



The Honorable Richard Briggs
Chair of the Senate State & Local Government Committee, State of Tennessee
Tennessee State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

The Honorable Page Walley
Vice-Chair of the Senate State & Local Government Committee, State of Tennessee
Tennessee State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

The Honorable Tom Hatcher
2nd Vice-Chair of the Senate State & Local Government Committee, State of Tennessee
Tennessee State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

March 16, 2026

Re: Woodhull Freedom Foundation Opposition to Tennessee Senate Bill 2409 "No Pride Flag or Month Act"

My name is Ricci Levy, and I am the President and CEO of the Woodhull Freedom Foundation, a national organization whose mission is to affirm sexual freedom as a fundamental human right. Woodhull protects individuals' rights across the United States to enjoy sexual dignity, privacy, and consensual sexual expression without societal or governmental interference, coercion or stigmatization. As a representative of Woodhull and in my capacity as an expert on the human right to sexual freedom, I submit this letter to express our strong opposition to [SB 2409](#) which is being considered tomorrow in the Tennessee Senate State & Local Government Committee.

This bill represents an egregious attack on the LGBTQ+ community in Tennessee. SB 2409, along with its companion bill in the House [HB 1474](#), erodes freedom of expression by prohibiting the display of any "LGBTQ flag or emblem" or representation using the word "pride" to support LGBTQ individuals on state or local government property. At Woodhull, we are tracking bills and legislation like this, which target the LGBTQ+ community and are part of broader societal and political assaults on LGBTQ+ people. While the extremeness of SB 2409 may make it seem like nothing more than political theater, it comes at a time when Tennessee lawmakers are emboldened by the Supreme Court's 2025 decision in *U.S. v. Skrametti*, which upheld the state's ban on gender-affirming care for transgender minors.

These threats to LGBTQ+ people must not be minimized as President Trump's administration also relentlessly targets this community. These attacks are enshrined in several White House Executive Orders which erase transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive people from public life and falsely treat sex as a fixed male and female binary, direct federal agencies to impede young people's access to lifesaving gender-affirming healthcare,

and ban trans women and girls from competing on sports teams that align with their gender. The assault on trans people is so dire that the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security has warned that policies targeting transgender people in the United States are indicative of the early stages of genocide.

Efforts to legislatively marginalize LGBTQ+ people threaten everyone's sexual freedom. A decade ago, we celebrated the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. Today, marriage equality is in danger, with the Idaho House passing a resolution in 2025 urging the Supreme Court to revisit this historic case and former Kentucky clerk Kim Davis petitioning the Supreme Court to overturn its ruling in the case. While the Supreme Court has so far declined to hear a case challenging marriage equality, Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito have explicitly called for *Obergefell's* reversal, suggesting it needs to be reconsidered just as *Roe v. Wade* was, which stripped millions of people of their right to abortion access.

Our opposition to SB 2409 is informed by this wide-sweeping assault on LGBTQ+ people and sexual freedom more broadly and by irrefutable facts about [sexual orientation](#) and [gender identity](#), which we have exhaustively researched as part of our [Fact Checked by Woodhull](#) series. In this series, we address the fact that [LGBTQ+ people are not a public danger but instead are in danger](#) of harassment, discrimination, and violence, with current laws not sufficiently protecting LGBTQ+ people's rights. The reality is that LGBTQ+ persons continue to face disproportionate violence and hate crimes, are subjected to slurs and jokes and face discrimination in public spaces, healthcare settings, housing, and in the workplace. SB 2409 will only fuel this hate.

We strongly urge you and your colleagues to be on the side of human rights and protect the dignity, health, and safety of LGBTQ+ people by opposing SB 2409.

Your consideration of these urgent matters is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Ricci Joy Levy
President & CEO
Woodhull Freedom Foundation