

School Isn't a Safe Space: A Look at a Failing Education System

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Content Warning

Topics on mental health,
suicide, and homophobia will
be heavily talked about during
this presentation.

Studies I will be referring to only mention gay/lesbian and bisexuality vs straight. More research can (and should) be done within the LGBTQ+ community because there are differences/disparities yet to be studied.

Agenda

- **Legislation**
- **Students**
- **Teachers**
- **The Future**



Legislation



Ron DeSantis and his
Educational Policies



CS/CS/HB 1557: Parental Rights in Education

aka "Don't Say Gay" Bill

2. A school district may not adopt procedures or student support forms that prohibit school district personnel from notifying a parent about his or her student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, or a change in related services or monitoring, or that encourage or have the effect of encouraging a student to withhold from a parent such information. School district personnel may not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being. This subparagraph does not prohibit a

Cannot withhold information from the child's parents

3. Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in

No teaching about sexual orientation or gender identity in grades Kindergarten through 3rd Grade

CS/CS/HB 1069: Education

Defines "sex"

(9) "Sex" means the classification of a person as either female or male based on the organization of the body of such person for a specific reproductive role, as indicated by the person's sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, and internal and external genitalia present at birth.

Prohibits pronouns that don't match your "sex"

(1) It shall be the policy of every public K-12 educational institution that is provided or authorized by the Constitution and laws of Florida that a person's sex is an immutable biological trait and that it is false to ascribe to a person a pronoun that does not correspond to such person's sex. This section does not apply to individuals born with a genetically or biochemically verifiable disorder of sex development, including, but not limited to, 46, XX disorder of sex development; 46, XY disorder of sex development; sex chromosome disorder of sex development; XX or XY sex reversal; and ovotesticular disorder.

(3) An employee or contractor of a public K-12 educational institution may not provide to a student his or her preferred personal title or pronouns if such preferred personal title or pronouns do not correspond to his or her sex.

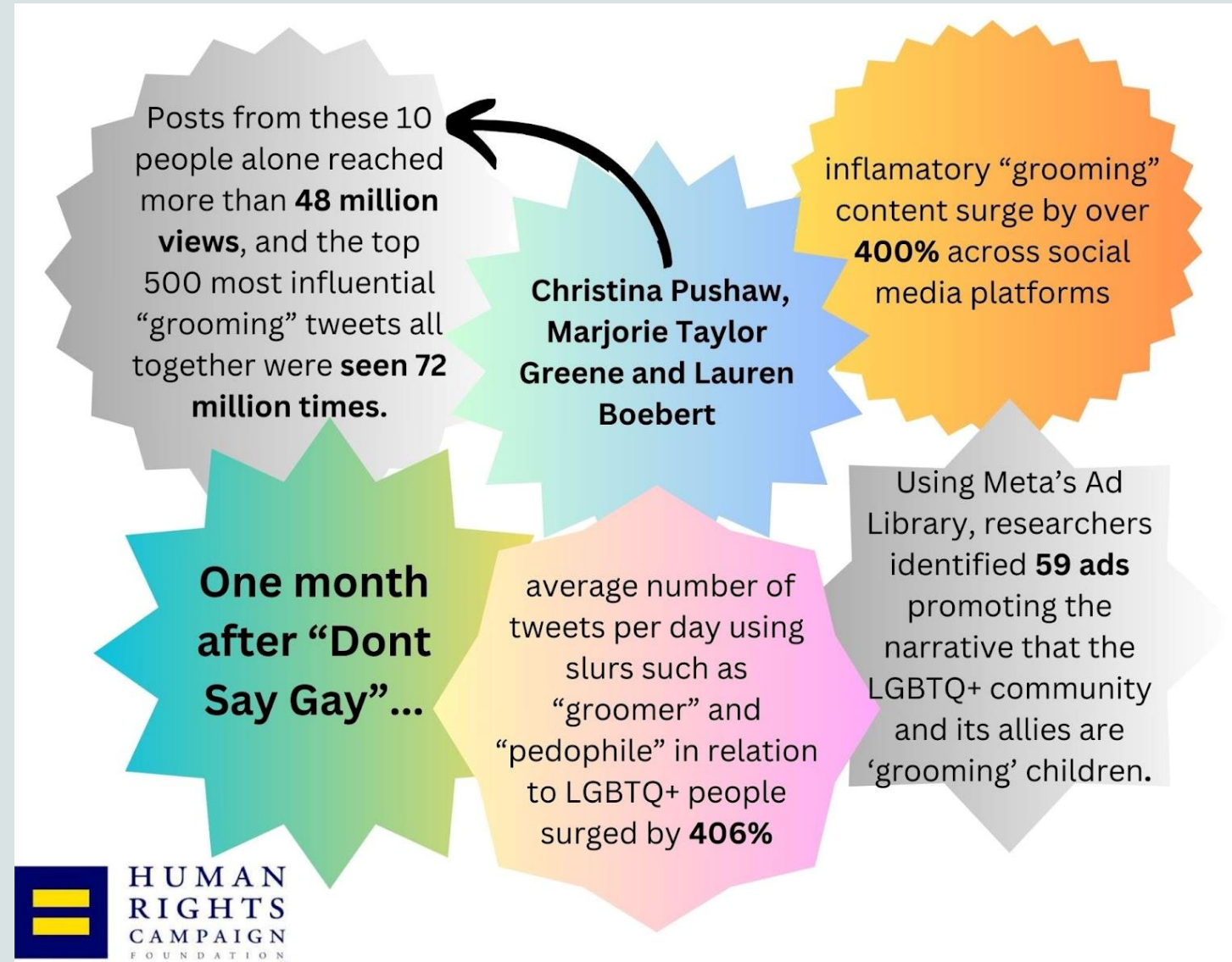
(4) A student may not be asked by an employee or contractor of a public K-12 educational institution to provide his or her preferred personal title or pronouns or be penalized or subjected to adverse or discriminatory treatment for not providing his or her preferred personal title or pronouns.

Students can't have preferred title or pronouns that don't match their sex and action can be taken against employees who use a student's preferred title/pronouns

#OkGroomer



Christina Pushaw



The Students



The targets of the so-called
"protection"



Overall Stats

Among adolescents aged 12-17 years in 2018-2019 reporting on the past year:

15.1% had a major depressive episode.

36.7% had persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness.

4.1% had a substance use disorder.

1.6% had an alcohol use disorder.

3.2% had an illicit drug use disorder.

18.8% seriously considered attempting suicide.

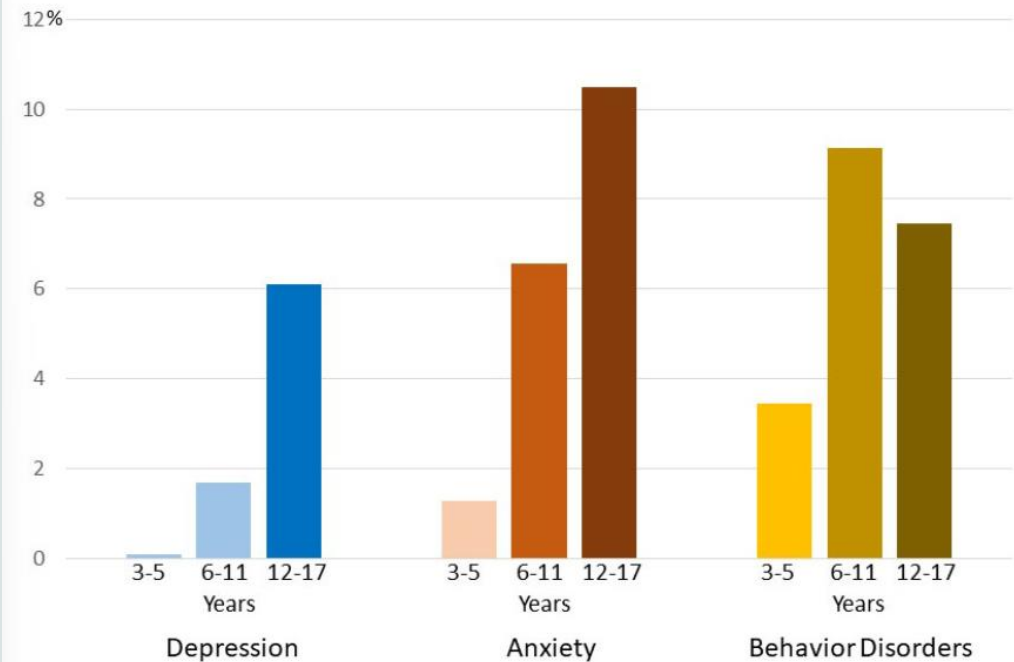
15.7% made a suicide plan.

8.9% attempted suicide.

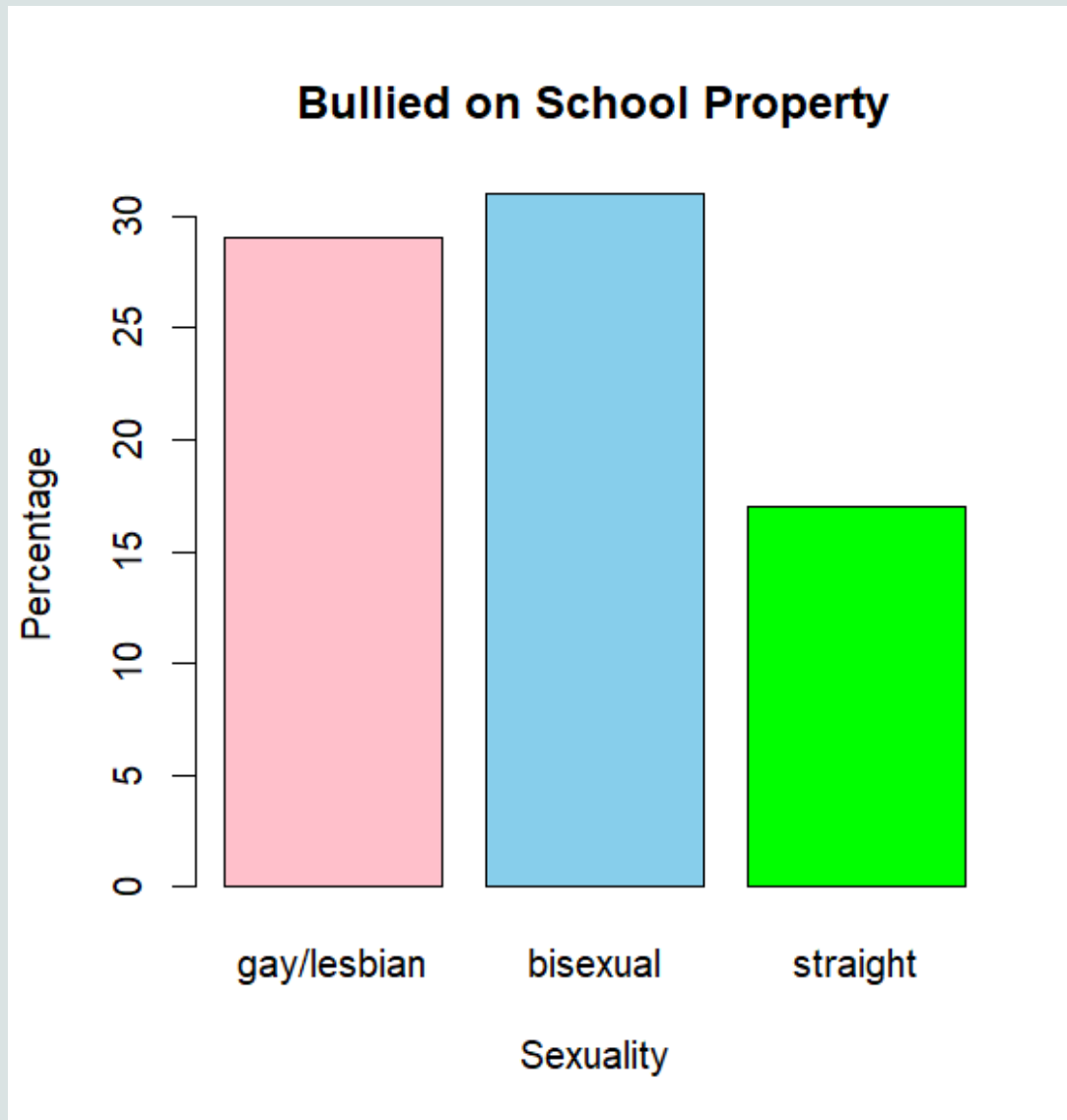
2.5% made a suicide attempt requiring medical treatment.



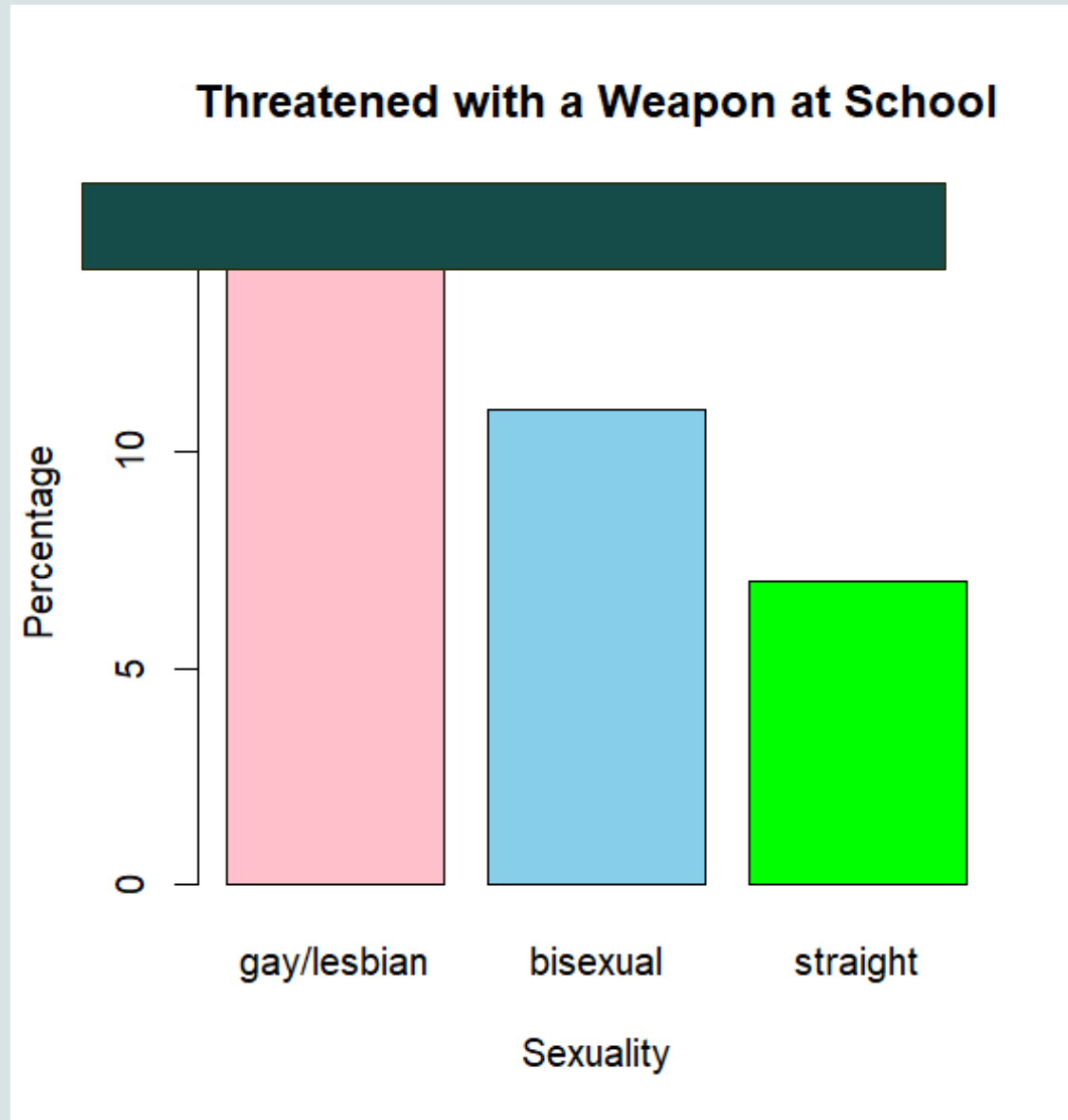
Depression, Anxiety, Behavior Disorders, by Age



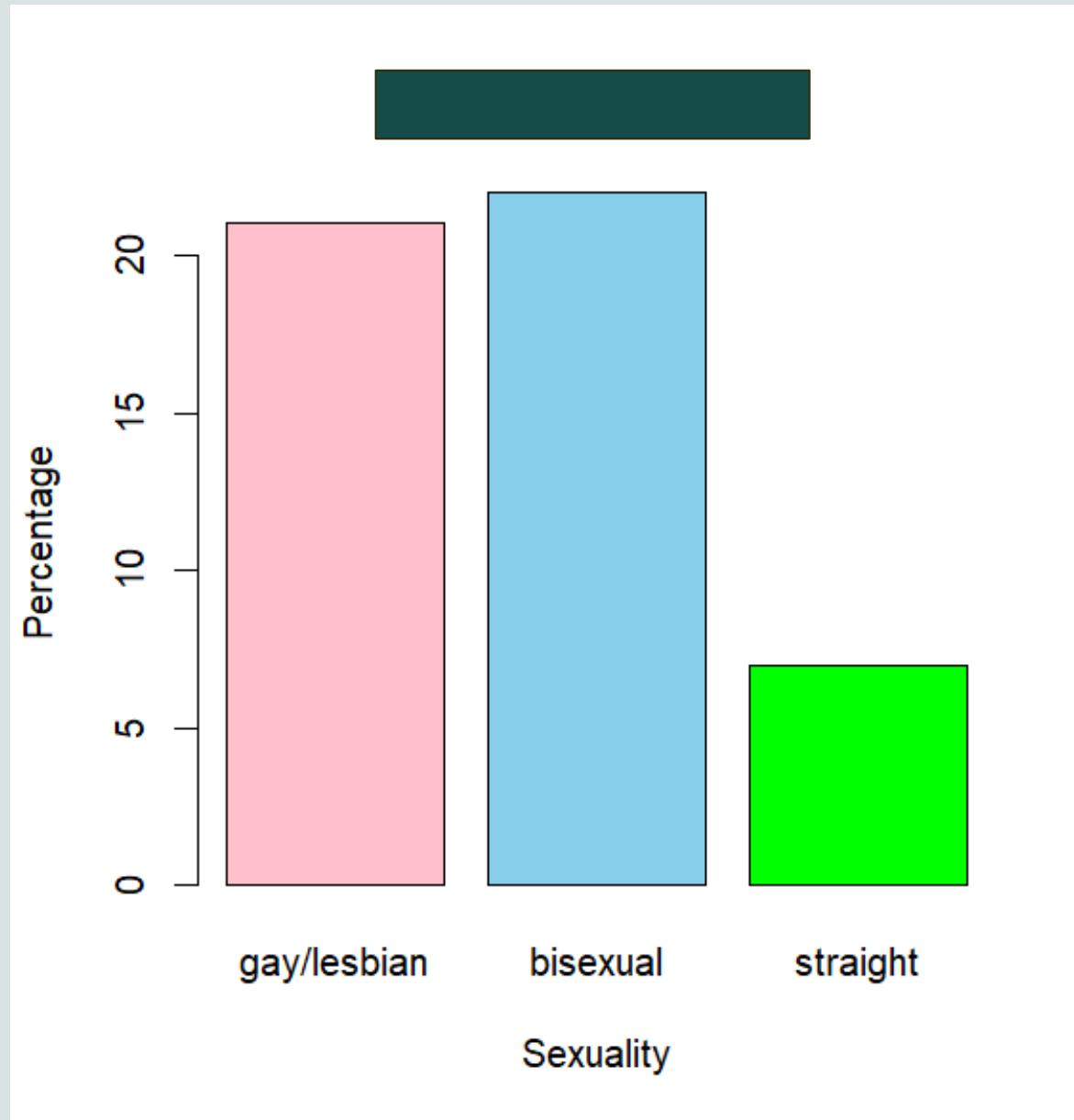
Based on Sexuality



Pt. 2

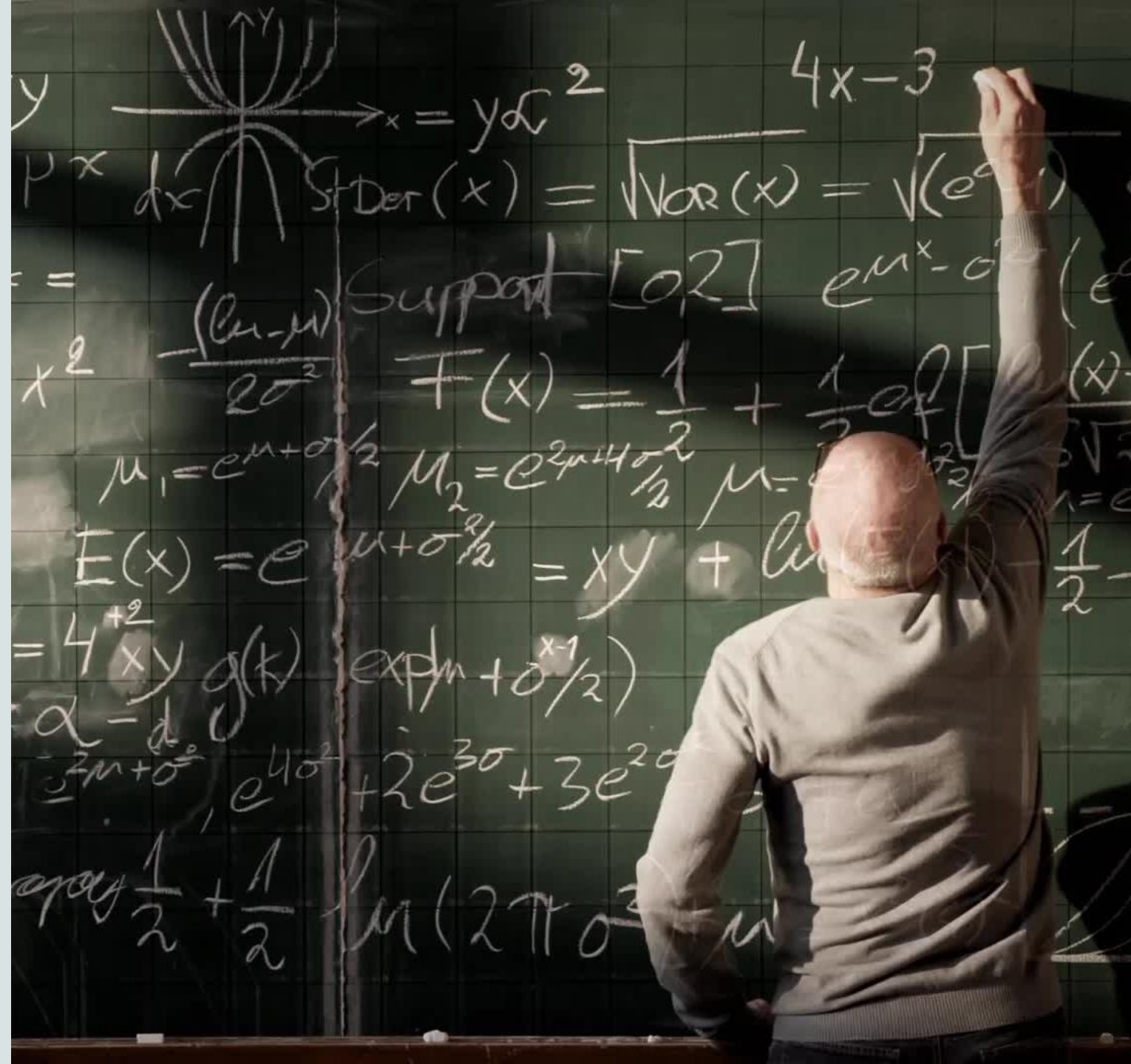


Pt. 3



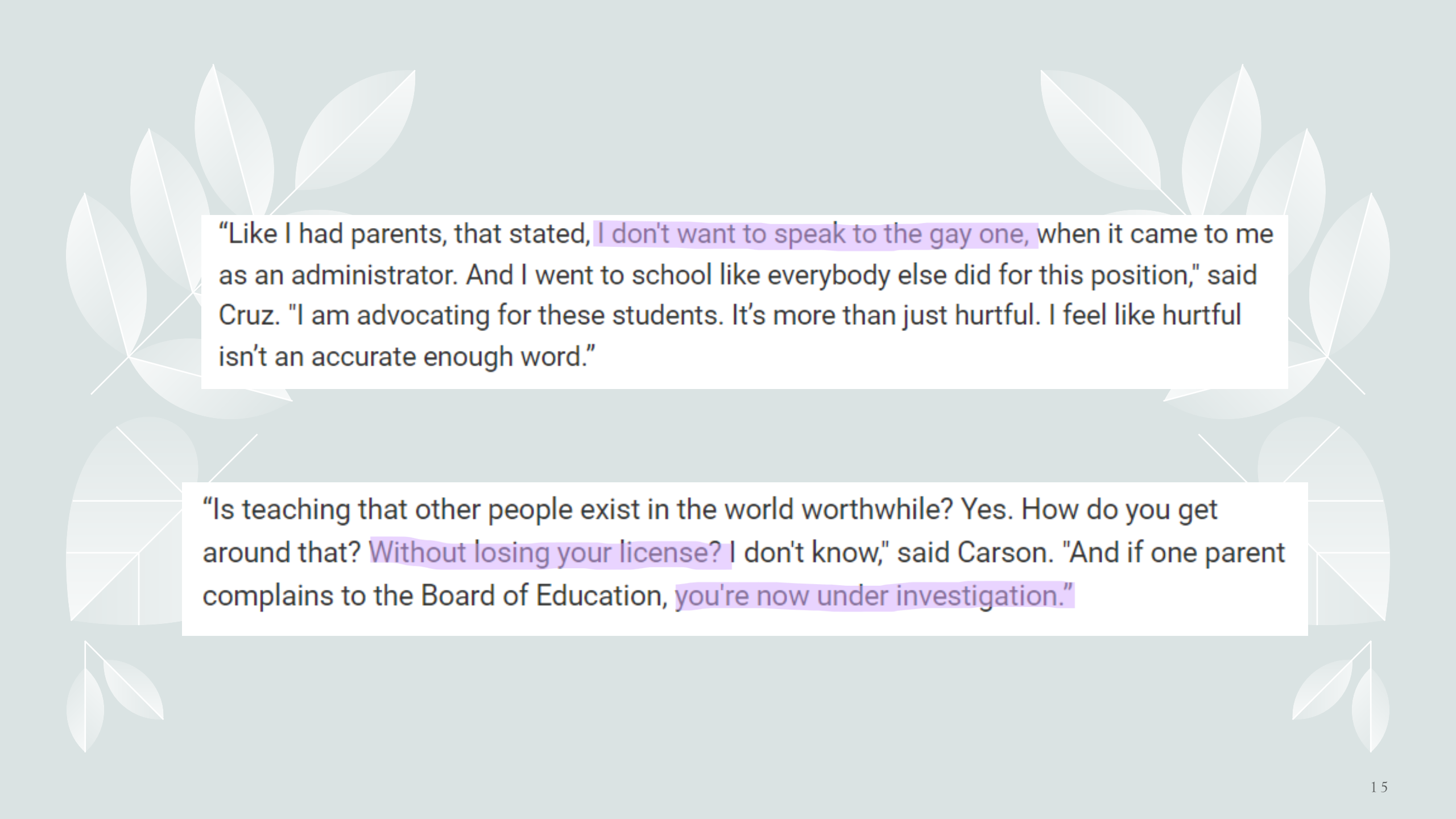
The Teachers

People who want to
help kids but can't
without fear of
retribution



The Numbers

1. 59,000~ teacher quit nationwide in April 2023 alone.
2. More than 1/3 of k-12 teachers say they plan on quitting within the next 2 years.
3. 5,200+ vacancies in Florida by January 2023

The background of the slide is a light gray color, decorated with several stylized, light gray leaf-like shapes scattered across the surface. These shapes are simple outlines of leaves, some with internal veins, and are arranged in a way that suggests a natural, organic theme.

"Like I had parents, that stated, I don't want to speak to the gay one, when it came to me as an administrator. And I went to school like everybody else did for this position," said Cruz. "I am advocating for these students. It's more than just hurtful. I feel like hurtful isn't an accurate enough word."

"Is teaching that other people exist in the world worthwhile? Yes. How do you get around that? Without losing your license? I don't know," said Carson. "And if one parent complains to the Board of Education, you're now under investigation."

The Future

The "Ulterior Motive"



The Trend

- **Similar legislation is being created in states like Arkansas, Iowa, Utah, Tennessee and Texas.**
- **Funding for public schools has been shifted towards funding private schools.**
- **Defunding diversity, equity and inclusion efforts within Universities.**
- **Barring transgender athletes from competing on girls' sports teams.**
- **Throwing out *math* textbooks for their “woke” ideology**



Thank You!

Sources

- <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2023-05-03/critics-say-desantis-is-undermining-floridas-vaunted-education-system>
- <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1069/BillText/er/PDF>
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- <https://www.wusf.org/education/2023-06-30/florida-teachers-quitting-anti-lgbtq-laws>
- <https://www.hrc.org/news/new-cdc-data-shows-lgbtq-youth-are-more-likely-to-be-bullied-than-straight-cisgender-youth>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/data.html>
- https://www.jstor.org/stable/43683478?searchText=&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dteen%2Bsuicide%2Brates%26efqs%3DeyJjdHkiOlsiYW05MWNtNWWhiQT09Il19%26sd%3D2016&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&searchKey=&refreqid=fastly-default%3A5aa3e7f0f06434738e006c45f760ec82