



April 2, 2025

The Hon. Todd Rokita
Office of the Attorney General
Indiana Government Center South
302 W. Washington St., 5th Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

via email: info@atg.in.gov

Dear Attorney General Rokita,

On behalf LGBTQ+ Hoosiers across the state, Pride Lafayette respectfully asks that you apologize for mocking the Pride Progress Flag on your official Facebook page and delete the “April Fool’s Day” post doing so.

While there is room in our political discourse for legitimate debate on how state government can best serve *all* Hoosiers, there is no room for a constitutional officer to use the trappings of their office to mock, belittle, marginalize, or demean any resident (or group of residents) with whom that officer might disagree on policy matters. It is disrespectful, unbecoming, and beneath the office of Attorney General.

The Pride Flag is not a punchline or a joke to LGBTQ+ Hoosiers or the countless millions of LGBTQ+ people across the country and around the world. It is a symbol of equality. It is a symbol of hope. It is a symbol of remembrance for those who have died from the AIDS epidemic. To mock it is to mock the LGBTQ+ community, our decades-long fight for equal civil rights, and dishonors those in our community who lost their lives because of our country’s early indifference toward HIV and AIDS.

According to the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, “In the past year, 5% of Hoosier adults and 11.1% of young adults (18-25) experienced suicidal thoughts. Almost 10% of Indiana high school students, and **35% of those identifying as gay, lesbian or bisexual, attempted suicide in the past year.**” What message does it send to those LGBTQ+ young people when the state’s chief law enforcement officer shares a public message belittling their symbol of hope and mocking their very existence? To those young people, that flag – for some, their only symbol of hope – is no laughing matter.

Tens of thousands of LGBTQ+ people call Indiana home. We work here. We raise families here. We pay taxes here. We are entitled to the same rights, representation, and respect as every other Hoosier.

Your Facebook page says the “Office of the Indiana Attorney General helps protect the rights, freedoms, & safety of all Hoosiers!” We hope that you will live up to the charter of your office to serve and protect right rights of every Hoosier regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political affiliation, or ideology, and that you would treat us all with the same respect and honor our inherent human dignity.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DJ', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Derrick Jones
Executive Director
Pride Lafayette, Inc.