



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Today, the Utah Senate passed HB 77, a bill that bans the display of Pride flags on public property, including schools and government buildings. This is more than just a policy decision—it is a deliberate attempt to erase LGBTQIA+ visibility from the public sphere. It is government overreach at its worst, stripping cities, counties, and schools of their right to support and affirm their diverse communities.

As Utah's premier Pride organization and the producer of the state's largest Pride Festival and Parade, we are deeply concerned about how HB 77 will affect municipal participation in Pride celebrations. But let's be clear: *this law cannot and will not erase the spirit of Pride.*

In response to the passing of today's bill, we are calling on our LGBTQ+ community and allies to join us **tomorrow, Friday March 7th, at 3:00 PM at the south steps of the Utah State Capitol**, for a demonstration of visibility. Bring your pride flags, your rainbow attire, and join us as we unfurl a 200-foot pride flag on the front steps of our State's Capitol.

HB 77 does not restrict private individuals or businesses from flying Pride flags, and we encourage everyone across Utah to raise their flags high. This bill does not prohibit anyone from wearing Pride-themed pins, buttons, or patches, even in school or government settings. Now more than ever, visible support matters. If government buildings cannot reflect the full diversity of their communities, then it is up to us to ensure that Pride is seen in neighborhoods, storefronts, and homes across the state.

We know this legislative session has been difficult. We know what it feels like to have our identities debated and legislated against. And we know how exhausting it can be to fight for our right to simply exist. But we cannot lose hope, and we cannot lose momentum. Today, we lost a battle, but we have not lost the fight.

Pride celebrations across Utah rely on public parks and city spaces to bring people together in joy and solidarity. *These spaces belong to all of us.* Our right to gather, to celebrate, and to be seen is not up for debate. The Utah Pride Festival and Parade will continue as planned. We will march. We will celebrate. We will take up a tremendous amount of space, as we always have.

Now is the time to come together. Our community is diverse, and our needs are many, but we share a common commitment. With your help, we will continue to unite, empower and celebrate Utah's LGBTQIA+ community.

Chad Call, Executive Director

Utah Pride Center





About the Utah Pride Center

The Utah Pride Center, based in the heart of Salt Lake City, Utah, is a community center dedicated to uniting, empowering and celebrating Utah's diverse LGBTQIA+ community. The Utah Pride Center is a private 501(c)(3) organization that produces and funds the annual Utah Pride Festival and Parade, as well as year-round programs and events that directly serve the queer community. For more information about the Utah Pride Center, visit www.utahpridecenter.org. For more information on the Utah Pride Festival and Parade, visit www.utahpride.org.

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