

**¡ANTONIO REYNOSO!**

*for* **CONGRESS**

**LCB**

**TQ+**

**LIBERATION**

## INTRODUCTION

New York's 7th District has always been home to LGBTQ+ people building lives and community on their own terms. From Walt Whitman's Brooklyn to the underground networks that formed around the Navy Yard during World War II, queer and trans people in this district have been finding each other, protecting each other, and organizing together for generations.

This district is made up of neighborhoods where Latino immigrants, working class families, and queer communities have long overlapped and built something together. We see that history today. In the Audre Lorde Project that was founded in Fort Greene in 1994 to serve queer people of color. At Marsha P. Johnson State Park in Williamsburg, the first New York State Park to be named after an LGBTQ+ person. And we see it at The Bush in Bushwick, a bar that opened in 2023 and can proudly self-identify as a "dyke bar for queers" because of the groundwork those people and places already laid in NY-7.

One of those people is Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, whose voting record has consistently earned a perfect score from the Human Rights Campaign since the release of their Congressional Scorecards in 2003. She has used every tool at her disposal in Congress to advance the human rights of LGBTQ+ Americans, and now she's endorsed Antonio Reynoso to continue her work.

Antonio will support the No Place for LGBTQ+ Hate Act to repeal Trump's egregious Executive orders attacking queer Americans, and he will vote no on every bill seeking to limit or degrade queer lives in any way. But Antonio Reynoso has always been a proud and vocal ally, and he knows that LGBTQ+ people need and deserve more than defensive work. His LGBTQ+ policy plan is a reflection of that knowledge, informed by the time he's spent standing shoulder-to-shoulder with queer folks of NY-7.

## HOUSING

Queer and trans Americans experience homelessness or housing insecurity at a staggering rate. In shelters, they face discrimination and abuse from peers and staff. On the streets, they're more than seven times more likely to experience sexual violence than their straight or cisgender counterparts. Transgender folks specifically have been turned away from shelters or forced to sleep in shelters that do not align with their gender identities. Everyone deserves access to stable, affordable, and dignified housing that respects their sexual orientation or gender identity. The government programs that are meant to protect the unhoused and help them transition to permanent housing clearly aren't working as they should.

As Brooklyn Borough President, Antonio has been working with the Ali Forney Center, an organization committed to protecting LGBTQ+ and at-risk young people from the harms of homelessness and empowering them with the tools needed to live independently. He is inspired by their holistic approach to housing instability, and wants to deliver the same resources to every queer youth who seeks shelter.

In Congress, Antonio will support the Equality Act to explicitly prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in housing, public accommodations, and access to federally funded programs. He will work to secure funding for culturally competent training in shelters and housing programs so that staff are equipped to serve queer individuals with respect and understanding. Antonio also believes that supporting LGBTQ+ people requires a fully funded social safety net, including investments in LGBTQ+-affirming shelters, street outreach programs, and transitional housing. These programs will help queer and trans folks as they navigate housing instability, and when they're ready to find a permanent home, Antonio's housing plan will ensure they can find safe, stable, and affordable housing in whichever neighborhood they feel at home.

## **MENTAL HEALTH CARE**

The Trevor Project reports that more than 1 in 10 LGBTQ+ young people have attempted suicide in the past year. That's a devastating statistic on its own, and it's made all the more troubling by the fact that 50% of young queer folks who wanted mental health care in the past year were unable to get it. The Trump administration is using all of the tools at its disposal to systematically attack queer and trans Americans. Our LGBTQ+ neighbors fear for their lives. We must provide them with comprehensive, affirming, and affordable mental health care services.

In Congress, Antonio will co-sponsor the Pride In Mental Health Act of 2025, which will ensure access to mental health care and crisis intervention resources for queer folks, as well as award grants to organizations dedicated to improving the mental health and substance abuse outcomes of LGBTQ+ youth. He will also invest in developing and disseminating effective, trauma-informed, and evidence-based therapeutic methods for addressing the unique mental health challenges queer Americans face under Trump. We cannot continue allowing queer and trans people to suffer without proper care.

## **TRANS YOUTH**

The amount of legislation concerning transgender kids, covering everything from where they can use the bathroom to what sports teams they can compete on, would have you believe they are the biggest threat facing our nation today. The truth, of course, is that trans children are humans like anyone else, and they deserve the same freedoms afforded to every other American.

In Congress, Antonio will propose an amendment to Title IX so that "discrimination based on sex" is understood to include sexual orientation and gender identity, codifying misgendering and deadnaming as discrimination. A similar linguistic amendment was made in the text of the Equality Act, which successfully passed the House of Representatives, and Antonio will follow in those footsteps. The Trump Administration is furthering their transphobic agenda by narrowing the legal interpretation of Title IX. Expanding the law's definition of "sex" will go a long way in establishing the rights of trans kids at school and ensuring that transphobic discrimination can be punished under Title IX.

## HEALTHCARE

PrEP, STI testing, and gender affirming care—including medical interventions and psychological care—save lives. Elected officials shouldn't need any more evidence to convince them to protect access to these services on a national level, and yet their necessity remains a topic of debate at all levels of government. Antonio sees no reason for debate, and in Congress he will fight like hell to make sure LGBTQ+ health services are accessible across the entire country, protected under federal law that cannot be undone by individual states.

But it's not enough for this care to be available, it also needs to be affordable. That's why Antonio will co-sponsor the Medicare for All Act on his first day in Congress and ensure that PrEP, STI testing and treatment, and gender affirming care are all included under its provisions. No one should be priced out of the care they need.

Antonio's plan doesn't end with Medicare. There's still more to be done. Antonio will support the PrEP Access and Coverage Act to guarantee zero-cost sharing coverage of PrEP by private and public insurance companies and set up a national grant program to provide PrEP to folks without insurance. He will fully fund New York City's sexual health clinics so they can continue providing low- and no-cost care to the people who need it most. And he will vote no on any bill which tries to regulate the age at which a person can receive gender affirming care, because he believes those decisions are best made by individuals, parents and doctors - not the federal government.

## DECRIMINALIZE SEX WORK

The gay liberation movement began with the organizing of two sex workers—Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. Today, queer and trans people of color make up a large portion of the sex worker community, and they're often persecuted doubly for the color of their skin and their gender identities. Antonio believes sex work is work, and that every worker should be respected for their labor. He has been fighting to decriminalize sex work since his first year in the City Council, and he'll work even harder in Congress.

America's current criminal penalties have not decreased the demand for sex work. Instead, they only serve to put sex workers at greater risk. For example, SESTA/FOSTA, a recent piece of legislation criminalizing sex work, shut down the most useful tools sex workers had to find and screen clients and manage their finances, forcing them to start searching on the streets and putting them at risk of losing all their money.

In Congress, Antonio will fight to repeal SESTA/FOSTA and decriminalize sex work, increase access to PEP and PrEP, and create accessible financial technologies for sex workers to manage their income safely.

## CONCLUSION

None of these issues exist in a vacuum. Increasing access to LGBTQ+ healthcare will improve the health and well-being of queer sex workers of color. Decriminalizing sex work will have a positive effect on the experience of homeless queer folks because they're highly likely to engage in survival sex work. Improving conditions for trans students will lead to better mental

health outcomes and lower rates of homelessness because they will no longer feel unwanted or unsafe at home or school.

That's why Antonio Reynoso is committed to delivering on all parts of this platform, not just bits and pieces. He's never been one for incremental change or issuing statements. He leads from the front, making big, radical moves that bring tangible results. Antonio knows he'll be met with a fight in Washington when he starts enacting this plan, but he will proudly stand alongside his LGBTQ+ siblings every step of the way.