



Subscribe

Unlimited Digital Access - Start Today for 50% Off - Offer Expires 4/30/24

Advertisement

PA POLITICS

Protester glues himself to Capitol railing over Pa. lawmaker's support of 'anti-LGBTQ' bills

Updated: Apr. 29, 2024, 7:13 p.m. | Published: Apr. 29, 2024, 7:08 p.m.





James Lantz, 62, of Burlington, Vt., was arrested on several charges on Monday after disrupting a session of the Pennsylvania Senate and gluing his hand to a railing. April 29, 2024 Jan Murphy | jmurphy@pennlive.com Jan Murphy | jmurphy@pennlive.com



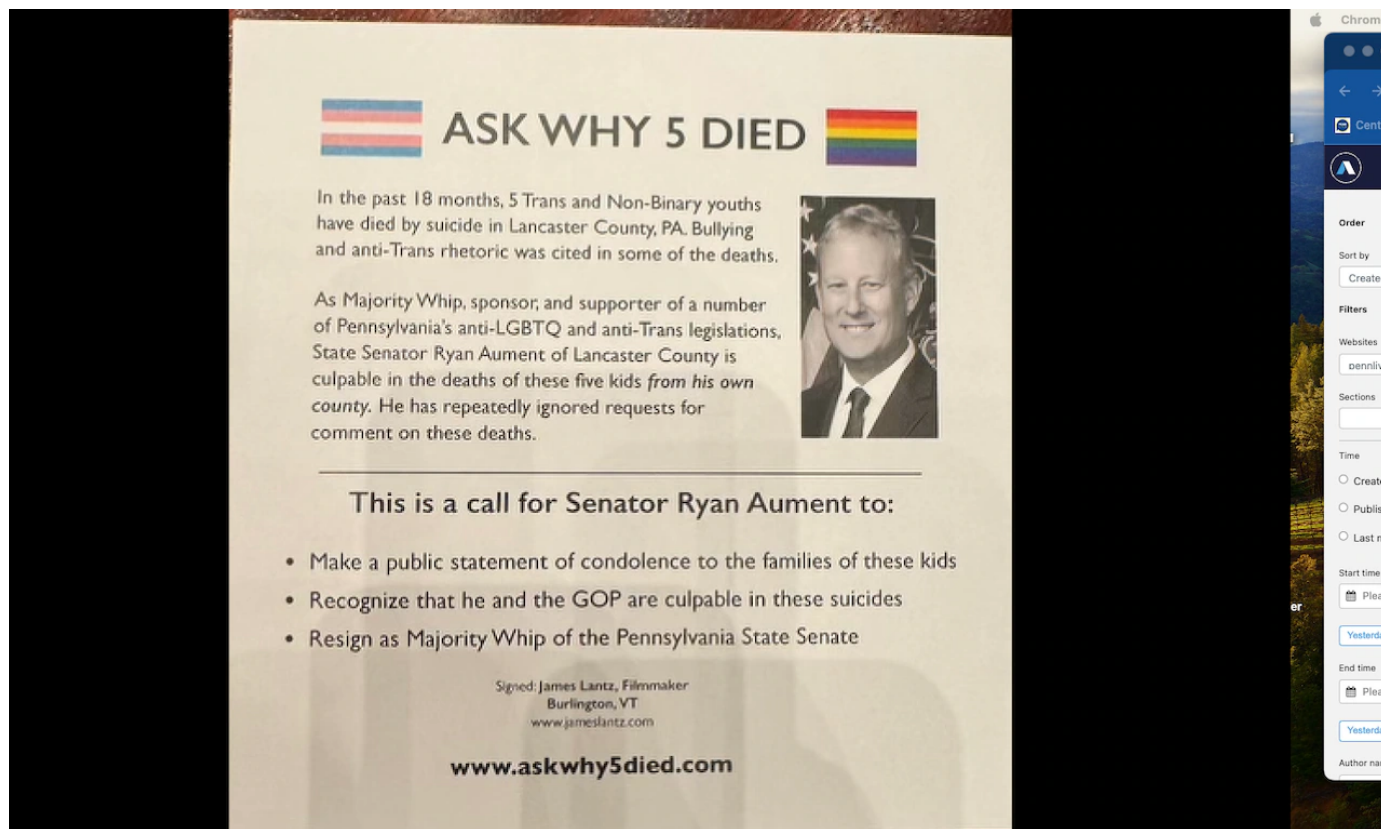
By **[Jan Murphy | jmurphy@pennlive.com](mailto:jmurphy@pennlive.com)**

A filmmaker was arrested at the state Capitol Monday after gluing his hand to a Senate railing to protest a lawmaker he considered culpable in the suicide deaths of five transgender young people in Lancaster County.

Around 1 p.m., James Lantz, 62, of Burlington, Vt., was reported by observers of disrupting a Senate session over the course of several minutes by shouting at Sen. Ryan Aument, R-Lancaster County; throwing flyers onto the Senate floor from the fourth-floor visitors gallery and gluing his hand to the railing.

The flyers carried a photo of Aument and cited his support “of a number of Pennsylvania’s anti-LGBTQ and anti-Trans legislation.” The papers further called on Aument to make a public statement of condolence to the youths’ families, recognize his and the Republicans’ culpability in their deaths and resign as the Senate’s majority whip.

Lantz, who posts videos to his website, [Angry Gay Grandpa](#), was removed from the railing by a medical team. He was charged with criminal mischief, institutional vandalism, obstructing administration of law or other governmental function, and disorderly conduct, according to the state Department of General Services. He was taken to the Dauphin County Judicial Center for arraignment.



This is the flyer that Vermont filmmaker James Lantz dropped on to the Senate floor on Monday prior to his arrest. April 29, 2024 Submitted photo Submitted photo

"It's heartbreaking that these children and young adults felt they had no other option but to take their own lives, and it's abhorrent that an independent filmmaker from out of state would attempt to profit off their tragic deaths by promoting himself and his films," Aument said in an emailed statement about the incident.

According to Senate sources, the cost of removing Lantz's hand from the railing and the damage was estimated by the Capitol Preservation Committee at about \$1,000. A late afternoon call to the Capitol Preservation Committee to confirm that damage estimate was unsuccessful.

On Monday afternoon, Lantz, while still in police custody, had a video about his arrest posted as part of his web series about trans youth suicides “in the wake of anti-Trans rhetoric and legislation sweeping the US.”

“He has been an advocate for gay and LGBTQ people for a very long time. It affects his life and he also has family members who are queer and members of the LGBTQ community. He’s very up to date with the politics surrounding the subject matter,” said a Lantz assistant who declined to identify himself. He was uncertain when the video about Lantz’s arrest was posted on the website.

In the video, Lantz singles out Aument for “pushing numerous Republican led anti-LGBTQ bills.”

Aument has advocated for legislation that would give parents the ability to opt their children out of sexually explicit content in curriculum and library materials. His bill passed the Senate in the last legislative session by a 30-20 vote but the state House declined to take it up. Aument reintroduced the bill this session and it passed the Senate in October by a near party-line 29-21 vote. It now awaits action in the House Education Committee.

In his video, Lantz said, “Bullying and anti-trans rhetoric has been cited in some of their deaths which was encouraged and inflamed by anti-LGBTQ legislation and rhetoric spread by Sen. Ryan Aument and the GOP. My heart breaks for these Lancaster kids and their families.”

According to a Senate source, the families of the five young people, ages 12 to 22 at the time of their deaths, had not reached out to Aument’s office on this issue or anything related to it.

Jan Murphy may be reached at jmurphy@pennlive.com. Follow her on X at [@JanMurphy](https://twitter.com/JanMurphy).

Stories by **Jan Murphy**

Pa. education chief weighs in on vouchers, higher ed reform, student teacher stipend

Dickinson students stage sit-in to show solidarity with arrested Palestine protesters

Pa. House panel hears lessons learned about pot legalization in other states, Canada

TikTok sale necessary to keep China from gaining advantage over U.S.: Casey

If you purchase a product or register for an account through a link on our site, we may receive compensation. By using this site, you consent to our [User Agreement](#) and agree that your clicks, interactions, and personal information may be collected, recorded, and/or stored by us and social media and other third-party partners in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#).



▼ About Us

[PA Media Group](#)

[The Patriot-News](#)

[Advertise with Us](#)

[Career Opportunities](#)

[PennLive](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Send Us a News Tip](#)

[Community Rules](#)

[Accessibility Statement](#)

▼ Subscriptions

[PennLive](#)

[The Patriot-News](#)

[Newsletters](#)

▼ Already a Subscriber

[Manage your Subscription](#)

[Place a Vacation Hold](#)

[Make a Payment](#)

[Delivery Feedback](#)

▼ PennLive Sections

[Business](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Autos](#)

[Real Estate](#)

[Rentals](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Sports](#)

[PSU Football](#)

[High School Sports](#)

[Betting](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Pa. Life & Culture](#)

[Pa. Food & Dining](#)

[Opinion](#)

▼ Mobile Apps

[iPhone, Android Apps](#)

[Tablet Apps](#)

▼ **More on PennLive**

[Weather](#)

[Archives](#)

[Post a Job](#)

[Post a Classified Ad](#)

[Sell your Car](#)

[Sell/Rent your Home](#)

[Sponsor Content](#)

▼ **Follow Us**

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[RSS](#)

ADVANCE LOCAL

Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) (updated 4/18/2024), [Privacy Policy and Cookie Statement](#), and [Your Privacy Choices and Rights](#) (updated 12/31/2023).

Cookies Settings



© 2024 Advance Local Media LLC. All rights reserved ([About Us](#)).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Advance Local.

[Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

YouTube's privacy policy is available [here](#) and **YouTube's terms of service** is available [here](#).

[▶ Ad Choices](#)