

### **April DEI Newsletter**

LGBTQ youngsters are far more likely to face harm for who they are than their “straight” and cisgender peers. That’s simple fact. Study after study shows kids identifying or perceived as LGBTQ suffer greater incidence of discrimination, bullying, ostracism, bashing, self-harm, and suicide than other children and youths.

Critics of a so-called “Parental Rights in Education” bill—passed last month by the Florida Legislature and recently signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis—fear that, if enacted, the law would only exacerbate those risks, threatening some of our most vulnerable students with greater harm and even death.

Called the “Don’t Say Gay” bill by opponents, the law would restrict what and to whom topics relating to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) could be discussed at school, while prescribing pertinent penalties and procedures. Opponents worry both the bill’s specificity and vagueness pose potential dangers, foreseeable and not, to students, schools, and educators. The Miami Herald article at the link below raises questions and reports facts, including provisions in place to protect students in some cases.

Read more at <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/education/article259182023.html>.