supporting youth in housing transition. Spectrum St. Albans also specifically offers a queer youth drop-in group. Spread the word and reach out to see how you can get involved!



Key Issue:

Youth Voice in Education

Why It Matters To LGBTQ+ Youth

Youth don't have a lot of say over decisions made about our education systems – both locally and statewide. As the legislature debates statewide education system reform, students' voices and perspectives should be centered – because students are deeply impacted by these policy decisions on a daily basis.

How You Can Make A Difference

Write To Your Legislators

Urge them to pass H.640. This bill would add student representation and voting power to all Vermont school boards. A school board is the governing body that decides how their local schools should run. A school board is supposed to represent the community's voice. Youth should be a part of this process.

Who To Contact

Representative Peter Conlon

House Committee on Education, Chair
Vermont State House
115 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05633



Learn More

Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network (VSARN)

VSARN is a student-led advocacy group that wrote bill H.640. They hosted a policy-writing skillshare and teach-ins with legislators last year to get youth involved in the legislative process. Bill H.640 is a product of this ongoing work. Reach out to their (student) directors to learn more or follow them on instagram [@vsarn802](https://www.instagram.com/vsarn802).



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Use these prompts to reflect on what you want to share.

What is a moment I would want to share that helped me embrace my identity?

What has been a barrier to me being able to live as my authentic self?

What action should legislators take to make Vermont better for me and my peers?

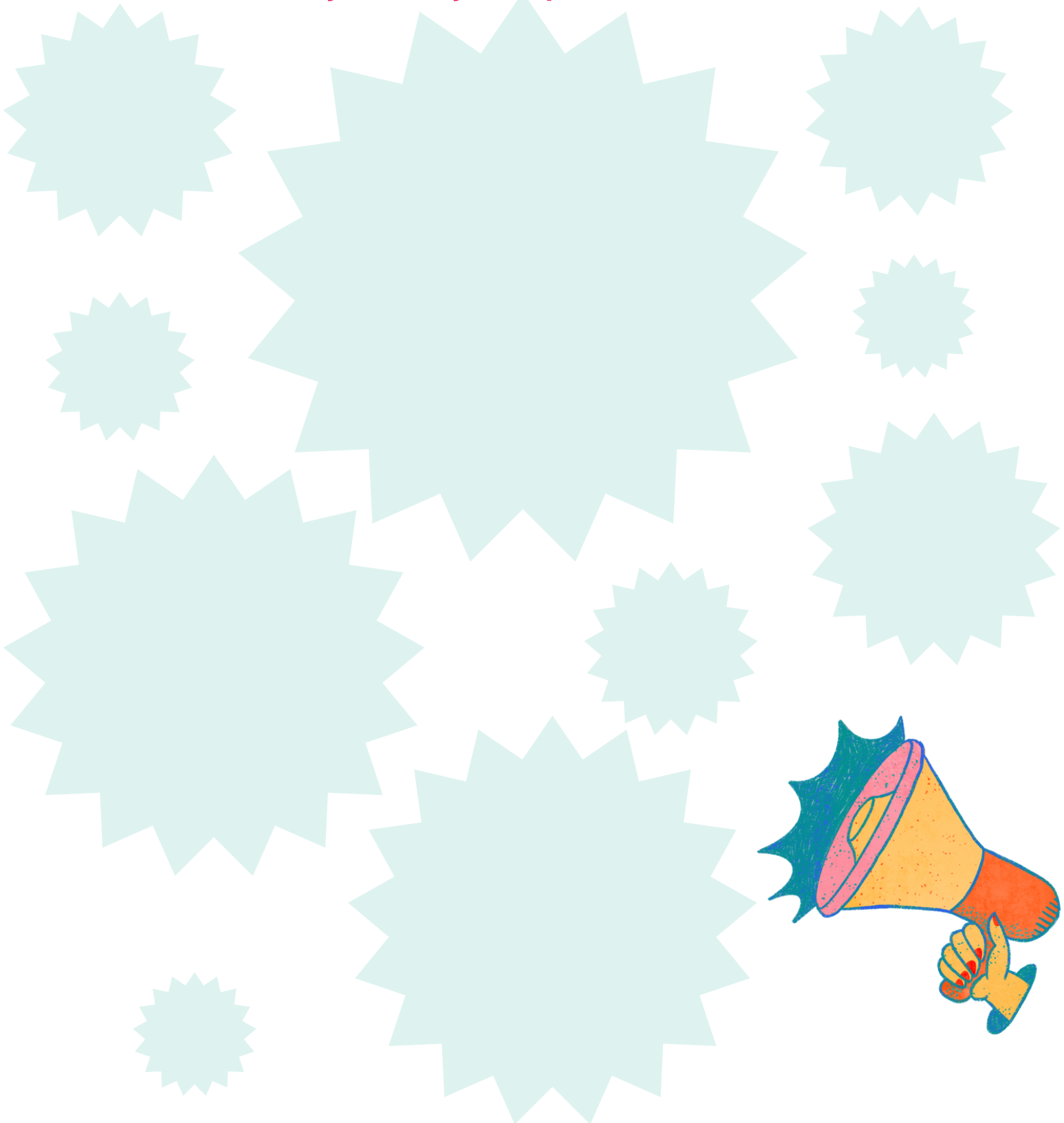
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Use the speech bubbles to SpeakOUT!
What do you want your representatives to hear?



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Introduce yourself:

My issue is:

Why I care:

Why YOU should care:

My ask is:

Say thank you:

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Example Letter:

March 9, 2026

Representative Queer Joy
House Committee on Hope, Equity, and Power
Vermont State House

Dear Representative Joy and Members of the Committee,

I am a student and member of the GSA at Vermont High School.

I am writing to share my thoughts on H.657.

Young people who experience homelessness should have access to services that will help them be safe. LGBTQ+ youth, especially LGBTQ+ youth of color, are more likely to experience homelessness in Vermont than other youth. It is critical that this bill turns into law so that my peers can survive and thrive.

Please do what you can to pass this bill, and don't forget to listen to the voices of the young people who are most impacted but don't have your authority. Youth deserve a seat at the table.

Thank you for your time. I am grateful for your efforts to help homeless youth and for taking my voice seriously.

Sincerely,
your name here

Hope, Equity, Power for LGBTQ+ Youth!

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Hope, Equity, Power for LGBTQ+ Youth!

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Youth Leadership Action Kit

Turn your passion into action:

1. Write your letter, using the template pages in this toolkit or your own style.

Remember, you can write more than one!

2. Decide who to send your letter(s) to. We made recommendations in the Key Issues Guide, or you check out the QR code below to find your town's legislator.

3. Clearly address your letter to the person you are writing to. Include their committee if you are writing about a specific bill. Use the address below if you are mailing your letter to the statehouse.

4. Stamp your letter and send it! Stay tuned on our website and social media for updates about our Lobby Day on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.



[Legislator Title & Name]

Vermont State House

115 State St.

Montpelier, VT 05633

legislature.vermont.gov/people/