# Growing Concerns in LGBTQ Advocacy Community Over Current Political Climate



Recent remarks from key figures in the LGBTQ advocacy community highlight growing concerns about the current political climate. Vic Basile, former executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), described the situation as "frightening," a sentiment echoed by other activists. Hilary Rosen, the first lobbyist hired by Basile at the HRC, called it "devastating." Imani Woody, an advocate for Black and elder gay rights, termed it "scary," while Vivian Shapiro, a former co-chair of the HRC Fund, labeled it "terrifying." Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director from 1995 to 2004, expressed "despair," emphasizing that significant public support for LGBTQ rights feels undermined by current challenges. Basile remains cautiously optimistic, suggesting that although the political pendulum will eventually swing back, the timeline and extent of potential setbacks remain uncertain.

In related political developments, President Joe Biden marked two years since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade by attributing the decision to former President Donald Trump. Biden warned that Trump, if re-elected, could enact further restrictive measures on abortion rights. As part of his campaign preparations, Trump has been testing various debate strategies, while Biden has been holding strategy sessions with top advisers. Debate performances remain crucial, potentially making or breaking a candidate's campaign.