WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR STATE FACES MORE ANTI-LGBTQ LEGISLATION THAN JUST ABOUT ANY OTHER? YOU RAGE, YOU GRIEVE, YOU COME TOGETHER, YOU LEARN, AND YOU FIGHT BACK.

Facing these difficult days together is the most important element. By coming together we sustain the movement beyond the current situation so that it is present and strong for the day when we will achieve victory again.

That is why we formed the Balcony Brigade ahead of the special legislative session in September and why it is growing in the regular session. It is a structure that makes it easier to bring more advocates from around the state to the Capitol so that we can pursue three goals together. We want participants to learn the legislative process, witness what is happening to our democracy, and find ways to deepen their advocacy.

More LGBTQ people and allies need to be in the Legislature’s galleries and committee rooms when critical action is taking place. They can then be ambassadors to their friends and family, explaining first-hand what is happening to our community and how they can take action.

HRC Nashville has been a vital partner in helping us kick off the legislative session, joining us for “First Watch of the Balcony Brigade” on January 9 when the Tennessee General Assembly reconvened. Together we are not only fighting back in the moment, but providing a way to sustain the work of new and experienced advocates that builds the future of justice we all deserve in Tennessee.

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