

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

JOEL DOE, a minor; by and through his Guardians JOHN DOE and JANE DOE,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	No. 17-cv-1249 - EGS
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT; DR. RICHARD FAIDLEY, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the Boyertown Area School District; DR. BRETT COOPER, in his official capacity as Principal; and DR. E. WAYNE FOLEY, in his official capacity as Assistant Principal,	:	
	:	
Defendants	:	

**DECLARATION OF JASON GOODMAN IN SUPPORT OF MOTION BY
PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH CONGRESS FOUNDATION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE**

I, Jason Goodman, declare as follows:

1. I am a 27-year-old resident of Bala Cynwyd, PA. I am the Executive Director, and President of the Board, of the Pennsylvania Youth Congress Foundation (“PYC”). I am also one of the founders of PYC.
2. I submit this declaration in support of PYC’s motion to intervene, in order to explain PYC’s interest in this litigation.
3. The Pennsylvania Youth Congress Foundation is a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation founded in April 2011. It is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

4. PYC is dedicated to empowering LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) youth to advocate for their own interests, individually and through youth-led groups and organizations.

5. PYC is proud to be the only recognized youth-led statewide LGBTQ advocacy organization in the nation. While some national and state organizations may have youth “programs,” they may lack authentic and meaningful youth leadership. At PYC, we believe in the full empowerment of ourselves as young people to be leaders of today.

6. PYC has a range of programs designed to inform and empower youth as their own advocates. In addition to the many resources on our website, PYC offers leadership workshops for students and youth, professional trainings for educators and staff, Safe Zone trainings for community members, and policy briefings on LGBTQ youth issues.

7. PYC also works directly with students and school administrators to advocate for policies and practices that make schools safe and inclusive for LGBTQ students. Among other things, PYC advocates for the adoption of policies and practices that allow transgender youth to choose to use single-sex school facilities that correspond with their gender identity.

8. The policies that PYC works to advance in Pennsylvania school districts include non-discrimination protections and anti-bullying provisions. Without comprehensive federal or state-level non-discrimination and anti-bullying policies, local school boards have the discretion on how they protect and support LGBTQ students. The effort to press for the adoption of LGBTQ-inclusive policies has a significant impact on preventing and addressing violence against LGBTQ students.

9. Because Plaintiff has challenged the School District's existing practice of inclusion and non-discrimination with respect to single-sex facilities, PYC is forced to devote resources to supporting students at the Boyertown High School and must direct its advocacy toward this matter, to the exclusion of other matters it might seek to pursue in keeping with its mission.

10. PYC also works to empower LGBTQ youth to form effective youth-led organizations, particularly in high schools and colleges.

11. With 500 school districts in Pennsylvania, there are well over 250 Gay Straight Alliances/Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs) at K-12 public schools in our state. GSAs are most commonly based in high schools but we are increasingly seeing GSAs at public middle schools, faith-based private schools, and regional GSAs being formed.

12. PYC offers advice and support for the formation of new GSAs, as well as the improvement of existing organizations.

13. In addition, PYC offers membership to LGBTQ student and youth organizations in Pennsylvania. To be eligible for membership, an organization must be a local youth-led LGBTQ organization consisting of not less than 10 members. Affiliates are generally a college, university, or high school LGBTQ organization (i.e. GSAs), but affiliation can be granted to any locally convened youth-led LGBTQ organization meeting PYC criteria. PYC has affiliated with more than 40 such organizations.

14. Membership in PYC offers direct connection with counterpart organizations throughout Pennsylvania, as well as affiliation with PYC's advocacy work. Each PYC membership organization must appoint a leader to represent the group at official PYC events. That leader then

serves as liaison between PYC and the group and is responsible for organizing the groups' delegation to attend the annual Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference.

15. The coalition of LGBTQ youth organizations that are members of PYC is housed in the Keystone Pride Alliance (KPA). The essentials of PYC membership that are currently noted on our website are as follows:

PYC Member Organizations Benefits and Opportunities: Have direct access to benefits and opportunities through PYC in their local communities and in statewide advocacy. Member Organizations can access resources and technical support through PYC leaders, and be directly connected into regional and statewide networks of LGBTQ student/youth organizations. Member Organizations will complete the annual Pennsylvania GSA Survey and plan to send a Delegate to the annual Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference. Member Organizations will be provided the opportunity to send leaders to regional and statewide PYC gatherings, meetings, and advocacy days.

16. To become a PYC member organization, the applicant group's leader must fill out an online application, which is then reviewed and approved by PYC youth leaders. The application considers information about the group's history, activities, and interests, as well as the environment in which the group exists.

17. In January 2017, the Boyertown GSA initiated an application to become a member organization in PYC. That application was formally accepted in March 2017.

18. Based on my conversations with members of the Boyertown GSA, I understand there are a several students at Boyertown Area Senior High School who identify as transgender, some of whom use the single-sex restroom and/or locker facilities that correspond with their gender.

19. Regardless how many students take advantage of the district's practice of permitting transgender students to access facilities consistent with their gender, the existence of the

practice is an essential component in establishing a safe and inclusive space for transgender students at Boyertown Area Senior High. Having an inclusive environment for transgender students is one of the primary goals identified by the Boyertown GSA leaders in support of its application to join PYC.

20. In addition to its own interest in supporting access for all transgender students to facilities that correspond to their gender identity, PYC represents the interest of its member organization, the Boyertown GSA, in preserving these policies and/or practices at Boyertown Area Senior High.

21. I make this declaration from my own knowledge of the facts and circumstances set forth above. If necessary, I could and would testify to these facts and circumstances.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: April 3, 2017

/s/ Jason Goodman
Jason Goodman