

Legal Services of New Jersey
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**LSNJ NEWSLETTER STRESSES AVAILABILITY OF
LGBTQ+ PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS**

EDISON — The latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) highlights continued state protections for LGBTQ+ students even while such protections under federal laws have been rolled back.

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

The newsletter also focuses on recent expansion of clemency—pardons or commutations—for criminal convictions, as well as a wide-scale of issues affecting students and their parents this school year.

The publication essentially clarifies that, at least for now, the federal rollback on recognizing transgender protections does not override such protections from harassment and violence under state laws and guidelines. That includes New Jersey’s Law Against Discrimination (LAD) and the state’s Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights.

The LAD says sexual harassment, including unwanted touching, comments or gestures, are a form of discrimination, and should be reported if a school district fails to take action. Schools must have anti-bullying coordinators. Bullying based on gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, includes spoken, physical or any written acts designed to hurt others, damage their property, demean them or the group they represent, or make fun of them in a way that interferes with their learning.

The newsletter includes an article explaining the differences between pardons and commutation, and spells out the requirements for a new program allowing those who have

completed incarceration and post-supervision may qualify for expedited clemency. Further, even those who previously sought and were denied clemency can now reapply.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) provides free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people.

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