WE REFUSE TO BE INVISIBLE

Advocacy with SAGE
There is no better person than you to advocate for LGBTQ+ older adults in your own community.
Administrative Advocacy

• Partnerships with federal agencies such as the Administration for Community Living, Health and Human Services, and more
• Implementation of the Older Americans Act
• Influencing State Plans on Aging

Legislative Advocacy

• Meetings with legislators
• Op eds and letters to the editor
• Campaigns
• Storytelling training
LGBTQ Americans Aren't Fully Protected from Discrimination in 29 States

- **States with Full LGBTQ Nondiscrimination Protections**
- **States with Nondiscrimination Laws Lacking Gender Identity Protections**
- **States with Some LGBTQ Nondiscrimination Protections**
- **States with No LGBTQ Nondiscrimination Protections**

The map shows the states with different levels of LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections.
WHAT WOULD THE EQUALITY ACT DO?

Adds explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people in key areas of life

- Employment
- Credit and lending
- Housing
- Jury service

Fill critical gaps in public accommodations in non-discrimination law for everyone

- Retail stores
- Transportation services (like rideshares)
- Hospitals
- Restaurants
- Salons and personal care providers
- Hotels

Adds non-discrimination protections for sex, sexual orientation and gender identity to federally funded programs

- Like food assistance, disaster assistance, Meals on Wheels, rural utility programs, senior centers, and more
OLDER AMERICANS ACT 101

WHAT DOES IT DO?

- Funds critical services that keep older adults healthy and independent so that they can age in place in their communities
  - Senior centers
  - Meals
  - Job training
  - Health promotion
  - Transportation
  - Caregiver support
- Authorizes service programs through state units on aging (SUAs) and area agencies on aging (AAAs)
- Created the Administration for Community Living - Tasked with implementing the OAA
THE NEW LANGUAGE

The new language requires SUAs and AAAs to:

- Engage in outreach to LGBT older adults
- Collect information on their needs
- And collect information on if they are meeting those needs
SB 3490 – Disrupting Disparities for LGBTQ+ Older Adults bill

- Establish statewide commission on LGBTQ+ aging
- Require all aging organizations that receive funding from the state receive LGBTQ+ cultural competency training
- Establish a point person for LGBTQ+ aging affairs at the Illinois Dept. Of Aging

What to do about it

- Letters to the editor and op eds
- Call your policymakers – even if they're supportive, it is always good to thank them and affirm your support so that they're more likely to continue this work
NOW WHAT?

Let’s put the personal in the policy

All we need? Fill out this form: https://sageusa.org/advocacyinterests and we’ll reach out to help you get involved.
What is it?

The Action Squad is a dedicated group of activists, storytellers, elders, caregivers, young people, allies, provider—anyone that wants to stand up for LGBTQ+ older adults and fight for our right to age with dignity and respect.

We will share relevant action alerts as they arise, giving you the tools you need to take action.

Visit sageusa.org/sage-action-alerts