



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

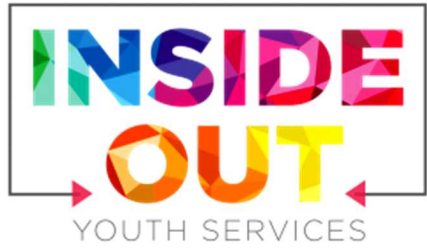
Parents, Families, Friends, and Allies United  
With LGBTQ People to Move Equality Forward

March 2021

## Inside/Out Leads Community in Calling Out Council Member Jill Gaebler For Transphobic Messaging

On February 17, Danette Tritch and Jessie Pocock, the Executive Director of Inside Out Youth Services, sent a letter to City Council Member Jill Gaebler regarding her recent transphobic messaging. When Gaebler did not respond, Pocock's challenge was picked up by the LGBTQ community, and stories appeared in the media, including KRDO and Fox News, and *The Independent* newspaper. The Rocky Mountain Pride Coalition has responded by sponsoring a Keep Colorado Springs Inclusive Rally and Food Drive on March 9<sup>th</sup> (see article below).

Tritch's letter said, in part: "I am writing on behalf of the 77 parents of trans children (to include transgender, gender expansive, and non-binary) at Inside Out Youth Services (IOYS), the TransParenting support group, the 114 trans-identifying young people who accessed IOYS services last year, the Safe@Schools Coalition, One Colorado Education Fund, youth members of the Gender and Sexuality Leadership Council representing LGBTQ+ youth in schools across the



State of Colorado, and as the mother of a transgender child.

"On February 15, 2021, you shared an article on Twitter with the following message:

**'It is not transphobic to believe that biological girls and women need safe spaces; whether it's on the playing field, the locker room, a jail cell, or a domestic violence safehouse. It's disappointing that more of us aren't fighting for women.'**

Tritch continues, "Your statement is the definition of transphobic. Your statement legitimizes and publicizes a

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## "Keep Colorado Springs Inclusive" Rally and Food Drive

To bring community attention to the transphobic remarks of Colorado Springs Council Member Jill Gaebler and the response by Danette Tritch and Jesse Pocock of Inside Out Youth Services on behalf of the LGBTQ+ Community in Colorado Springs, the Rocky Mountain Pride Coalition will sponsor the following event:

### Keep Colorado Springs Inclusive Rally and Food Drive

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.  
City Hall  
107 North Nevada Avenue

Please join the community to support this event. COVID restrictions will be in place. Participants are asked to bring non-perishable food items and/or cold weather items to donate.

### This event coincides with the next City Council Meeting.

Members of the trans community are also looking for a means to hold Gaebler accountable. Ash Stevens, a nonbinary weight-lifter, has suggested on Facebook that community members take their concerns to the City Council meeting on March 9.

### Message from Ash Stevens:

"So I just signed up to speak during the Citizen Discussions portion of the meeting. It appears you CANNOT talk in person (on the floor). The email I got back stated that you can join the meeting over the phone and your name will be called when it's your turn."

**March PFLAG Meeting**  
**Zoom Online**

**Tuesday, March 16**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Conversation and Support**

To attend the meeting, please send an email message to:  
[virtualmeeting@cspflag.org](mailto:virtualmeeting@cspflag.org)

You will receive an email with information about how to join the upcoming meeting. If you don't get this email within 30 minutes, please send an email to:  
[information@cspflag.org](mailto:information@cspflag.org)

Please note: The link for the meeting changes every month, so don't use last month's link!

Our good virtual meetings are bringing together people from out of town and also out of state.

**Everyone is welcome.**



Ash Stevens

To speak to COS City Council:  
-Send an email to [samuel.friedman@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:samuel.friedman@coloradosprings.gov) with the following information:

- Full Name
- Phone Number
- Date of the Council Meeting at which you wish to speak
- Topic you will be speaking on

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Inside Out Leads Community

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climate of intolerance, dehumanization, othering, segregating, discriminating and punishing young trans people for wanting to breathe fully into their own lives just like any other person would want for themselves and just like any parent would want for their child.

“Our young people are seeing you and hearing you. Your words hurt ...

“Parents of trans children fear that their child might be bullied for being who they are, they fear that their child will be unsafe and harmed, they fear their child might be denied an opportunity, they fear for their child’s future.

Thank You

To the Saponas Foundation, First Congregational United Church of Christ and the Ruskey/Bianchi Family for their significant, ongoing support of Colorado Springs PFLAG.

Colorado Springs PFLAG

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG. PFLAG provides support, education and advocacy for people who are LGBTQ+, their families, and allies.

To receive this newsletter regularly, go to the website: [www.csflag.org](http://www.csflag.org).

To contact PFLAG, send email to: [information@csflag.org](mailto:information@csflag.org).

Colorado Springs PFLAG Support Line: (719) 425-9567

Facebook: PFLAG—Colorado Springs <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCS/>

PFLAG National Office website: [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

TransParent Group

The TransParent group for parents of gender variant and transgender youth is meeting virtually on Zoom on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00—7:30 p.m. For more information, and to receive the Zoom meeting link, email [transparenting@insideoutys.org](mailto:transparenting@insideoutys.org) or call Inside/Out at (719) 328-1056.

Sign the Letter to City Council

Inside Out can’t do this alone. Here’s how you can help.

Please sign a message to Colorado Springs City Council members, telling them our community won’t tolerate transphobia.

Use this link: <http://bit.ly/3bfDlpX>

You will be joining 45 prominent community leaders who have already shown their support with this public initiative, including Citizens Project, League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region, and One Colorado.

PFLAG on Facebook

Trans people do not want a non-gendered potato toy – they want equal rights and protections under the law.

Pass the Equality Act.

– James Knapp

“I need you to know that when a leader of the community, like you, espouses a rhetoric that might deny a trans daughter the opportunity to play volleyball, be on the dance team or take a class trip, you become the problem, the barrier, the false narrative.

“I need you to know that in 2019, 34.6% of transgender students attempted suicide one or more times as compared to 6.7% of cisgender students. And please hear me when I say that these attempts are not because of their identity, it is because of our community which discriminates and stigmatizes who they most deeply know themselves to be.

“You can do better for young people. They need you to do better for them,” Tritch said.

Read the full text of the letter on the PFLAG website: [www.csflag.org](http://www.csflag.org). Read Heidi Beedle’s excellent opinion piece in *The Independent* on February 23 titled “Inside Out Youth Services condemns Jill Gaebler for Transphobic Social Media Posts . The link is: <http://bit.ly/3c0Y3OJ> ).

Beedle explains that members of the trans community are seeking ways to hold Gaebler accountable. When this PFLAG newsletter was published, Gaebler had yet to respond.

Keep Colorado Springs Inclusive

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You will get an email letting you know you are signed up and they will give you more details.

Keep an eye on the Ash Stevens Facebook page for ongoing information about the Rally and the City Council effort.

“You don’t have to be hateful towards the Trans community to be transphobic. You just have to believe they don’t deserve the same rights as you do. “ – Ash Stevens

Inside Out Youth Services is encouraging allies/advocates to engage with the City Council, especially the public comment for the next Human Relations Committee meeting on March 16, 2021. IOYS has some 45 organizations and individuals who have signed on to a full letter of support. Jessie Pocock urges you to join them.

So many folks talk about how they’re being “forced to accept” things that go against their beliefs. You’re not being forced to accept them. If you have a problem with people of color, with gay marriage, with trans people, with immigrants, with women of any race, etc. then you’re still welcome to feel however you want to feel about those people. You’re just not allowed to make their lives harder because of your feelings. You’re not allowed to turn their daily lives into a battle ground. No one is forcing you to “accept” a single thing. You’re just not being allowed to terrorize people.

Safe at Schools

The next virtual meeting of the Safe @Schools Coalition will take place on Monday, March 29th at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Contact Darolyn Stewart (she/her/hers) at Inside Out [darolyn@insideoutys.org](mailto:darolyn@insideoutys.org) to register in advance and get the Zoom link. Or call her at (719) 328-1056. (Another learning and advocacy opportunity!)



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**March 9**—Rocky **Mountain Pride Coalition—Rally** —”Keep Colorado Springs Inclusive” 10:00 a.m. at City Hall, 107 North Nevada Avenue. Outdoor event. See p. 1

**March 16—Lobby Day** —Virtual Event 9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Includes “Lunch and Learn” See article below.

**Step Into Advocacy on Lobby Day**

Everyone is invited to join One Colorado for its annual LGBTQ Lobby Day on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Zoom.

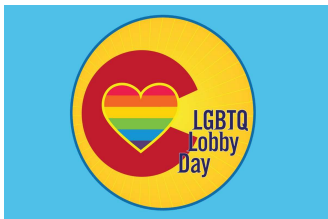
In the past, under the guidance of One Colorado, PFLAG volunteers from all over the Front Range gathered in Denver on Lobby Day to talk with our legislators about issues important to the LGBTQ Community.

This year, One Colorado will share its state legislative priorities online, hosting trainings on why certain bills are important to our community. It will also provide information on how to access legislative sessions remotely, and will explain the actions you can take with One Colorado to support its work.

Participants will learn about current legislative issues in Colorado and how to help push the Equality Act with our U.S. representatives and senators. While the program will take place on Zoom, there will be plenty of breaks to step away from the screen between sessions.

Those who have registered will receive a voucher for a food delivery service to join in Lunch and Learn at the end of Lobby Day. It’s a meeting with Colorado leaders on the importance of engaging in your community, how to advocate for change, and where the LGBTQ movement is heading in Colorado.

Register now to participate in Lobby Day by going to: <http://bit.ly/2NRUuTj>



A Message from PFLAG

It means a lot to LGBTQ family members and friends when we start to learn more and become advocates. It’s the next wonderful step after acceptance. Now is a good time to step up and get more involved.

**Bisexual Blues Icon Billie Holiday Rises Up In New Lee Daniels Film**



In 1948, blues legend Billie Holiday was released from a stint of several months in a federal penitentiary. She had been imprisoned, allegedly for her drug use, but in reality on a drummed-up charge aimed at silencing the woman who dared to sing about the lynching of Black Americans in “Strange Fruit.”

Now, 73 years after her release, a new film by Lee Daniels, *The United States vs. Billie Holiday*, which came out on Hulu on February 26, takes on the prescient story of the racism she endured while also highlighting her resilience as a Black bisexual woman in postwar America.

Starring a riveting Andra Day (in her first film role) as Holiday, the movie celebrates Holiday’s artistry and singular voice, while also delving deep into the FBI-led plot — spearheaded by Harry Anslinger, the first commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics — to quash the early civil rights icon.

Read this complete article in *The Advocate* – go to: <http://bit.ly/3q9B16M>

Important

You don’t always know where other people are on their journeys. THEREFORE, PFLAG meetings, both in-person and virtual, must always be a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.

**Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member**

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ New member \_\_\_Renewing member

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ Regular Membership \$ 30
- \_\_\_ Supporting Member—Silver 40
- \_\_\_ Supporting Member—Gold 60
- \_\_\_ Supporting Member—Platinum 100

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Each year our chapter contributes \$15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. Box 49131, Colorado Springs, CO 80949. Membership fees and additional donations are tax deductible. Or pay by credit card online at website: [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org) PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.