

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Houston GLBT Political Caucus Applauds Historic Supreme Court Employment Ruling

Black and Latinx trans women started our very fight for equality at the Stonewall Inn in 1969, rising up against discrimination and police brutality toward our community. During both a global pandemic and a pivotal moment of societal change against systemic racism, it is extremely heartwarming to receive news of today’s historic ruling from the Supreme Court that employers cannot discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. This decision is a monumental victory for our community, but let us not forget that we still have a far road to travel until we reach true equality for all.

Just last Friday, we saw the roll back of healthcare protections for trans individuals, and on the fourth anniversary of Pulse no less. We still lack protections in housing, healthcare, education, credit, public accommodations, and federal programs—areas where Black and Latinx LGBTQ+ individuals often face discrimination disproportionately. We need comprehensive, federal protections to ensure all LGBTQ+ individuals equal rights and treatment under the law and we call upon Congress to pass the Equality Act immediately. And although we now have protections in employment, it is incumbent upon companies and organizations to reflect these protections. Employers must not only create and foster workplace environments that are welcoming of LGBTQ+ individuals, but they must also make deliberate strides to embrace holistic, culturally competent hiring practices.

Further, we cannot truly celebrate today’s victory while our Black siblings continue to be murdered at the hands of law enforcement. This past Friday, Rayshard Brooks became yet another name in a long list of atrocities against the Black community. We also lost two of our Black trans sisters—Dominique “Rem’mie” Fells and Riah Milton—to gender violence. While today’s news is uplifting, we must keep our focus on the bigger picture. We must continue to push the Black Lives Matter movement forward and support our trans siblings in the fight for justice and equality.

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The Houston GLBT Political Caucus is the South’s oldest, civil rights organization dedicated solely to the advancement of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality. Founded in 1975, it is the largest GLBT political organization in the city of Houston and Harris County.