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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Attorney General Brown Supports School's Efforts to Protect Transgender Students' Privacy** *In an Amicus Brief, Coalition of Attorneys General Urge Court to Uphold Massachusetts School District's Policy on Transgender Students' Privacy Rights*

**BALTIMORE, MD (June 29, 2023)** – Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown has joined a coalition of 16 Attorneys General in an [amicus brief](#) supporting schools' ability to protect the privacy of transgender students who have shared their identity with school staff.

The brief, filed with the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in *Foote et al. v. Ludlow School Committee et al.*, argues in support of the Ludlow, Massachusetts school district's practice of only sharing information on a student's transgender or gender-nonconforming identity with the student's parents if the student consents.

"We have a responsibility to create safe and inclusive educational environments where every student feels respected, accepted, and free to be their authentic selves. In doing so, we create an atmosphere where all students can thrive academically and emotionally," said Attorney General Brown. "I understand the sensitivities surrounding this issue, but we must empower our students to choose when and how to have these conversations with their families."

In the brief, the coalition argues that requiring schools to share information about students' gender identity with parents against students' wishes would cause a number of harms, including undermining the trust between students and teachers, creating impracticable administrative burdens for schools, and improperly inserting school officials into private conversations that should be within the realm of the family. The brief calls on the First Circuit Court of Appeals to affirm a lower court decision dismissing the lawsuit against Ludlow Public Schools.

According to research published [by the Trevor Project](#) and discussed in the brief, LGBTQ+ youth who report the presence of trusted adults in their school have higher self-esteem than those without access to a trusted adult, including among those who lack support from their family. Furthermore, LGBTQ+ youth who found their school and home to be affirming reported lower rates of attempting suicide.

Joining Attorney General Brown in the brief are the Attorneys General of California, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2023/062923b.pdf>