



Montefiore

*From the* OFFICE OF THE DEAN



**Dear Einstein Community:**

I am deeply saddened as I write to you about another act of hate, this time aimed at our LGBTQIA+ community during an acknowledgment of Transgender Day of Remembrance. The painful irony of the targeted attack is that the gathering at Club Q in Colorado Springs was held to honor the memories of those in the transgender community who had lost their lives to violence during 2022. At least five more individuals have been added to the 32 being recognized after this weekend's shooter opened fire in the club.

I want to assure all members of our campus community that at Einstein we condemn any and all forms of violence and hate directed against LGBTQIA+ individuals. We stand with our LGBTQIA+ colleagues, and we support you and your right to live your life free from harassment and harm.

**Looking Ahead**

As I noted in another message on gun violence in May, expressions of sorrow do not stop bullets. While in June Congress passed and President Joe Biden signed the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#) into law, this first significant federal gun regulation passed in decades did not include a ban on the sale of assault weapons. Clearly, such legislation—which was law but expired in 1994—needs resurrecting.

Because hateful acts such as these can trigger anxiety or depression, I want to

remind everyone in our community that help is available through our [student mental health center](#) or [office of academic support and counseling](#) (for students and postdocs), or through our employee assistance program, Carebridge. If you are seeking additional resources, you also may contact our [office of diversity and inclusion](#).

Additionally, I want to mention that my next dean's chat, scheduled for Friday, December 16, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., will feature a panel discussion on gun violence. It includes several members of our faculty who will speak to the topic, including a discussion of a program designed to stem gun violence, the efforts involved in saving the lives of shooting victims, and the need to address the toll on mental health that such violence produces in our society. More details will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

Most importantly, I want to assure you that we stand in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ community, and we are doing all we can to keep you safe on campus. You need only reach out to any of the contacts I've noted above, your program leadership, or my office for support or to share any concerns you may have.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tomaselli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.**  
**The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean**  
*Albert Einstein College of Medicine*  
**Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer**  
*Montefiore Medicine*

