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**LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON SAFEGUARDS
FOR THE STATE’S LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY**

EDISON — The latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) centers on the many programs and legal protections available for LGBTQ+ residents.

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” may be viewed online at www.lsnjlaw.org.

The newsletter notes such “historic protections come at an important and urgent time” because “across the U.S. anti-LGBTQ+ and, in particular, anti-trans legislation, rhetoric, and discrimination threaten a vulnerable community.”

Just this past April, Governor Phil Murphy signed an executive order essentially making the state a safe place for anyone seeking or providing gender-affirming healthcare that includes mental health services, surgery, hormone and replacement therapy, among many other treatments and therapies. Further, the executive order directs all state departments and agencies to protect against repercussions or backlash for providing, receiving, seeking assistance in, or traveling to New Jersey for gender-affirming healthcare.

Additionally, there is a 2017 state law that increased protections and requirements for transgender-related care. That statute applies to Medicaid services, as well as private health insurers and state health plans.

The state's Law Against Discrimination (LAD) was expanded in 1992 to protect lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. It was further expanded in 2007 to cover transgender, gender nonconforming, and non-binary people. Under LAD individuals have the have right to self-identify, dress according to their gender identity, and be addressed by their name, title and pronoun without being required to show proof of gender identity.

The article notes Garden State Equality, a statewide LGBTQ+ advocacy rights organization in Asbury Park, has mapped more than 200 LGBTQ+ friendly healthcare providers across the state. The locations may be viewed at www.gardenstateequality.org/our-work/health/map.

The newsletter also includes an article on how to get a name change, as well as a piece detailing rental assistance programs and what to do if a landlord doesn't comply.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six independent nonprofit corporations that provides free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people in all 21 counties.

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