Dear Center Family,

Today President Donald Trump's Administration, including newly confirmed Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, rescinded Title IX guidance that protects transgender and gender nonconforming students' equal access to educational opportunities across the nation. The rollback of these protections will allow many states and school districts to discriminate against transgender and gender nonconforming students without repercussion. There is no doubt that many students, families, and educational institutions will be negatively impacted by this change.

In California, a state with some of the strongest anti-discrimination protections in the United States, there is reasonable assurance that the current protections for transgender and gender nonconforming students will remain intact. However, The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach unequivocally supports federal guidance ensuring equality for all students across the nation. Rescinding vital protections for some of our most vulnerable students is a dangerous step backwards in our country.

While the federal government is choosing to dismiss the rights of transgender and gender nonconforming students, The Center will not waiver in our commitment to safety and full inclusion in school for all students. We will continue our successful partnerships with school districts across Southern California, as well as continue to expand our efforts to support increasing safety and educational equity at school communities across the country.

With tremendous love,

Porter Gilberg
Executive Director

Joel Gemino
Youth Services Manager