

COMMITTEES:

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND
PENSIONS, RANKING MEMBER
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
FINANCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4504

332 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5141

1 CHURCH STREET, 3RD FLOOR
BURLINGTON, VT 05401
(802) 862-0697
1 (800) 339-9834

October 8, 2025

Dear Friends:

Thank you for celebrating National Coming Out Day in Bellows Falls today. I particularly want to thank Susan MacNeil, Bellows Falls Pride, and its partners for hosting events like tonight's, which help bring awareness for the LGBTQ+ community and allies.

Creating a world free of bigotry, where everyone can live and love as their true selves is something I have fought for since I was Mayor of Burlington. The United States has made remarkable progress on equality in a relatively short amount of time, and that should be celebrated. However, there is still much work to be done. Please know that I stand with you in the struggle against discrimination, and for the right to live safely and with dignity.

Perhaps now more than ever, as we see the Trump administration's attack on LGBTQ+ rights, we have got to continue the critical work of building a nation based on justice for all. As we know, demagogues use homophobia, transphobia and bigotry to divide us. They foment hate, turning neighbors on neighbors. They will stop at nothing to divide us up, because they know that together, we have the power to change the system. Our struggle is, and has always been, about justice – LGBTQIA justice, racial justice, gender justice, social justice, environmental justice, youth justice and economic justice. We cannot allow others to divide us up and reinforce systems of oppression.

Almost always, real change takes place when millions of people come together to demand that our government works for all of us, and that our country respects the fundamental dignity of every person. Through events like tonight's and similar ones across the country, you are all coming together and speaking out against injustice.

Thank you again for participating in National Coming Out Day here in Bellows Falls, and connecting and uplifting the local LGBTQ community and allies.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator

