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17	Attorneys for Plaintiffs (additional counsel listed	on following page)
18	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA	
19		
20	Equality Arizona; and S.C., by their mother and next friend Carol Brochin;	No.
	Plaintiffs,	
21	v.	COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF
22	Kathy Hoffman, in her official capacity as	
23	Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction; Lucas Narducci, Daniel P. Corr, Calvin Baker,	
24	Jill Broussard, Christine Burton, Rita H.	
25	Cheng, Michele Kaye, Janice Mak, Armando	
26	Ruiz, and Patricia Welborn, each in his or her official capacity as a member of the Arizona	
27	State Board of Education,	
28	Defendants.	

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INTRODUCTION

- 1. This action seeks to enjoin enforcement of a facially discriminatory and harmful Arizona statute, A.R.S. § 15-716(C), which prohibits instruction that "[p]romotes a homosexual life-style" or "[p]ortrays homosexuality as a positive alternative life-style" in public school curriculum on HIV/AIDS. That prohibition violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by singling out a class of students who are not heterosexual—including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)—for negative treatment based on their sexual orientation, without imposing any comparable restriction on instruction about heterosexual people.
- 2. By classifying on the basis of "homosexuality," the challenged statute (the "Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law") facially discriminates against non-heterosexual students on the basis of sexual orientation and places them in an expressly disfavored class. The negative impact is significant, communicating to teachers and students that there is something so undesirable, shameful, or controversial about "homosexuality" that any positive portrayal of non-heterosexual people or relationships must be barred. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law also forbids medically accurate instruction that "[s]uggests that some methods of sex are safe methods of homosexual sex." A.R.S. § 15-716(C). By forbidding the presentation of medically accurate, age-appropriate information critical for the health and safety of LGBTQ students, without imposing any comparable restriction on information about heterosexual people, the law deprives LGBTQ students of equal educational opportunities and exacerbates the heightened health risks LGBTQ students already face, including the risk of HIV.
- 3. Arizona schools are not safe for most LGBTQ students. Nearly 80% of LGBTQ students surveyed in Arizona regularly heard homophobic remarks, and 71% experienced verbal harassment in the past year due to their sexual orientation. Research

¹ Although transgender people, like people who are not transgender, can have any sexual orientation, there is a significant overlap among transgender people and lesbian, gay, bisexual and queer people. In addition, A.R.S. § 15-716(C) has been interpreted by some educators to prohibit discussion of transgender people.

shows that laws prohibiting the expression of positive views about "homosexuality" in public schools, like Arizona's Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law, harm LGBTQ students by fostering school climates that stigmatize and isolate LGBTQ youth, putting them at heightened risk of bullying and harassment. In addition, the rate of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in Arizona increased significantly from 2011 to 2017, particularly among young people.

- 4. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law was enacted in 1991 to express moral disapproval of "homosexuality" and of non-heterosexual people, and to discriminate against them. It does not serve any legitimate state purpose.
- 5. Plaintiffs have sustained and will sustain irreparable harm due to the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law. The Court should declare this law unconstitutional and enjoin its enforcement.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. Plaintiffs bring this action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to redress the deprivation under color of state law of rights secured by the United States Constitution.
- 7. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. It may issue a declaratory judgment and grant relief under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.
- 8. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendants reside in the District of Arizona and the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims took place in the District of Arizona. Venue is proper in the Tucson Division because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims, including those of Plaintiff S.C., occurred in Pima County, Arizona.

PARTIES

9. Plaintiff Equality Arizona is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to secure, protect, and defend the rights and welfare of LGBTQ people in Arizona. It is a 501(c)(3) organization and is incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona with the legal name Arizona Human Rights Foundation, which does business as Equality Arizona.

- 10. Plaintiff S.C. is a twelve-year-old student in seventh grade at a public charter middle school in Tucson, Arizona. S.C. uses the pronouns "they" and "them" and is a member of the LGBTQ community. They identify as "queer" and "not heterosexual." They previously attended schools in the Tucson Unified School District and plan to attend a public high school in the Tucson Unified School District beginning in ninth grade. S.C. lives with their family in Pima County, Arizona. They are a member of Equality Arizona.
- 11. Carol Brochin is S.C.'s mother. She brings this action on behalf of S.C. under Rule 17(c) as S.C.'s next friend. She is a member of Equality Arizona.
- 12. Defendant Kathy Hoffman is sued in her official capacity as the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The responsibilities of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, an elected official, include exercising supervision over the public school system and serving as a member of the Arizona State Board of Education ("Board of Education" or "Board"). A.R.S. § 15-203; Ariz. Const. Art. XI, Sections 2, 3. Among other things, the Board of Education exercises general supervision over and regulates the conduct of the public school system, adopts rules and policies pertaining to public schools, and enforces laws relating to schools. A.R.S. § 15-203(A); Ariz. Const. Art. XI, Section 2. The Board also administers and is the policymaking body of the Arizona Department of Education. A.R.S. § 15-231(B). The Superintendent of Public Instruction is responsible for the execution of policies of the Board, and she controls the Arizona Department of Education. A.R.S. § 15-231.
- 13. Defendant Lucas Narducci is the President of the Board of Education and is sued in his official capacity.
- 14. Defendant Daniel P. Corr is the Vice President of the Board of Education and is sued in his official capacity.
- 15. Defendant Calvin Baker is a member of the Board of Education and is sued in his official capacity.

1	16. Defendant Jill Broussard is a member of the Board of Education and is sue	
2	in her official capacity.	
3	17. Defendant Christine Burton is a member of the Board of Education and	
4	sued in her official capacity.	
5	18. Defendant Rita H. Cheng is a member of the Board of Education and is sue	
6	in her official capacity.	
7	19. Defendant Michele Kaye is a member of the Board of Education and is sue	
8	in her official capacity.	
9	20. Defendant Janice Mak is a member of the Board of Education and is sued in	
10	her official capacity.	
11	21. Defendant Armando Ruiz is a member of the Board of Education and is sue	
12	in his official capacity.	
13	22. Defendant Patricia Welborn is a member of the Board of Education and	
14	sued in her official capacity.	
15	FACTUAL BACKGROUND	
16	The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law	
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requiring that certain sex education materials and instruction "shall . . . [p]romote honor and respect for monogamous heterosexual marriage," Ariz. Admin. Code R7-2-303(A)(3)(b)(v) ("the Regulation").

26. Although Arizona's local governing boards for school districts are charged with "[p]rescrib[ing] the curricula and criteria for the promotion and graduation of pupils" consistent with the State's minimum requirements, A.R.S. § 15-341(A)(5), they must do so without violating applicable State statutes and regulations, including the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law and Regulation.

The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law Harms Plaintiffs

- 27. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law harms LGBTQ students. It stigmatizes them by creating a state-sanctioned climate of discrimination in schools and prevents LGBTQ students from having educational opportunities equal to those of their heterosexual peers. Students who are not LGBTQ are not singled out for stigma or prohibited from learning relevant, medically accurate information necessary to their health and safety.
- 28. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law communicates to teachers and students that there is something so undesirable, shameful, or controversial about "homosexuality" that any positive portrayals of LGBTQ people or same-sex relationships must be explicitly barred. The enforcement of the statute, and its very existence, demeans LGBTQ students and denotes their inferiority to heterosexual students. By enshrining into state law that LGBTQ people may only be discussed in a negative light, the State and Defendants instruct all students that LGBTQ people are a dangerous, immoral class of people from whom other students must be shielded. Stigma is associated with lower self-esteem and greater risk-taking behaviors, and it can have devastating and enduring impacts on LGBTQ youth, who face dramatically higher risks for suicide, suicidal ideation, and depression compared to their heterosexual peers. Data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control indicate that nationally, 29% of LBG youth had attempted suicide at least once *in the prior year*, compared to 6% of heterosexual youth.

- 29. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law permits schools to promote inaccurate stereotypes about LGBTQ people, while forbidding the presentation of medically accurate, age-appropriate information about HIV/AIDS that is critical for the health and safety of LGBTQ students, without imposing any comparable restriction on information about heterosexual people. It prevents LGBTQ students from having equal educational opportunities and exacerbates the heightened risks LGBTQ students already face to their health and safety. CDC data show that LGB youth are disproportionately at risk of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and teen pregnancy. In Arizona, the rate of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in Arizona increased significantly from 2011 to 2017, particularly among young people. LGB students in Arizona are three times more likely than students who identify as heterosexual to report being raped.
 - 30. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law also fosters school climates that stigmatize and isolate LGBTQ youth, putting them at heightened risk of bullying and harassment. LGBTQ students in states with laws like Arizona's Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law are more likely to report hostile school climates and are less likely to report access to LGBTQ-inclusive school supports.
 - 31. Recent data demonstrate that Arizona schools are not safe for most LGBTQ students. Nearly 80% of LGBTQ middle and high school students surveyed regularly heard homophobic remarks at school such as "fag" or "dyke." In reporting on their experiences *in the past year*, 71% of LGBTQ students surveyed in Arizona experienced verbal harassment, 30% experienced physical harassment, and 12% were physically assaulted due to their sexual orientation.
 - 32. LGBTQ students who lack support and face harassment and discrimination at school experience increased isolation, depression, and risk of suicide and are more likely than their peers to miss school, often in an effort to avoid abuse. These negative experiences can have serious long-term negative impacts on these students' health, education, and wellbeing.

- 33. By contrast, LGBTQ students who attend schools allowing equal and open discussion about their identities on par with the recognition and discussion of heterosexual identities are safer and healthier. LGBTQ-inclusive curricula are associated with higher reports of safety, and lower levels of bullying in schools.
- 34. A positive school climate has been associated with a decrease in depression, suicidal feelings, substance use, and unexcused school absences among LGBTQ students. LGBTQ students in a positive school climate also perform better academically and feel a greater sense of belonging in their school community. The CDC recommends that as part of a positive school climate, schools should "ensure that health curricula or educational materials include HIV, other STD, and pregnancy prevention information that is relevant to LGB youth"
- 35. Defendant Hoffman, in her official capacity as Superintendent of Public Instruction, has recognized that students "in the LGBTQ community" are "more likely to experience bullying and harassment," and that "[a] simple step we can take to help reduce discrimination and bullying for these students is to repeal the 'no promo homo' law [A.R.S. § 15-716(C)] legislation that only contributes to an unsafe school environment. This policy is not just outdated, it has always been harmful and wrong."
- 36. Notwithstanding this recognition by Defendant Hoffman, repeated legislative attempts to repeal the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law have failed, and the State and Defendants continue to enforce the law.
- 37. Through the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law, and Defendants' enforcement of it, the State and Defendants discriminate against LGBTQ students and violate their well-established legal obligations to provide equal educational opportunities to all students, including students who identify as LGBTQ.

Equality Arizona

38. Equality Arizona is a nonprofit statewide advocacy organization for LGBTQ people, and it has members throughout the state. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law inflicts serious and ongoing harm against Equality Arizona members.

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² To preserve privacy, the Complaint uses the pseudonym A.A.

39. Equality Arizona brings this action based on associational standing on behalf of its members. Equality Arizona's members include LGBTQ students who attend, have attended, or will attend Arizona public schools, including Plaintiff S.C. Because Equality Arizona seeks only declaratory and injunctive relief, individual participation of Equality Arizona members is not required.

- 40. Members of Equality Arizona have experienced the harmful effects of the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law. For example, Equality Arizona member A.A.² is a fifteenyear old gay student in ninth grade at a public high school in the greater Phoenix area. A.A. has experienced the harmful effects of the Law and continues to be harmed by it.
- 41. Although A.A. was not open about his sexual orientation when he was in middle school, he experienced bullying and verbal harassment based on his perceived sexual orientation. Other students repeatedly called him "fag" and used other homophobic slurs, such as calling him "gay" in a derogatory way.
- 42. When he was in sixth grade, an incident of name calling made A.A. so upset that he began to cry at school. He sought help from the school counselor, who told him to leave and sent him back to class while he was still crying.
- 43. A.A. came out as gay to family members and friends the summer before he began ninth grade.
- A.A. is a member of his high school's Gay Straight Alliance club, and he was 44. elected president of the club for the 2019-2020 year. In the fall of 2018, A.A. was elected to his school's homecoming court, which made him visible in the larger school community as a gay student.
- After homecoming, A.A. began to experience bullying and harassment based 45. on his sexual orientation and for being perceived as insufficiently "masculine" by other boys, which is a stereotype associated with gay males. For example, when he uses the locker room to change clothes for physical education class, other boys frequently taunt him for

being gay, and A.A. has had clothes and other objects thrown at him in the locker room. A.A. is not able to avoid using the locker room, as he is required to change his clothes for physical education class.

- 46. At school, A.A. is enrolled in a weekly health class, which is part of physical education and is required for graduation. Boys and girls are taught health separately. The same boys who harass A.A. in the locker room during physical education are also in his health course. In March 2019, A.A.'s health class began a unit of sex education, which A.A. believes will include HIV/AIDS instruction.
- 47. A.A. has heard from older students who have previously taken this class that when students have asked about safe sex for gay people, the teachers avoid answering, saying "we can't really talk about that" or ignoring the questions. A.A. is afraid to ask questions relevant to LGBTQ people for fear that his questions will lead to further harassment and bullying from his peers.
- 48. The written policies of A.A.'s school district on "family life" education, which includes instruction in sex education and HIV/AIDS instruction, explicitly incorporate the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law and Regulation.
- 49. A.A. is worried that he will not be able to learn medically accurate information in school, including in his health class, that will keep him safe and healthy.
- 50. A.A. believes that if teachers were permitted to discuss LGBTQ people on the same terms as heterosexual people, including during sex education and HIV/AIDS instruction, other students at his school would realize that being LGBTQ is something that is acceptable to talk about, and not a source of shame or ridicule. A.A. believes that it would be easier for him to feel safe in school, including in the locker room, if his teachers were not restricted by the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law.
- 51. A.A. would like to advocate within his school district for an LGBTQ-inclusive HIV/AIDS curriculum, but the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law makes such advocacy futile.

Plaintiff S.C.

- 52. Plaintiff S.C. is a twelve-year-old student in seventh grade at a public charter middle school in Tucson, Arizona. They identify as "queer" and "not heterosexual."
- 53. When their family moved to Tucson in 2014, S.C. and their brother, who is one grade older than S.C., began attending a public elementary school in the Tucson Unified School District ("TUSD"). S.C. learned about the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law in fourth grade, when their brother was taking the "family life" curriculum, and told S.C. and their mom they were not allowed to talk about "homosexuality" in the class. At the time, S.C. was beginning to understand their sexual orientation, and learning about the law made them feel less accepted by their school.
- 54. S.C. took the elementary school family life curriculum, which did not include any mention of LGBTQ people in discussions of relationships, family structures, behaviors, and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- 55. The materials provided to teachers and parents about TUSD's elementary school family life curriculum contain the "Arizona Guidelines for Sex Education," which explicitly incorporate the Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law and Regulation.
- 56. In sixth grade, S.C. began middle school at a public middle school in TUSD. They experienced bullying from classmates because of their perceived sexual orientation. For example, S.C. was repeatedly called a "stupid gay kid" and "faggot" by other students. S.C. was not supported by teachers or administrators when they shared what had been happening to them, and did not feel safe at the school as an LGBTQ person. S.C. frequently went to the school nurse's office because they were so upset from the harassment and bullying.
- 57. As a result of the harassment and bullying S.C. experienced, S.C. and their brother transferred to a public charter middle school in October of S.C.'s sixth grade year.
- 58. For ninth grade, S.C. plans to attend Tucson High Magnet School, a public high school in TUSD.

- 68. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law also singles out non-heterosexual students for differential and adverse treatment on the basis of their sexual orientation by prohibiting presentation of medically accurate information about "homosexual sex" and "homosexuality" during HIV/AIDS instruction, even when such information serves important educational purposes, while imposing no similar restrictions on discussion of heterosexuality or heterosexual people. This also stigmatizes LGBTQ students and harms their long-term health and well-being, including by denying them equal educational opportunities to potentially lifesaving information about HIV/AIDS prevention on the basis of their sexual orientation.
- 69. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law and Regulation have contributed to the creation of an anti-LGBTQ climate in many Arizona public schools. They foster a culture of silence and non-acceptance of LGBTQ students and discourage school officials from complying with their obligations to treat all students equally, without regard to sexual orientation.
- 70. The Anti-LGBTQ Curriculum Law and Regulation do not serve any legitimate purpose, pedagogical or otherwise, and are instead rooted in animus toward and moral disapproval of LGBTQ people.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter judgment as follows:

1	A. Declaring that A.R.S. § 15-716(C) and Ariz. Admin. Code R7-2-		
2	303(A)(3)(b)(v) violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the		
3	United States Constitution;		
4	B. Permanently enjoining Defendants and their agents, officers, employees,		
5	successors, and all persons acting in concert with each or any of them from enforcing A.R.S.		
6	§ 15-716(C) and Ariz. Admin. Code R7-2-303(A)(3)(b)(v);		
7	C. Awarding Plaintiffs the costs incurred in pursuing this action, including		
8	reasonable attorneys' fees under 42 U.S.C. § 1988 and other applicable laws; and		
9	D. Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.		
10	Dated: March 28, 2019 PERKINS COIE LLP		
11	By: /s/ Daniel C. Barr		
12	Daniel C. Barr (#010149) Barry G. Stratford (#029923)		
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