



## The Queerspawn Agenda

For too long, people with LGBTQ+ parents have been the subject of many national conversations, but never invited to speak for ourselves. With our Queerspawn Agenda, COLAGE, the only national organization for and by people with LGBTQ+ parents and/or caregivers, aims to do just that. Below, we have outlined the three key issue areas that QUIP (Queerspawn Interrupting and Utilizing Policy) will be initially addressing:

### 1). Legally Secure LGBTQ+ Families (Parentage Reform)

All children, regardless of who their parents are or how they identify, should feel safe and secure in their families. In many LGBTQ+ families, children may lack a legal connection to one or of their parents. For too many people with LGBTQ+ parents, the state law under which they live does not adequately provide a clear pathway for the legal recognition of parentage. This places an undue burden on LGBTQ+ families, and can negatively impact the well-being and safety of children who find themselves legally vulnerable. COLAGE supports legislation based on the [Uniform Parentage Act \(UPA\)](#), which is a blueprint for states seeking to update their parentage law(s).

***You can learn more about parentage reform via our 2023 report, [“Relationships at Risk: Why We Need to Update State Laws to Protect Children and Families.”](#)***

### 2). Safe, Accessible, and Transparent Family Formation (Donor-Conceived COLAGErs & Assisted Reproduction)

After the Dobbs Decision in 2022, it is clear that access to assisted reproduction, the umbrella term that encompasses many of the ways that LGBTQ+ people form their families, is at risk. As with the recent Alabama Supreme Court ruling, many states are considering so-called 'personhood' language that would equate an embryo with a living child. We know that the number of LGBTQ+ families formed via assisted reproductive technologies is growing every year, and that a lack of access to full reproductive autonomy harms our community in a multitude of ways.

Still, the third-party reproductive entities that facilitate much of this process are underregulated. Donor-conceived people with LGBTQ+ parents are a key demographic within the donor-conceived community that hold an outsized stake in ongoing conversations about the regulation of gamete donation and assisted reproduction. COLAGE supports legislation that seeks to address the interests of donor-conceived people with LGBTQ+ parents and protects the right to bodily autonomy, including assisted reproduction. COLAGE recognizes that anonymity in gamete donation is no longer a functional reality and supports identity disclosure at 18 and reasonable family limits consistent with the UPA.

***You can read more about our concerns about reproductive autonomy via our 2022 FAQ, [“Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization: What LGBTQ+ Families Need to Know.”](#)***

***You can learn more about donor-conceived COLAGERS by accessing our guide, [“Donor Conceived: A Guide for People Who Have LGBTQ+ Parents and Were Born via Donor Conception and/or Surrogacy.”](#)***

### 3). Safe Schools for Children in LGBTQ+ Families (School Climate)

Most conversations about so-called “Don’t Say Gay/Trans” laws (and other attempts to “regulate” LGBTQ+ subject matter in schools) focus on their impact on LGBTQ+ youth. We know that people with LGBTQ+ parents, regardless of their own sexual orientation (and especially for young children), are also being targeted with queerphobic discrimination as a direct result of our position within the LGBTQ+ community. The suppression of LGBTQ+ history and expression, censorship of LGBTQ+ literature and topics, and in some cases even limitations on the visibility of our same-sex parents and/or caregivers have contributed to a hostile climate for queerspawn. COLAGE opposes any legislation that seeks to further harm our community and is working on anti-discrimination language that will hopefully be used to proactively and explicitly protect people with LGBTQ+ parents and/or caregivers in schools.

***You can learn more about the school climate for COLAGERS via our 2023 report, [“Experiences of Students with LGBTQ+ Caregivers and their Families in K-12 Schools.”](#)***