

**“There is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.”**

**- Audre Lorde**

Dear Members of the Rutgers Law Community,

On behalf of the LGBTQ Caucus, we write you all to express solidarity with our peers in the Association of Black Law Students (“ABLS”) and condolences to the loved ones of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, David McAtee and the countless other Black lives lost secondary to violence and racism. We also condemn the transphobic killings of Nina Pop and Tony McDade.

This note comes during a particularly volatile moment, as Black folk and other people of color protest these senseless and depraved acts of violence. It is also the first week of Pride Month, a time set aside to remember the queer activists and organizers who helped to secure our rights and recognition as dignified, fully-deserving people. This history includes the Stonewall Riots, a watershed moment of defiance in LGBTQ activism led by Black transgender women who risked their lives to protest police brutality. Regrettably, the month of June has often become a megaphone for white-washed optimism in the LGBTQ community at the expense of remembering the Black women, queer people of color, and others who sparked a movement that has lasted generations. Frankly, the LGBTQ Caucus would not exist had it not been for leaders like Marsha P. Johnson, Audre Lorde, and countless others for whom we do not know their names.

More than 50 years after Stonewall, we must continue the legacy of challenging unfair laws that dehumanize Black and trans communities. What we are bearing witness to as a collective is not needless protests, but the result of long-simmering suffering compounded by ignorance, silence, and inaction. We are committed to supporting our Black colleagues and communities in remedying these systemic ills.

Most importantly, we recognize and want to amplify this Pride Month and all other months that Black Lives Matter. We seek to accompany our peers, community members and fellow student groups like ABLS as we work to build a coalition at Rutgers Law which fights to protect Black lives in all of our movements.

We see you. We hear you. We stand with you. Black Lives Matter.

In Solidarity,

Rutgers Law School LGBTQ Caucus