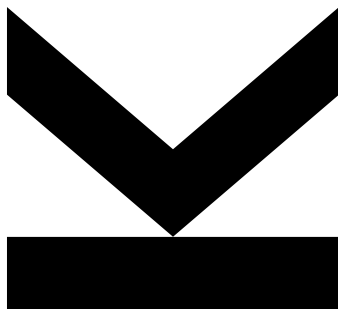Author
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Submission
**Institute of Politics and
Social Policy**

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Month Year
September 2024

Navigating the Trend of Change: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Anti-LGBT Climate in the USA

Master's Thesis

to confer the academic degree of

Master of Social Sciences

in the Master's Program

Comparative Social Policy and Welfare (COSOPO)

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ABSTRACT

**Navigating the Trend of Change: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Anti-LGBT
Climate in the USA**

By Lucia Kristova

In 2022 and 2023, the United States saw a sudden and unprecedented rise in anti-LGBT policies. Given the relatively progressive decade under Obama, as well as with the Democratic party once again reclaiming presidential power post-Trump, many people were left wondering how this sudden movement came to be. Utilizing RStudio to conduct a quantitative and qualitative linguistic analysis, various Fox News, CNN, and political statements were examined in the past twenty years under the presidential terms of Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden. CNN and Fox News articles were narrowed down based on prominent LGBT events of the two decades. The articles of the two sources were then independently analyzed in RStudio, before being comparatively presented side-by-side. The results showed a gradual increase in ideological and religious wordage in political speeches and media coverage of prominent LGBT events. This was eventually able to separate progressive social policy from being seen not as a general positive development for the country, but rather as a radical liberal progressive policy, hence alienating the already incentivized Christian traditional right-wing. In this way, progress of LGBT social policies became a strong point of contention between the two sides. As the dichotomy between Republicans ("Traditional Christians") and Democrats ("Radical Liberals") grew, LGBT social policies under the presidential influence from both sides saw rapid as opposed to gradual shifts from progressing to regressing.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Queer Normalization and LGBT Allyship

In a 2021 global survey, 80% of the respondents stated that they identified as heterosexual (Ipsos, 2021). To many, this is significant enough of a percentage to disregard catering to a minority that they may not even accept. However, upon a closer look, the statistics become much more interesting and complex. Depending on the location of the individual, participation in such surveys is not always possible without the fear of being found out and persecuted. Worldwide, approximately 71 countries criminalize homosexual identities, and of these countries, at least four impose the death penalty if an individual is found guilty (Statistica Research Department, 2023). Nonetheless, persecution of sexual identities does not erase the existence of these people, but rather teaches them to hide. In the Ipsos 2021 survey, in several countries large portions of respondents refused or could not define their sexual orientation; this constituted 39% of respondents in Malaysia, 33% in Turkey, 24% in India, to name a few (Ipsos, 2021).

Despite fears and backlash, the number of people that feel comfortable to come out to the people in their life has steadily increased in the last few years. Although millennials are keeping up with the progressive changes of the world, it is generation Z that has especially been leading this recent wave of change. As can be seen in figure 1, between 2008 and 2021, the number of individuals in the age range of 18-29 that is publicly out rose by approximately 10.9%. This increase in LGBT[1] identification is supported by a younger generation growing up in a world where visibility and awareness is on the rise, and where stigma is on the decline. If this societal trend continues, it is expected that the number of people self-identifying as LGBT will continue increasing to the point where perhaps one day, we may have accurate statistics depicting the LGBT community around the world.

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[1] Among others, the "LGBT" acronym is a shortcut to LGBTQQIP2SAA and shall be used as a simplified version throughout the rest of this paper.
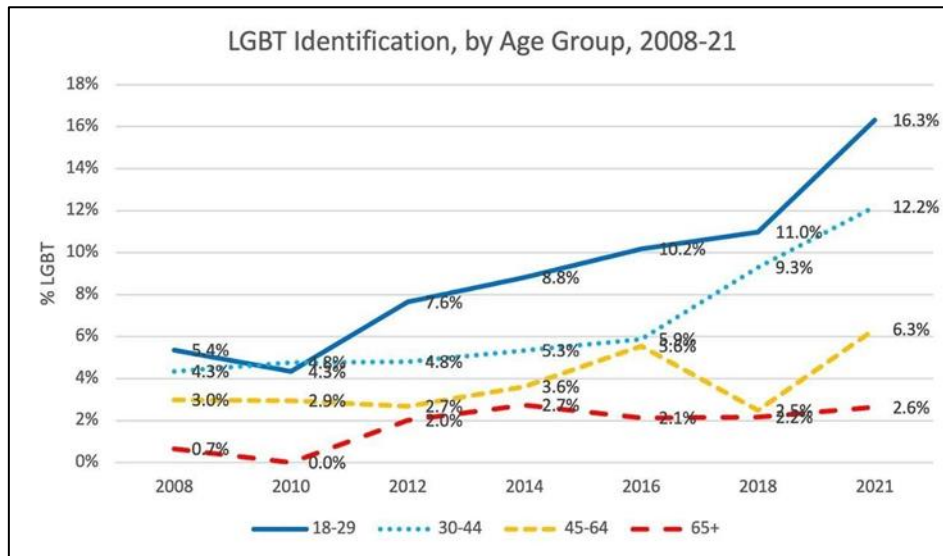
Figure 1: LGBT Identification between 2008 to 2021 (Kaufmann, 2022)

As the world sees a slow progress towards issues of LGBT nature, the topic of allyship has started rising in prevalence. Allyship, in simple terms, is the act of support and advocacy for marginalized communities in order to help them feel empowered and validated. The simple act of agreeing that individuals who identify as LGBT should receive as equal and fair treatment as their heteronormative counterparts is an act of an ally. That being said, allyship often goes above and beyond the mere agreement on fair treatment. Allies tend to take action, either by speaking out against unfair discrimination or by partaking in rallies or parades. This is often seen on the individual level, though allyship can also be displayed through corporate means, usually through financial support. Undoubtedly, allies are pivotal in the rise in LGBT tolerance, facilitating platforms for social issues to be discussed and listened to, if not spearheading the discussions themselves.

1.2. Rise in Anti-LGBT Movements

Late 2022 and 2023 have seen a sudden pushback in progressive social policies that have led many queer individuals in the United States to worry about their futures. Taking into consideration the United States alone, since January 2023, more anti-LGBT bills have been introduced than in any of the previous five years. This constitutes over 520 bills, of which 70 were passed (Peele, 2023), including:

- 15x Banning gender affirmation care for trans youth.

- 7x Requiring the misgendering of trans students.

- 2x Targeting drag shows.

- 3x Allowing discrimination.

- 4x Censoring schools and books.

Descriptive research shows that LGBT individuals experience 6.6 violent hate crimes per 1000 persons, compared to heterosexual individuals, who experience 0.6 violent hate crimes per 1000 persons (Flores, Stotzer, Meyer, & Langton, 2022). This is especially pertinent considering the dramatic increase in frequency of anti-LGBT mobilization in the United States. To clarify, anti-LGBT mobilizations involve political violence, demonstrations, and the circulation of propaganda. In the span of a year – from 2021 to 2022 – anti-LGBT incidents have more than tripled in frequency, climbing from 64 events to 193. As can be seen in figure 2, this gradual rise in anti-LGBT mobilization has also been seen in the year prior, though it significantly surged in the month of June, a month also known as "Pride month," which is dedicated for LGBT awareness and celebration.
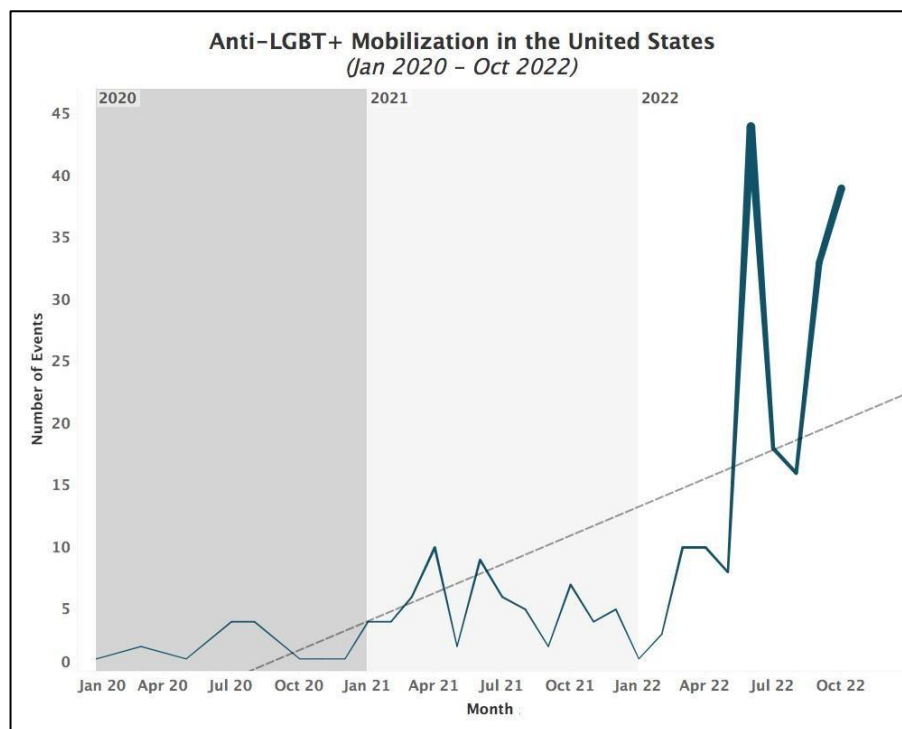
Figure 2: Graph showing the rising frequency of anti-LGBT movements (Jones & Kishi, Fact Sheet: AntiLGBT+ Mobilization in the United States, 2022)

The central rhetoric around anti-LGBT mobilization is the demonizing of LGBT individuals, which finds its roots in the pseudoscience that depicts LBGT individuals as a threat to the society, children, and public health. Secularism remains a guiding principle of public policy, as many individuals around the world strongly identify with some religious denomination. As such, religion continues to play a central role in affecting the lives and attitudes of people. Religion inherently does not correlate with hate or the spread of hateful propaganda. Religious ideology varies across individuals, dependent on their social and environmental

upbringing. Nonetheless, it was the rise of the religious right that has been noted to be among the leading justifications for homophobic rhetoric (McCormack, 2012). According to prominent hate groups, including the Alliance Defending Freedom and the Family Research Council, among the primary concerns for marriage equality was the possible oppression of Christians. Of the 47 registered anti-LGBT hate groups, 22 are religious organizations.

As has thus been established, LGBT individuals are at a heightened risk of being victims of interpersonal violence and hate crime. Unfortunately, they are also at a much more heightened risk of political violence. This is understood as manifestations of violence that stem from a political root as opposed to having an interpersonal motivation. They are often represented through violent mobs, law enforcement, or extremist groups (Jones & Kishi, 2022)

While anti-LGBT mobilizations have occurred repeatedly throughout the past, the most recent prominent movement happened in 2022, when the US right-wing political leaders have utilized provocative rhetoric against LGBT individuals. This has caused an increase in political violence against the community, particularly through extremist groups. According to ACLED coverage and statistics, the LGBT community is the most frequent mob violence target in the United States, with around 11 violent mob incidents between 2020 and early 2022 (Jones & Kishi, 2022).

March 2022 marked the unofficial start of the most recent wave of anti-LGBT policies that took over U.S. politics. Sparked by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's "Don't Say Gay or Trans" law that restricts information about LGBT people in schools, right-wing politicians introduced 23 new anti-LGBT legislations in around 23 different states. This move has especially been activated by the 2022 election cycle, when rightwing politicians seized anti-LGBT propaganda to strengthen their campaigns. Their support on mainstream and social media resulted in hate groups raising millions of dollars that were utilized in revitalizing hate campaigns and negative sentiments around the country, thus generating even more support for rightwing politicians (Southern Poverty Law Center, 2022).

Trump's preceding presidency era saw the overturning of many of Obama's progressive policies. Following Trump, the Biden administration worked to overturn much of Trump's anti-LGBT change. With this constant back-and-forth policy change, it comes as no surprise that the present pre-election timeframe sees a renewed rise in anti-LGBT sentiment.

To conclude this section, while anti-LGBT movements are not a product of the modern age, it is nonetheless interesting to analyze the context from which they emerge. The most recent significant anti-LGBT movement occurred in early 2022, which coincided with the start of

the 2024 electoral campaigns. That being said, this thesis aims to analyze the linguistic contextual background of these movements, centered around political and media sources. To this effect, it aims to understand whether the 2022 movement was an independent occurrence, or whether it is a repeated product of the electoral cycle. To investigate this topic, the thesis poses the following research question:

How has the anti-LGBT movement developed rhetorically in the United States in the past 20 years?

By researching this topic, this thesis hopes to shed light on patterns of speech and their ideological associations, alongside how these semantics may influence not only political decision-making, but public opinion too.

2. Review of Literature

2.1. The Political Influence on Equality Rights

2.1.1. The Liberal Welfare State

The United States is categorized and often used as the token example of the liberal welfare state. This welfare model posits that citizens of a liberal welfare state country are socially and economically taken care of through minimal government influence. Through this model, governments prefer relying on the market economy to provide welfare and proliferate equality. The specifics and a brief summary of the differences between the three welfare state models can be seen in table 1 below. Within the liberal welfare state, the principal values that are repeatedly emphasized are individualism, diversity, and the economic market (Spicker, 2013, p. 193). Among all three of Esping-Andersen's models, the liberal regime arguably emphasizes equality rights much more strongly due to them being a central pillar of the liberal welfare state.

Welfare regime	Degree of decommodification	Degree of stratification	Dominant welfare provider	Institutional design
Liberal	Low	High	Market	Means-tested social assistance, limited social insurance, and company-based welfare
Conservative-corporatist	Medium	Medium	Family	Bismarckian social insurance programs and NGO-based welfare services
Social democratic	High	Low	State	Universal social security and welfare programs

Source: Compiled by author based on Esping-Andersen (1990) and Aspalter (2011, table 2).

Table 1: Esping-Andersen's Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism

In accordance with liberal values, individualism asserts that every person is able to determine their own actions and positions, and every individual possesses an equal moral status. This is especially egalitarian when taking into consideration that societal groups that have historically always faced discrimination are under this principle regarded as equals (Spicker, 2013, p. 193). The values of equality and individualism serve as basis for the value of rights. In the United States, the most characteristic liberal right is freedom. There are different interpretations of freedom in the liberal welfare state. Hayek proposed that freedom is simply being exempt from government coercion. On the other hand, Sen proposed that freedom is linked to individual capacity, entitlement, and development (Spicker, 2013, p.

194). All this proposes the strong belief that individuals are free to act, choose, and develop in the way that they wish, and that all are individually responsible for their own lives.

Although individualism and individual determinism are core values of the liberal welfare state model, social inequalities can nonetheless remain prevalent if untreated. It is important to note that, as Spicker emphasized, "equal rights are not necessarily rights to equal things," (Spicker, 2013, p. 200). Rights are particular and are often based on circumstances and contractual relationships. To this effect, some rights are dependent on particular providers.

2.1.2. Democratic Influence and Democratic Backsliding

In recent studies, democracy has been identified as a significant prerequisite for LGBT acceptance. While democracy alone cannot ensure that LGBT equality is accepted, equality trends around the world have shown that the foundations of liberal democracy are often a necessity in order to foster inclusion and acceptance. Taking, for example, the principle of freedom of speech, this tenet can foster diversity through the introduction of new ideas and experiences, as well as through the discussion of different viewpoints. The principle of freedom of association allows for safe gathering of LGBT-friendly societies to advocate for further rights. Lastly, the values of minority rights and pluralism allow for minorities to live openly without fear of prosecution (Flores, Carreno, & Shaw, 2023, p. 5). Countries that have recognized LGBT rights in their laws and policies have been seen to have greater social acceptance for queer individuals. In addition to the above-mentioned findings, Flores et al. also recognize that LGBT acceptance has been seen in some cases as intrinsic to democratic rule. Through the interconnection of LGBT rights to human rights, activists have successfully framed their ideology within the scope of democratic values. To this effect, liberal democracies foster environments that enable a greater chance for the acceptance of minorities, showcasing a bidirectional association between the two concepts (Flores, Carreno, & Shaw, 2023, p. 6). This interconnected relationship can be visually seen in figure three, below.
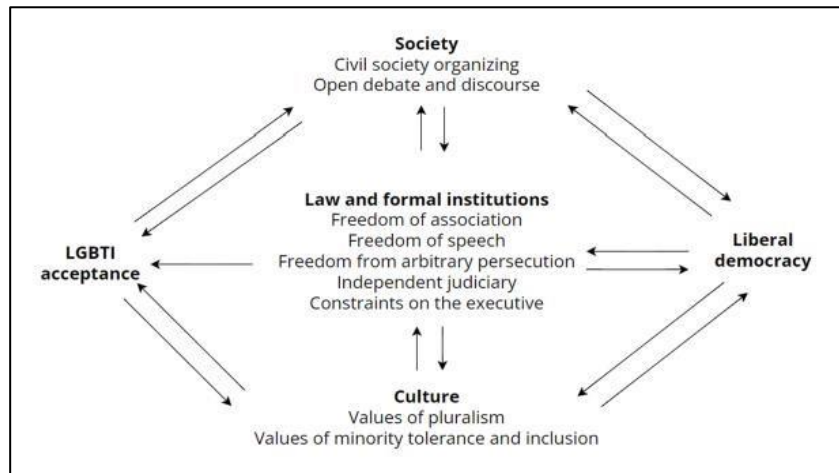
Figure 3: Mechanisms of association (Flores, Carreno, & Shaw, 2023)

Democratic backsliding, as a concept, is understood as "state-led debilitation or elimination of any of the political institutions [and values] that sustain an existing democracy," (Flores, Carreno, & Shaw, 2023, p. 6). Often, it is described as a gradual regime change from democracy to autocracy, wherein political power becomes more repressive and unrestrained. Since the 2020s, around 80% of the world's population has experienced some restrictions in their freedoms through political changes. This is recognized to be the highest proportion of the world's population since the late 1990s (Flores, Carreno, & Shaw, 2023, p. 2). At the same time, the U.S. has experienced an unprecedented rise in anti-LGBT movements. Scholars have dubbed this sudden rise as a moral panic, which has been an ongoing part of a bigger culture war. The unprecedented large number of anti-LGBT policies that have been passed since 2018 has been cited as a significant example of democratic backsliding in the United States.

2.1.3. Partisan Politics

The partisan politics theory consists of the view that political parties and party composition of governments matter greatly in the structure, expansion, as well as the retrenchment of the welfare state (Schmidt, 2021, p. 298). This actor centric institutional theory states that governments (and politicians) provide specific policies in exchange for a general political demand and the support of the population in their respective democratic markets. There are eight key facets that the theory relies on:

(1) Political parties have multiple goals. Their foremost objectives are vote seeking, office seeking, and the pursuit of policy goals.

(2) The social constituencies of parties have distinctive social policy preferences.

(3) Incumbent parties strive for social policies which promise to be compatible with vote seeking, office seeking, and broader policy goals.

(4) Governments are capable of implementing the policies adopted.

(5) Implementation of these policies results in distinctive welfare state outputs and outcomes and leads to clear partisan differences in public policy.

(6) Significant change in the party composition of government is associated with—and, by inference, causally related to—changes in social policy choices, outputs, and outcomes.

(7) The extent to which party differences matter in the welfare state is contingent upon a wide variety of factors. Particularly large party effects are generated, for instance, where the government has a large majority, where a coalition government is relatively homogeneous, where a relatively small number of veto players exists, where the opposition parties are divided, and where there is a substantial room to manoeuvre for domestic policy.

(8) Advanced partisan theory adds to standard partisan theory the distinction between short-term impacts and the long-term legacies of parties. Partisan effects comprise contemporaneous short-term impacts (measured by a party A's cabinet seats share at a particular time point or over a shorter period) and the long-term legacy of party A on policy positions in that society.

Figure 4: The eight main facets of partisan theory (Schmidt, 2021)

Partisan influence and democratic backsliding go hand-in-hand very much. The rise in democratic backsliding is greatly detrimental to the LGBT community, as the concept has become conjoined with anti-LGBT rhetoric and policies. The most prominent policy justification has been to combat "gender ideology," which, according to some politicians, is an attempt by liberal groups to subvert traditional values and the national identity. Often, it has been seen that anti-LGBT policies are utilized as a means to align the values of right-wing politicians to groups of conservative and religious voters. Interestingly enough, Flores et al. found that in the past decade, most anti-LGBT sentiment has been proliferated by a coordinated and funded movement of conservative donors and religious organizations, with at least $1 billion distributed from U.S. organizations to fund anti-gender movements (Flores, Carreno, & Shaw, 2023, p. 3).

2.1.4. Authoritarian Values and the Welfare State

Discussing the influence of partisan politics on democratic backsliding, another relevant concept springs to mind; the concept of authoritarianism. The relationship between authoritarianism and welfare state policies is a multi-layered and complex topic that often draws from political science, economics, sociology, and other disciplines. According to the European Center for Populism Studies, authoritarianism can be understood as:

"…highly concentrated and centralized power maintained by political repression and the exclusion of potential challengers. It uses political parties and mass organizations to mobilize people around the goals of the regime," (European Center for Populism Studies, 2024)*.*

The political scientist Juan Linz further identified four qualities that authoritarianism possesses, or that can be used to identify authoritarian populist politicians. These include:

"i) Limited political pluralism, realized with constraints on the legislature, political parties, and interest groups; ii) Political legitimacy based upon appeals to emotion, and identification of the regime as a necessary evil to combat 'easily recognizable societal problems, such as underdevelopment, and insurgency'; iii) Minimal political mobilization and suppression of anti-regime activities; iv) Formally ill-defined executive powers, often vague and shifting, which extends the power of the executive," (Linz, 2000)*.*

Within the past decade, the word has seen an advance in authoritarianism and populism, and while the two terms are not always linked, political scientists have witnessed politicians leverage populist movements to seize power and begin dismantling institutions that had been created to check authority and protect rights. Among popular examples of such authoritarian populist politicians, political science journalist Shawn Hattingh named Donald Trump, Marine Le Pen, Geert Wilders, and many more (European Center for Populism Studies, 2024).

In his book, *'How the Radical Right Has Changed Capitalism and Welfare in Europe and the USA*,' Philip Rathgeb discusses the impact that radical right political parties (RRPP) have had on socio-economic policies across Western democracies. Initially, it was hypothesized that RRPPs would utilize redistributive policies with the goal of gaining support from lower and middle-class voters; however, research found that proposed economic policies generally increased economic inequality. The impact of RRPP's varies depending on the institutions of their countries, with different politicians focusing on different issues. For example, Hungary's Fidesz combined familialism with economic nationalism, whereas USA's Trump focused on utilizing trade protectionism and immigration control as a substitute for social protection (Rathgeb, 2024).

Despite method differences across the case studies, key findings emphasized the shared RRPPs core ideology of nativism and authoritarianism, and its impact on welfare distribution. RRPPs were found to support policies that protected labor market insiders and male breadwinners, while simultaneously revoking policies protecting immigrants, ethnic minorities, and other social risk groups. There is a heavy emphasis on selective status

protection, with RRPPs favoring the native male core workforce at the expense of marginalized groups, often promoting a racialized and gendered precariat (Rathgeb, 2024).

Rathgeb's book can be further supplemented by an earlier article he wrote with Marius Busemeyer and Alexander Sahm. In an article they wrote in 2021, Busemeyer (et al.) delved into the social policy preferences of radical right voters. The most significant difference between RRPP voters in comparison to left-leaning ones was the former's strong opposition for social investment policies, instead favoring stricter workfare measures. Social investment policies are policies that work towards long-term societal benefits through investment in education, childcare, and job training programs. Opposition towards such policies was linked to conservative and traditional values, with RRPP voters less inclined to support policies aimed towards progressive social changes, including gender equality. Instead, preference was placed on immediate support towards "deserving" individuals. RRPP voter preferences were found to be shaped by a concept of deservingness, which entails that welfare support should be given to those who are perceived as having earned it (Busemeyer, Rathgeb, & Sahm, 2021).

The article highlights that RRPP voter policy preferences are driven by authoritarian and conservative values, which can have a strong impact on the future of welfare state policies. As RRPPs grow in prominence, these policy preferences will shape future welfare state reforms, which has the potential to create restrictive social policies on selective social groups (Busemeyer, Rathgeb, & Sahm, 2021).

2.2. The Economic Influence on Social Transformation

In the words of Peter Drucker, "almost no one is born into an LGBT community; this makes it all the more remarkable that strong movements… have emerged," (Drucker, 2015, p. 2). LGBT history goes beyond the late 20th century, but it was undoubtedly during that time when the most significant shift in queer rights occurred. Queer activism is not a steady process, but rather a path with recurrent backlashes. That being said, it appears that most of these backlashes occur during key moments in politics – namely, during electoral cycles (Drucker, 2015, p. 2). While dislike and disapproval of the LGBT community is persistent without the influence of any elections, anti-LGBT sentiment has consistently been a resurfacing topic of electoral candidates as a means to garner support on a topic that is hotly debated.

2.2.1. The Economic Influence

Although the political introduction of queer rights is seen as non-linear, businesses saw the immediate potential of an untapped market. According to Engel et al., there has been a

documented shift in the market since the mid-1960s, where practices shifted from targeting the mainstream market, towards more specialized niche (Wardlow, 1996, p. 16). This market shift has been documented to have occurred for a variety of reasons, though mainly due to increasing market competition, changes in the demographic growth rate, and an increased availability of specialized products. Because of this, the queer community gained a new sense of visibility, being dubbed by media as "the dream market" due to the new potential of millions of consumers that promised companies billions of dollars in new revenue (Wardlow, 1996, p. 16). When coupled with the radical queer activism of that time (1969 Stonewall Riots, etc.), the community witnessed a massive growth in visibility. It was in these circumstances that rainbow capitalism came to be. This socioeconomic and market phenomenon targeted non-heterosexuals as a clientele for a new wave of specialized products (Yeh, 2018, p. 3).

Interestingly, this market trend transformed into what Dennis Altman coined "global queering" (Jackson, 2009, p. 358). Within his article, Altman suggested that, just like McDonalds did for global fast foods, it was the United States that propagated gay culture globally through their hegemonic power. He dubbed this as cultural imperialism (Jackson, 2009, p. 358). To a certain extent, it can be argued that he is correct on the matter. The most popular academic and cultural understandings of this phenomenon appear to be researched through an American lens. At the same time, one can argue that the United States hosts the most vocal LGBT community and as such allows for a much more thorough investigation into queer culture. On the other hand, homosexuality cannot be traced to a singular country, and as such, it would be incorrect to label the United States as the source of culturally exporting queerness. In his research article, Peter Jackson explores the different role that market economies played in the spreading of queer awareness, based on the historical and cultural similarities in global queer culture. Case studies on Thai queer history suggest cultural development was produced by national forms of capitalism. All this to say that the market plays the most significant role in the spreading of awareness of queer culture – whether it be on the national or international level. Queer autonomy was enhanced through creative means that took advantage of opportunities that have been provided due to a growth in the market economy (Jackson, 2009).

2.2.2. The Social Transformation

Unfortunately, what originally was seen as an opportunity of spreading awareness and acceptance has transformed in some cases into performative allyship. Peter Drucker claimed that what was originally a radical, free LGBT movement had nowadays transformed into a movement that was burdened by "growing commercialism, middle-class

assimilationism, prejudice and complicity in imperial projects," (Drucker, 2015, p. 4). Drucker traced multiple accumulation regimes across three capitalist periods (classical imperialism, Fordism, neoliberalism), to trace the development of the prevalent 'norms' of each period. This can be seen in the visual representation of table 2. As it stands, during the age of neoliberalist capitalism, the prevalent regime in regard to same-sex formation can be described as homonormative-dominant. What this means is that heteronormative ideals and constructs are projected onto homosexual individuals. It is based on the assumption that the norms and values of heterosexual individuals should be replicated in queer individuals and relationships (Drucker, 2015).

Accumulation regimes	*Classical imperialism*	*Fordism*	*Neoliberalism*
Global order	Colonialism/ semi-colonialism	Neo-colonialism	Neoliberal globalisation
Racism	Pseudo-scientific racism	Racial liberalism	Neoliberal multiculturalism
Gender	Manhood/ womanhood	Performative gender	'Public patriarchy'
Same-sex formation	Invert-dominant regime	Gay-dominant regime	Homonormative-dominant regime

Table 2: Tracing accumulation regimes across recent capitalistic history

In this regard, the queer community has become complicit in allowing itself to be warped to fit the gaps in society wherein they can feel accepted. The rationalization behind this transformation is that homonormativity allows for an easier social and economic acceptance within the wider society. To further break down Drucker's homonormativity concept, one needs to look at table 3. Therein, Drucker took the five features of homonormativity and transformed them into new queer politics (Drucker, 2015, p. 9). To this effect, one can visualize the heteronormative policies that, when transformed, are seen as 'too radical', and

are predominantly the ones that are target of societal and political disagreement (Drucker, 2015).

Neoliberal gay normality	Radical queer sexual politics
Stable lesbian/gay minority / neoliberal ghetto	Blurring the boundaries / polymorphous perversity
Gender conformity	Subverting gender / third-wave socialist feminism
Exclusion of gender & other queers	Queer inclusion / trans and youth liberation
Homonationalism	Global and anti-racist solidarity
Homonormative families	Queering intimacy & domesticity / polyamory / love-comradeship

Table 3: Charting radical queer politics against homonormative politics.

This can also be witnessed when taking into consideration the latest 2022 political attack on the LGBT community. A significantly high percentage of anti-LGBT policies were targeted against trans and gender-nonconforming individuals (Peele, 2023), who fall under the 'radical queer' politics umbrella.

The LGBT community faces discrimination in a variety of aspects of life; however, it appears that economic challenges prevail as one of the most significant ones. As previously noted in a separate section, the LGBT community faces vastly unequal economic experiences than the heterosexual community. A study conducted by Experian found that approximately 62% of the respondents faced financial or economic challenges due to sexual or gender discrimination (White, 2023). This comes to play with the idea of identity perception. In his article, Jaideep Pahwa perfectly stated, "the way identities are perceived, to a great extent, determines the quality of life that people associating with that identity lead," (Pahwa, 2019, p. 4604). With repeated exposure, individuals can become desensitized to previously perceived 'radical ideas,' which then could lead to easier integration of new societal norms. To this effect, one may argue that economic integration and the use of politically charged symbols for marketing purposes are good tools for normalization. Through repeated representation, a positive narrative can be created to influence the perception of the queer community.

That being said, according to Pahwa, this approach has two major flaws that inhibit an entirely positive outcome: it is based on convenience and tokenism. What is meant by this is that most representation is exhibited by 'the privileged' in the minority, which tend to be urban, upper-class white gay men. By focusing only on the accepted minorities, the selected representation disregards the rest of the existing diversity. This perfectly aligns

with the work of Drucker, who stated that only homonormative representation is tolerated by society and capitalism. By facilitating representation to only what is considered the neoliberal gay normality, representation continues to accommodate heteronormative standards of behavior, which unfortunately also include casual sexism and workplace discrimination ((Pahwa, 2019, p. 4608).

To summarize, although the frequency of economic and media representation of the queer community has been consistently on the rise since the 1970s, the represented values of homonormativity hardly seem to have seen any change. Radical queer policies that are being newly discovered through self-identity and open exploration remain to be seen as too unconventional. Through this consistent lack of representation, these policies do not have the tools to provide positive perceptions of themselves that would impact their gradual normalization in society. As such, discourse surrounding these topics remains vulnerable to public and political scrutiny.

2.3. The Influence of Media

2.3.1. Media: The Forth Pillar of Democracy

For many years now, journalism has been regarded as a significant force in politics, to the extent that in 1841, Thomas Carlyle wrote, "Burke said there were Three Estates in Parliament; but, in the Reporters' Gallery yonder, there sat a Fourth Estate more important far than they all," (Carlyle, 1840). Carlyle, who coined the term 'Media: Forth Pillar of Democracy,' saw journalism as instrumental to the development of democracy through the spreading of facts and opinions and, when necessary, inspiring revolution against oppression (Crichton et al., 2010).

Freedom of speech stands firmly as a foundational pillar of all democratic organizations. Similarly, the freedom of the press is a necessary balance to free speech, as public criticism is essential in the face of wrongdoing and corruption. Four basic responsibilities have been assigned to media: it should tell the truth, it should remain unbiased, it should not work to spread propaganda, it should serve as moral conditioning of the public (Thajaswini, 2020). All in all, the media is described to have the duty to report accurate and honest news to keep the public informed on all matters, even those that governments and politicians may wish to keep suppressed.

While different media enjoy freedom of speech and free press, it is important to maintain distinction between the fair ability to criticize subjects, and the underhand ability to promote derogatory statements. Bonafide criticism serves to eventually improve upon the subject it criticizes, and in fair spirit works in favor of democracy (Thajaswini, 2020). Unfortunately,

media has also had strong proclivity towards biased reporting with the aim to promote biased views entirely dependent on the ideologies of those writing the news, or those owning the news agency. The ability to manipulate the masses through media has been a genuine concern and has been studied thoroughly by scholars. More on this will be explained in the following section.

2.3.2. Media and Public Opinion

Public attitudes towards minority groups carry great implications towards their lives and societal experiences. Shared negative beliefs may create stigmatas and the basis for discrimination that becomes justified to the discriminatory group. These negative beliefs have also been found to be the primary justification for individuals committing hate crimes. Conversely, positive perception of minority groups allows for a greater likelihood of acceptance and inclusivity in general society.

Studies found that mass media has a significant impact on public opinions of the populus. For example, a study conducted by Huang et al. found that up to 54% of the variance in American public opinion on China was due to the consumption of Chinese-related topics from the New York Times (Huang, Cook, & Xie, 2021). To this effect, it is important to recognize the types of way that media can influence public perception on certain topics.

Four prominent macro-level media effects include agenda setting, framing, selective reporting, and the dominant paradigm. All of these oftentimes work together in a closely interrelated manner. Agenda setting corresponds to the idea of mass media choosing which topics to cover, and how to present them to the public. This is tied to the concept of framing, which is controlling the variables in news presentations. According to Entman, framing can be understood as "the process of selecting a handful of elements of perceived reality, and constructing a narrative that highlights connections… to promote a particular interpretation," (Entman, 2007, p. 51–58). Selective reporting is also interrelated to the previous points, as it determines which stories are reported on, and which are not. Lastly, there is the dominant paradigm. This media effect is less connected to the previous three, but nonetheless important to mention. The paradigm states that mass media is established and owned by social elites, and as such, their opinions are also reflected through them (Gitlin, 1978). While this thesis does not delve into the prospect of conducting an investigation on whether the political elite own mass media, the concept of mass media reflecting the opinions of political leaders and other influential individuals matter greatly to the narrative. However, further research must be conducted on this aspect, as well as on how particular linguistics may influence thought and perception.

3. Research Design

To reiterate the research question, this thesis will investigate how the anti-LGBT movement rhetorically developed in the United States in the past 20 years. With this question, the overarching topic of interest that will be tackled is to investigate whether there has been an ideological development in the rhetoric, and whether the reincited movements are products of similar contexts. To do this, the investigation will be conducted in two main parts, appropriately visually summarized in the figure below.

Topic of Interest
Development and inceptions of anti-LGBT movements in the USA

Research Question
How has the anti-LGBT movement developed rhetorically in the United States in the past 20 years?

Part 1
Specific investigation on singular presidential time-frames.
- Presidential address
- Comparative Fox News - CNN media analysis

Part 2
Summarizing comparative analysis of the time-frames.
- Linguistic development observations

Figure 5: The Research Design

The first research section of this thesis will delve into an in-depth analysis on specific timeframes within the 20-year period. In order to simplify the 20-year period into manageable timeframes, the 20-years have been split into four different phases, classified by their presidential era: Bush (2001 to 2009), Obama (2009 to 2017), Trump (2017 to 2021), and Biden (2021 to 2024). Although these timeframes aren't equal to each other, they represent significant political and ideological shifts that influenced the LGBT sphere, and consequently impacted the anti-LGBT movements. Another interesting aspect of this specific timeframe classification is that it interchanges between the two political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. In accordance with the partisan politics theory, it will be interesting to comment on the influence of the two political parties in their respective eras.

Each timeframe will be given an introduction, explaining the most prominent LGBT events of its time that will be focused on when obtaining qualitative data. Thereafter, there will be a linguistic analysis of presidential responses or comments to these events, followed by linguistic analysis of two news sources covering these topics; one news source is classified

as republican-leaning, and the other democrat leaning. To better understand the structure of the first research part, figure 6 provides a visual representation.

(Rep.) George Bush: 2001 - 2009
- Introduction on timeframe and major LGBT events
- Presidential address
- Fox News & CNN

(Dem.) Barack Obama: 2009 - 2017
- Introduction on timeframe and major LGBT events
- Presidential address
- Fox News & CNN

(Rep.) Donald Trump: 2017 - 2021
- Introduction on timeframe and major LGBT events
- Presidential address
- Fox News & CNN

(Dem.) Joseph Biden: 2021 - 2024
- Introduction on timeframe and major LGBT events
- Presidential address
- Fox News & CNN

Figure 6: Visualization of structure of Part 1

Although many news sources would have been a viable choice, Fox News and CNN were chosen for the analysis. Upon research, republican viewership was seen to rely the most on Fox News, whereas Democrats turn towards CNN. In accordance with a study conducted by Pew Research, 60% or Republicans trust Fox News as their primary news source on matters of elections and politics, as opposed to only 23% of Democrats. Regarding CNN, 53% of Democrats rated it as their primary trusted source on political matters, as opposed to only 24% of Republicans (Pew Research Center, 2020). When comparing the net trust on these two sources from both political sides, one can also see the greatest disparity. For CNN, the net trust score was 55% for Democrats and -37% for Republicans. For Fox News, we can see the reversed trend, with a 41% net trust score from Republicans and -16% from Democrats (Sanders, 2023).

Whereas section one focuses on delving into the individual timeframes, research section two will provide a summary of the linguistic comparative analysis of all four presidential eras. This section will hopefully present a chronological development of key ideas through prominent words utilized. This latter part will be of most importance, as it will determine whether the rhetoric of anti-LGBT movements have somehow developed throughout this time, or whether the principles of these movements have remained unchanged.

4. Methodology

This section will delve into the methodology of this thesis to answer the research question. Due to the large number of texts available, the primary analysis will be conducted utilizing software. As software is not ideal when dealing with short texts, it will be supplemented by manual content analysis.

To conduct a linguistic analysis of multiple long text sources, R Studio will be utilized. R Studio is free, open-source computer software which is predominantly used for statistical computing and graphics, but which can also be used for qualitative content analysis and text mining. Additionally, and most importantly to this thesis, it is also utilized for computational linguistics.

R Studio has a broad array of features that will aid the research on word-, category- and document-level analysis. The most relevant features will be that of word clouds, word associations, sentiment scores, and emotion classifications. To utilize R Studio as text mining software, multiple packages will be utilized, namely "tm" as a means of cleaning up the data. This package has coded operations like removing numbers, special characters, punctuation and stop words (the most commonly occurring words with little value, which should be filtered out, e.g. "the", "is", "are"). Further useful packages include: Wordcloud, snowball, syuzhet, and ggplot2.

Like many other text mining softwares, R Studio requires each text to be processed in a .txt format. This allows for a uniform format that makes multi-text comparisons much easier to conduct. In order to utilize software analysis as much as possible, some .txt files were merged into one under the condition that they were from the same source, and about the same topic.

The pictures below present the code utilized to text mine and analyze the data. As can be seen, at first, several packages had to be installed in order to perform the necessary analysis. Next, the text is cleaned up to avoid unnecessary data such as punctuation to ruin the varying counts. After these initial steps are completed, analyses such as word frequencies, sentiment scores, and word associations can be done. The code below was created by the aid of a senior data engineer, Sanil Mhatre (Mhatre, 2020).

```r
 1  # Install
 2  install.packages("tm")   # for text mining
 3  install.packages("SnowballC") # for text stemming
 4  install.packages("wordcloud") # word-cloud generator
 5  install.packages("RColorBrewer") # color palettes
 6  install.packages("syuzhet") # for sentiment analysis
 7  install.packages("ggplot2") # for plotting graphs
 8  # Load
 9  library("tm")
10  library("SnowballC")
11  library("wordcloud")
12  library("RColorBrewer")
13  library("syuzhet")
14  library("ggplot2")
15
16  # Read the text file from local machine , choose file interactively
17  text <- readLines(file.choose(), warn=FALSE)
18  # Load the data as a corpus
19  TextDoc <- Corpus(VectorSource(text))
20
21  #Replacing "/", "@" and "|" with space
22  toSpace <- content_transformer(function (x , pattern ) gsub(pattern, " ", x))
23  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, toSpace, "/")
24  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, toSpace, "@")
25  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, toSpace, "\\|")
26  # Convert the text to lower case
27  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, content_transformer(tolower))
28  # Remove numbers
29  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, removeNumbers)
30  # Remove english common stopwords
31  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, removeWords, stopwords("english"))
32  # Remove your own stop word
33  # specify your custom stopwords as a character vector
34  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, removeWords, c("said"))
35  # Remove punctuations
36  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, removePunctuation)
37  # Eliminate extra white spaces
38  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, stripWhitespace)
39  # Text stemming - which reduces words to their root form
40  TextDoc <- tm_map(TextDoc, stemDocument)
41
42
43  # Build a term-document matrix
44  TextDoc_dtm <- TermDocumentMatrix(TextDoc)
45  dtm_m <- as.matrix(TextDoc_dtm)
46  # Sort by descearing value of frequency
47  dtm_v <- sort(rowSums(dtm_m),decreasing=TRUE)
48  dtm_d <- data.frame(word = names(dtm_v),freq=dtm_v)
49  # Display the top 5 most frequent words
50  head(dtm_d, 5)
51  |

52  # Plot the most frequent words
53  barplot(dtm_d[1:5,]$freq, las = 2, names.arg = dtm_d[1:5,]$word,
54          col ="lightgreen", main ="Top 5 most frequent words",
55          ylab = "Word frequencies")
56
57  #generate word cloud
58  set.seed(1234)
59  wordcloud(words = dtm_d$word, freq = dtm_d$freq, min.freq = 5,
60          max.words=100, random.order=FALSE, rot.per=0.40,
61          colors=brewer.pal(8, "Dark2"))
62
63  # Find associations
64  findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("boy","gwen","murder"), corlimit = 0.25)
65
66  # regular sentiment score using get_sentiment() function and method of your choice
67  # please note that different methods may have different scales
68  syuzhet_vector <- get_sentiment(text, method="syuzhet")
69  # see the first row of the vector
70  head(syuzhet_vector)
71  # see summary statistics of the vector
72  summary(syuzhet_vector)
73
74  # run nrc sentiment analysis to return data frame with each row classified as one of the following
75  # emotions, rather than a score:
76  # anger, anticipation, disgust, fear, joy, sadness, surprise, trust
77  # It also counts the number of positive and negative emotions found in each row
78  d<-get_nrc_sentiment(text)
79  # head(d,10) - to see top 10 lines of the get_nrc_sentiment dataframe
80  head (d,10)
81
82  #transpose
83  td<-data.frame(t(d))
84  #The function rowSums computes column sums across rows for each level of a grouping variable.
85  td_new <- data.frame(rowSums(td))
86  #Transformation and cleaning
87  names(td_new)[1] <- "count"
88  td_new <- cbind("sentiment" = rownames(td_new), td_new)
89  rownames(td_new) <- NULL
90  td_new2<-td_new[1:8,]
91  #Plot One - count of words associated with each sentiment
92  quickplot(sentiment, data=td_new2, weight=count, geom="bar", fill=sentiment, ylab="count")+ggtitle("Survey sentiments"
93
94  #Plot two - count of words associated with each sentiment, expressed as a percentage
95  barplot(
96    sort(colSums(prop.table(d[, 1:8]))),
97    horiz = TRUE,
98    cex.names = 0.7,
99    las = 1,
100   main = "Emotions in Text", xlab="Percentage"
```

Here are the following definitions for the R Packages and their utilities (Mhatre, 2020):

Document Matrix – is used to count the occurrence of singular word, to identify popular topics. Using the function TermDocumentMatrix(), one can build a table containing the frequency of words.

Word Cloud – is one of the ways to visualize and analyze qualitative data. It is an image composed of keywords from the text, where the size of the word indicates its frequency.

Word Association - is a statistical technique that can demonstrate if, and how strongly, different variables are related.

Sentiment Scores - can be classified as positive, neutral or negative. Represented on a numeric scale, it is utilized to express the degree of strength of the sentiment contained in the text. The Syuzhet vector package has four sentiment dictionaries and accesses the sentiment extraction tool developed at the NLP group at Stanford. The scoring is decimal and ranges from -1(most negative) to +1(most positive).

Emotion Classification - is built on the NRC Word-Emotion Association Lexicon. It utilizes a list of English words and their associations with eight basic emotions (anger, fear, anticipation, trust, surprise, sadness, joy, and disgust) and two sentiments (negative and positive).

5. Research and Analysis

5.1. Individual Eras

5.1.1. George Bush: 2001 – 2009

The George Bush era has a comparatively low number of prominent events for the LGBT-sphere than the other three that will be discussed in this research paper. While undoubtedly many matters occurred outside of what will be mentioned, the three most prominent that have been identified are: the murder of Gwen Araujo in 2002, Lawrence v Texas 539 US in 2003, and the murders of Teisha Green and Angie Zapata in 2008.

On October the 3rd, 2002, a young, trans teenager named Gwen Amber Rose Araujo was murdered in Newark California. The four perpetrators, two of whom she had been intimate with, beat and murdered her after they discovered that she was transgender. The results of the trials led to two of the men, Merél and Magidson, to be convicted of second-degree murder, and the other two, Nabors and Cazares, of voluntary manslaughter. In all four trials the judge denied the request to enhance the charges with a hate-crime reasoning, despite the fact that a "trans-panic defense" was utilized in at least one of the hearings. Despite all four men being actively involved in her murder and with witnesses and testimonies claiming they have heard them threaten to kill her prior to the encounter, the charge of first-degree murder was dismissed. As of 2019, three of the four men had been released from prison (Marshall, 2005). Due to this event, in September of 2006, California signed the "Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims" Act into law which limited the use of the "Gay/Trans panic" defense to influence the bias of the jury and to avoid the conviction of defendants on lesser charges on the basis of social bias (Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims Act, 2006).

The 2003 Lawrence versus Texas, 539 U.S case was a monumental decision made by the US Supreme Court to rule in favor of the plaintiffs. The court determined that all criminal punishment due to the sodomy laws was unconstitutional. This decision made it so that all private and consensual non-procreative activities between adults of any genders were to be deemed legal in every US state and territory. The case was brought about by John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, who in 1998 were charged with a misdemeanor due to perceived homosexual activity in Lawrence's home. After being charged and fined, Lawrence appealed his case twice to Texas State authorities on the grounds that the sodomy laws were infringing on constitutional right given they did not apply to heterosexual couples. Both times, Texas upheld its laws and denied his appeal requests. Thereafter, Lawrence turned to the Supreme Court, which agreed to hear his case. The outcome was celebrated among LGBT rights

activists and set the precedence to challenge other standing discriminatory laws that were still in place.

In 2009, the families of two young trans women that had lost their lives were given closure by a landmark decision. In July of 2008, Angie Zapata was beaten to death in Colorado by Allen Andrade after he found out she was transexual. The trial began in April of 2009, and after countless pieces of evidence presented to the jury, they found Andrade guilty of first-degree murder, hate crimes, alongside other previous charges he had acquired. This case was the first in the country wherein the accused was found guilty of a hate crime. As a habitual offender, Andrade was given a life conviction and is serving to this day. Similarly to Angie, Lateisha (Teisha) Green lost her life in 2008 after a man, Dwight DeLee, shot her outside a house party. Prior to the shooting, witnesses heard DeLee shout homophobic slurs at the victim. In 2009, DeLee was acquitted of simple manslaughter but found guilty of first-degree manslaughter as a hate crime, marking it as the second time an individual was charged on a hate crime basis in the United States. Unfortunately, his charges constituted a legal error as his hate crime charge could not be legally possible with the simple manslaughter charge being dismissed. As such, in 2014, the New York Court of Appeals overturned DeLee's conviction, making way for a retrial. In the new trial, DeLee was acquitted of all charges and set free (Wiessner, 2014).

While the George Bush era saw monumental change towards the development of legal protection for the LGBT community, legal repercussions for hate crimes were still in development, and as such could sometimes be seen as unfair towards the victim.

5.1.1.1. Political Address

There was a great struggle finding archived speeches or data of any sorts pertaining to any presidential address of the matters of LGBT-rights. As commonly known, the War on Terror was the most significant focus point of the Bush administration of this time, and as such his most prominent speeches that have been archived, had everything to do with this topic. As such, to proceed with this thesis, liberty had to be taken to spread the applicable focus for political addresses. Instead of focusing on the specific three events of this time, research was done to find any speeches or mentions from George W Bush about LGBT topics throughout his presidential era.

It is also important to recognize that the George W. Bush administration declined to recognize June as Pride month. No formal or public transcripts delve directly into LGBT issues, which reflects with Bush's presidential terms wherein his focus did not lay on such matters.

However, it should be noted that he was dubbed a "compassionate conservatist," which is reflected in his approach to such matters, if they came up.

Since there is a lack of political statements from the president regarding pride month or other concrete LGBT topics, another related speech was analyzed. In February of 2004, Bush led a speech calling for the constitutional amendment that would protect marriage, and thus disallow same-sex marriage to become legal.

When analyzing the word frequency of this speech, unsurprisingly, marriage is the most utilized. From his diction, he predominantly surrounds the concepts of marriage with the idea of protection, and supplements this with political structures such as 'constitution,' 'congress,' 'institute,' and 'state.' One might argue that he is utilizing the political and societal status quo as a strong reasoning behind the need to protect the marital status quo.

	word	freq
marriag	marriag	28
state	state	11
act	act	7
protect	protect	7
defens	defens	6
amend	amend	6
one	one	5
institut	institut	5
constitut	constitut	5
congress	congress	4
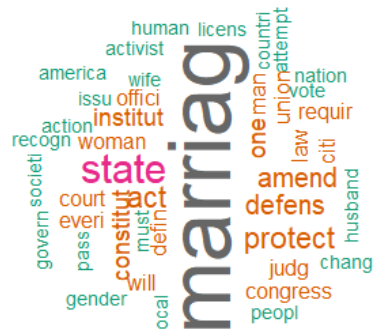
This idea may be further supported by the word associations seen below. The word 'marriage' is statistically significantly correlated with the search terms 'defend' and 'protect.' This seems as a reasonable find, given his clear standing on the matter. Additionally, the word 'institute' has a significant association with 'consensus.' Consensus, signifying a unified agreement in judgement, tied with institute, may let us assume that there is an agreement in opinion on an established organizational level – perhaps tied with the political and social status quo.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("institut","defens","protect"), corlimit = 0.25)
$institut
 consensus      civil  fundament      presum      endur      honor      person     respect  contradict
      0.44       0.44       0.44        0.44       0.44       0.44       0.44        0.44        0.44
 overwhelm
      0.29


$defens
       act    clinton     marriag      presid       sign     express      passag     similar     problem
      0.59       0.40        0.40        0.40       0.40        0.40        0.40        0.40        0.40
     assur        yet        even   furthermor     upheld      reason         law     address
      0.40       0.40        0.40        0.40       0.40        0.40        0.37        0.26


$protect
 consensus      enact     within    interest      fulli       leav      person     respect     marriag
      0.36       0.36       0.36        0.36       0.36       0.36       0.36        0.36        0.25
```

Unsurprisingly, given the subject matter, the relative sentiment score on this speech averages as slightly positive. This indicates a positive outlook towards what he is saying – be it the general concept of marriage, or the protection of marriage.

```
> summary(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu. Median   Mean 3rd Qu.   Max.
-1.0000  0.0000  0.3000  0.4051  0.8000  2.4000
```

The sentiment score is further supported by the sentiment survey, breaking down the most utilized associated emotions: trust, joy, and anticipation. Given the topic of the speech, Bush used a lot of positively connotated vocabulary despite strongly emphasizing his opposition towards advancing the marriage rights and perhaps showcasing relative respect on the matter despite differing views.
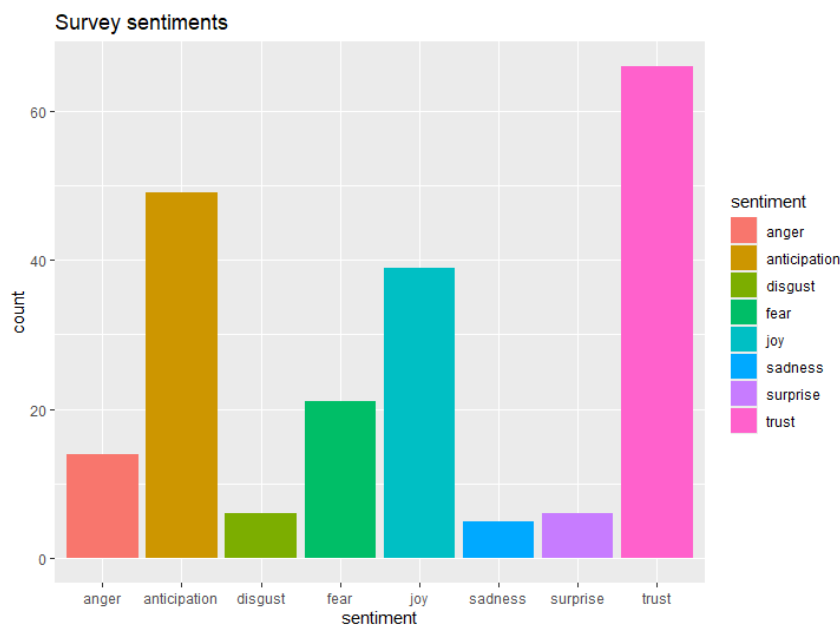
5.1.1.2. Fox News and CNN Comparison
5.1.1.2.a   Gwen Araujo

When looking at the news coverage of this case, we see that Fox News primarily focuses on the trial coverage, which is supported by the word frequency analysis, seen in the tables below. It must be noted that although the top frequent words listed below revolve around the crime and trial, the actual most frequent words in both news stories included the names of the victim and the perpetrators. As it would be obvious that their names would be repeated heavily in the texts, the decision was made to delete them from the text.

Unfortunately, no past record was found of CNN covering the murder of Gwen Araujo. As such, ABC news was taken on as a temporary replacement. ABC news is the third most

trusted news source of left-leaning individuals in the US, as well as the most trusted news source voted by all US adults (Pew Research Center, 2020).

Perhaps most interestingly, the article written by Fox News withstands the trials of time and utilized respective representation of the victim. As mentioned before, the Fox News word frequency (listed left) predominantly revolves around coverage of the trial. On the other hand, the ABC news coverage can nowadays be seen as relatively problematic. The victim was constantly deadnamed and misgendered, mentioned as a 'son' and a 'boy.'

```
kill        kill       13        boy     boy      4
murder      murder     11        polic   polic    4
attorney    attorney   10        differ  differ   3
manslaught  manslaught  9        like    like     3
charg       charg       7        newark  newark   3
trial       trial       4        littl   littl    3
verdict     verdict     2        dress   dress    2
juror       juror       2        girl    girl     2
                                 live    live     2
                                 son     son      2
```

The word frequency is further supported by the generated word cloud, seen below. On the left, there is the word cloud generated from the articles from Fox News, and on the right is ABC's word cloud. It is interesting to see that the more right-leaning news source appears to cover the murder of Gwen with less an emphasis on her transgender life. Although it is briefly mentioned in the text, as can be seen below, the remainder is predominantly focused on the trials and the perpetrators.

Next, and perhaps most importantly, there is the word association between some of the prominent words displayed in the text. The chosen three words utilized for this analysis were: Boy, Gwen, and Kill. Trying to utilize "Araujo" led to no numerically significant result, which led to the attempt to try "Gwen." "Kill" had to be utilized due to it being the most significant word present in both texts. Lastly, "Boy" was used given the nature of the crime, as well as the perpetrators. Below is the result of this analysis:

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("boy","gwen","kill"), corlimit = 0.25)
$boy
      born     edward     experi      femal       fuel       grew       knew       lida        met
      1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00
      name     summer  suspicion       true    encount      ident     gender     sexual     defend
      1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       0.70       0.70       0.57       0.49       0.44
    believ
      0.44

$gwen
 born edward      death     friend      known      occur   showdown     teenag     amount
      0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49
  argument     monday     reject manslaught   maintain     memori      peopl       show
      0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49
      site      smith    valuabl        web       back      bring     closur       know
      0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49
      noth       step   transgend      month    encount     reveal      least      defen
      0.49       0.49       0.39       0.33       0.33       0.33       0.33       0.33
      live     accord     biolog     gender    yearold
      0.33       0.26       0.26       0.26       0.26

$kill
    reveal born edward      death     friend      known      occur   showdown     teenag
      0.54       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52
    sexual      three     biolog      month    encount       neck        saw       bodi
      0.49       0.42       0.42       0.34       0.34       0.34       0.34       0.34
      buri      place        say       took       live      charg       pull       rope
      0.34       0.34       0.34       0.34       0.34       0.33       0.32       0.32
 transgend     accord     gender      crime       help        see    thorman        tie
      0.28       0.26       0.26       0.26       0.26       0.26       0.26       0.26
    outsid
      0.26
```

The most interesting aspect of this analysis is the significant association of "boy" to the victim. In addition to that, it is also significantly associated to "Edward," the deadname of the victim. While it does make sense to describe the nature of the crime, it does bring about the question of whether there was the necessity to present the deadname of a trans woman. This is further supported by the most prominent association with the word "Gwen," which is "born Edward." Again, there seems to be a prominent emphasis on who she identified as in the past. And lastly, interestingly again, a significant word association to "kill" was "reveal" and "born Edward." This has been the stated primary reason of the crime, so it does make sense to have this association between these words.

When it comes to ABC, unfortunately different words had to be utilized, as "Gwen" and "Kill" did not seem to provide any significant associations. Instead, the words "dress," "boy," and "girl" were used. As can be seen in the results below, there are many associations tied to these words, many of which intersect with one another. Both "girl" and "boy" share similarities in association with 'kill', 'reveal,' as well as the perpetrators. However, "girl" additionally has the association of "son," tying it back to the concept that ABC was misgendering the victim. The term "dress" appears to have a lot of associations with the crime, including 'suspicion,' 'kill,' the perpetrators, and so on. As the victim crossdressing was discussed often and as a reason for crime, this correlation is unsurprising.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("dress","boy","girl"), corlimit = 0.25)
$dress
     kill    oldest    simpli    sylvia       two     world   yearold     alleg    arrest     becam
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69
    cazar     charg     chase     enrag      face    fourth      gwen      hous     jason      jose
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69
     last      lida  magidson       man       men     merel   michael    murder     nabor      name
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69
      oct     often     parti    realiz     relat    reveal      role    sexual     shirt      show
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69
    skirt suspicion    though     three      wear      week      went         -     polic      live
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.53      0.46
      son     death      also    differ      like    newark
     0.46      0.46      0.46      0.34      0.34      0.34

$boy
    enjoy     thing wellknown   welllik     littl      like      kill    oldest    simpli    sylvia
     0.81      0.81      0.81      0.81      0.71      0.67      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37
      two     world   yearold     alleg    arrest     becam     cazar     charg     chase     enrag
     0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37
     face    fourth      gwen      hous     jason      jose      last      lida  magidson       man
     0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37
      men     merel   michael    murder     nabor      name       oct     often     parti    realiz
     0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37
    relat    reveal      role    sexual     shirt      show     skirt suspicion    though     three
     0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37
     wear      week      went         -     polic
     0.37      0.37      0.37      0.37      0.25

$girl
     kill    oldest    simpli    sylvia       two     world   yearold     alleg    arrest     becam
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69
    cazar     charg     chase     enrag      face    fourth      gwen      hous     jason      jose
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69
     last      lida  magidson       man       men     merel   michael    murder     nabor      name
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69
      oct     often     parti    realiz     relat    reveal      role    sexual     shirt      show
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69
    skirt suspicion    though     three      wear      week      went         -     polic      live
     0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.69      0.53      0.46
      son     death      also    differ      like    newark
     0.46      0.46      0.46      0.34      0.34      0.34
```

In accordance with the nature of the report, the overall sentiment from Fox News to the topic was negative. As can be seen below, the mean value of the text was -0.51. This is further seen in the other breakdowns of the text – the report of the news appeared to have had stronger negative connotations in the 1st quartile, before averaging out towards neutral. Given the nature and topic of the text, a negative sentiment was to be expected.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-5.3500 -0.5750  0.0000 -0.5122  0.0000  1.2500
```

Very interestingly, the sentiment score from ABC was more neutral, as can be seen below. ABC dealt less with coverage of the case and focused more on discussing the victim. As such, it makes sense that there would be less negatively associated wording.

```
> summary ABC(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
 -3.500   0.000   0.000   0.016   0.000   2.750
```

When graphing the survey sentiments, the following emotion classification can be found (Left: Fox News, Right: ABC):
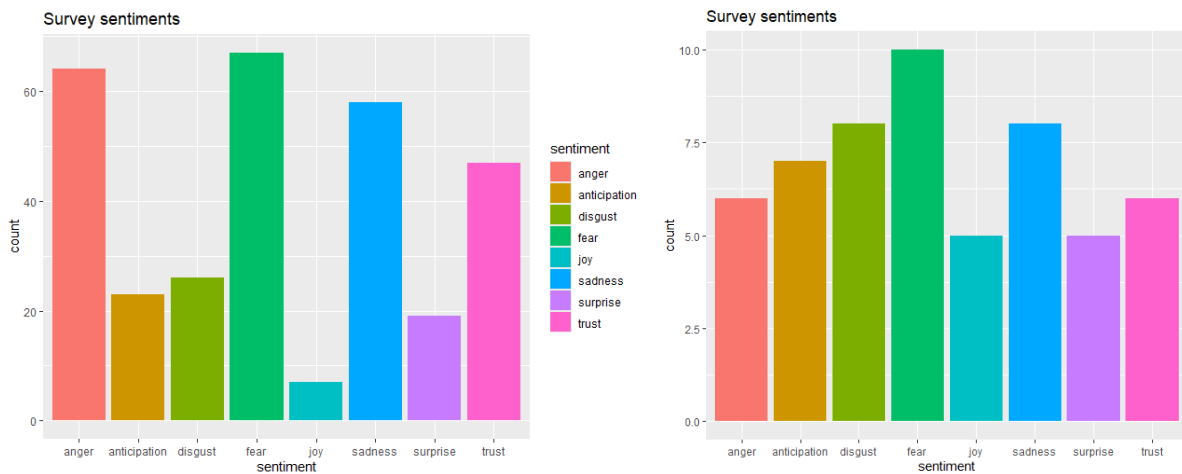
From this graph, it is possible to understand where the strong negative sentiment stems from in the Fox News coverage. As one can see, words associated with anger, fear, and sadness frequent the text throughout. At least 180 words in the text have associations to these emotions. It is important to remember that we do not know the context towards these sentiment scores. For example, anger could possibly stem from both the outrage at the crime committed, as well as perhaps the described anger that the perpetrators felt towards the victim. Despite the averagely positive report, ABC had a relatively equal usage for all eight emotions in the text. The frequency of them is significantly smaller in comparison to Fox, as can be seen by the 'counts' on the graphs.

Overall, from this analysis we can see that when Fox News covered the topic of Gwen Araujo's murder, they maintained a perhaps surprisingly supportive tone – appearing sympathetic towards the victim and her family and associating strong negative associations to the topic at hand. The main aspect that springs to mind regarding slightly problematic behavior is the insistence to deadname the victim, as well as the continued emphasis on "reveal" and "born Edwards" as the justification for the crime. That being said, Fox News compares significantly more neutral to the ABC coverage. Surprisingly, given its center-left audience, ABC continued to misgender and deadname the victim.

5.1.1.2.b   Lawrence v. Texas

Regarding Lawrence v. Texas, below is the word frequency comparison between Fox News (left) and CNN (right).

court	court	23
sex	sex	19
state	state	19
marriag	marriag	18
law	law	17
justic	justic	13
texa	texa	12
rule	rule	11
case	case	11
legal	legal	9

law	law	70
right	right	53
court	court	45
state	state	25
sex	sex	24
lawrenc	lawrenc	22
texa	texa	18
conduct	conduct	17
sodomi	sodomi	14
fundament	fundament	14

As can be seen, with both news sources, the primary wordage revolved around technical court terms, given that the news sources both addressed the landmark decision made in court. The most significant difference that stands out between these two is the immediate and significant usage of the word "marriage" by Fox News. Whereas CNN did mention it a little towards the end, it was a significant topic in the report for Fox News. This is particularly interesting, given that Lawrence v. Texas is not at all associated with State v. Windsor, which was the landmark court decision that is associated with the eventual legality of same-sex marriage. Despite the prominence of this topic, it unfortunately did not have enough calculated significant associations to be mentioned in this thesis.

Instead, the words, "law," "state," and "gay" were analyzed in the Fox News article. It is interesting to see words like 'discriminate,' 'violate,' 'stop,' and 'restrict' among notable words associated with "law." This may be linked with the restrictive nature of the law prior to the court judgement. Similarly, "state" is most associated with 'repeal,' which although having possible negative connotations is likely associated with the idea that the antisodomy laws had been revoked. Despite being a prominent word in the text, it remains surprising that 'marriage' was not calculated to be significantly associated with any of them.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("law","state","gay"), corlimit = 0.30)
$law
      texa        much     univers    discrimin        well      commit        love
      0.73        0.48        0.45        0.45        0.45        0.45        0.45
 georgetown   professor       treat      violat      approv     current      demand
      0.43        0.43        0.43        0.43        0.43        0.43        0.43
   polygami  polygamist     predict     restrict        stop     underag      sodomi
      0.43        0.43        0.43        0.43        0.43        0.43        0.42
      court  heterosexu    standard    protect relationship        live
      0.39        0.34        0.34        0.34        0.34        0.32

$state
    repeal       block       everi      lawmak      recent      statut       crime       adult       broad
      0.63        0.54        0.54        0.54        0.54        0.54        0.36        0.36        0.36
   consent     bedroom  antisodomi        abil      behind    classifi       close         goe    reexamin
      0.36        0.36        0.36        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35
      test        unit        aros    behavior      crimin     earlier     georgia      includ  childrear
      0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35
     choic     concept    interest        keep       paper         par  parenthood        sacr      sodomi
      0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.33

$gay
              point      support   heterosexu       differ         time
               0.48         0.41         0.38         0.38         0.38
punished homosexu       reject  unconstitut       violat           us
               0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34
              right         lead         lost      signific         adam
               0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34
             affair     director         educ         fund         hail
               0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34
            michael      victori       lambda    georgetown    professor
               0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34
              treat       violat         abil       behind     classifi
               0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34
              close          goe     reexamin         test         unit
               0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34
           activist        becam       critic        ralli       upheld
               0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34         0.34
```

When it comes to the CNN article, the words "protect," "homosexual," and "moral" were analyzed as alternatives, as no significant associations were found with the previous three words. It is interesting to see the seemingly contradictory sentiments in the article. "Protect" is strongly associated with 'equal,' signifying the equality of the court decision and seemingly positively announcing the choice made. At the same time, "moral" has the association with 'consequence,' which may bring to mind that the court decision to revoke the antisodomy laws has moral consequences for America.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("protect","homosexu","moral"), corlimit = 0.28)
$protect
     equal      statut   constitut       form        evan        kind        also     invalid     certain      person
      0.63        0.44        0.40        0.40        0.40        0.40        0.34        0.33        0.33        0.33
   liberti       invok       amend     conduct        live       stand        choo     privaci        basi
      0.32        0.31        0.31        0.31        0.31        0.31        0.31        0.30        0.28

$homosexu
    belief     express        find   sentiment        word     consensu       valid     whether       state       found
      0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.50        0.49        0.44        0.42        0.41
      upon      suffici      privat       court       adult         way     support        home         law      differ
      0.40        0.40        0.39        0.38        0.38        0.38        0.36        0.33        0.31        0.31
     immor         now        made       appli        basi    fundament
      0.31        0.31        0.31        0.30        0.29        0.28

$moral
  consequ        forc        main       motiv      though      justif     support        fact     concern         law      public      societi
     0.53        0.53        0.53        0.53        0.53        0.52        0.46        0.45        0.45        0.42        0.42         0.38
   govern      suffici      behind         see        deni        hard        seem        rare      health      practic     enforc      dissent
     0.37        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.35        0.31        0.31         0.29
     hand        immor       valid        alon         now      either      preserv       wrong
     0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29         0.29
```

Despite the mixed messages from both news sources, the sentiment scores for both were surprisingly positive. Even more so surprising is the imperceptibly more positive score on the Fox news sentiment. Although particularly significant, it is interesting to see that the mean score of the Fox News article is +0.03 in comparison to CNN. Just like with the news coverage for Gwen Araujo, it appears that the conservative news source has a seemingly more sympathetic approach to the topic, when it comes to the sentiment scoring.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-3.0500  0.0000  0.0000  0.3876  0.6000  5.2000

> summary CNN(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-4.550   0.000   0.000   0.356   0.350   6.000
```

In the sentiment surveys below (Left: Fox News, Right: CNN), it is possible to seen the very similar sentiment approach of both news sources. The distribution of emotions appears to be equal, although CNN has a significantly higher count, showing a significantly higher usage of words with emotional connotations.
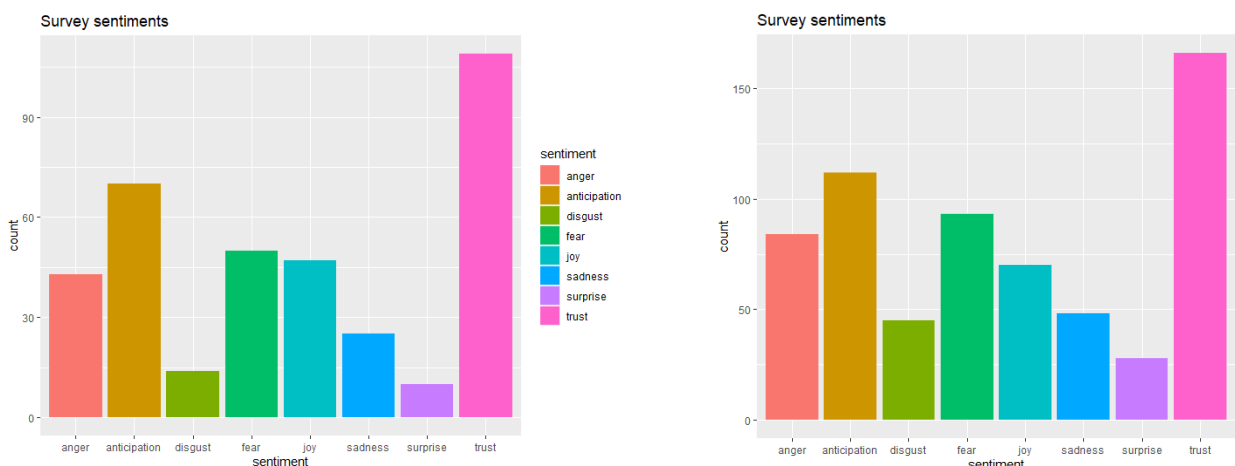
5.1.1.2.c   Angie Zapata and Lateisha Green

Given the lack of press in regard to Lateisha Green's case, news sources that mentioned the murder were merged together with reports about Angie Zapata. From the word frequencies provided for both CNN and Fox News on this topic, we can observe some differences and similarities in how each source reports the story. Both CNN and Fox News frequently use the word "crime," indicating that this is a central theme of the story for both sources. Fox (see: left) appears to focus on related terms like "investigating", "police", and "woman", suggesting a likely emphasis on the investigative process, the police, and the involvement of a woman in the story. CNN (see: right), on the other hand, put emphasis on "transgender" and "murder", indicating a strong focus on the transgender aspect of the story and the act of

murder itself. From these results, it appears that Fox might be utilizing a broader investigation and law enforcement narrative, focusing on concrete actions and people. CNN seems to be more concentrated on the transgender aspect of the story and the details of the crime and sentencing, potentially indicating a more specific narrative related to identity and the crime committed.

```
crime      crime       11        transgend transgend   16
investig   investig     8        crime       crime      12
polic      polic        7        murder      murder     10
woman      woman        6        polic       polic       9
hate       hate         6        accord      accord      7
extinguish extinguish   5        two           two       7
arrest     arrest       5        sentenc     sentenc     7
affidavit  affidavit    5        angi          angi      6
say        say          5        affidavit affidavit     6
colorado   colorado     4        victim      victim      6
```


Based on the word frequencies, the article from Fox News seems heavily focused on hate crimes and the legal actions against them. The frequent association of terms related to identity (sexual orientation, race, religion) with "crime" and "hate" reinforces this point. This is especially interesting as the LGBT community was not protected under the hate crime prevention act during the George Bush era. This would mean that Fox news is doing an unprecedented association between the murders of two transgender women and hate crimes. There is further discussion on the legal aspects (law, prosecution) and societal implications (identity, prejudice) of the crime in the rest of the text, possibly linking to broader statements about issues of race, religion, and sexual orientation.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("crime","woman","hate"), corlimit = 0.34)
$crime
      orient       sexual          law          add      lesbian       feloni      prosecut
        0.91         0.91         0.74         0.65         0.65         0.64         0.64
        race     religion          gay       person        state     firstdegr        cover
        0.64         0.64         0.55         0.51         0.51         0.47         0.47
       group        anoth         base       commit       consid         file          ken
        0.47         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45
         may       allianc    angelesba        defam       design        glaad          los
        0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45
         new      section          tri         york        amend        court         kept
        0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45
       motiv        offici       statist       statut         agenc        april         bill
        0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45
      bisexu      campaign        civil      counsel      cristina          fbi         feder
        0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45
        hope         hous        human         ident      introduc        light        organ
        0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45
        pass         send       senior         shed        target washingtonba        wrong
        0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45         0.45
       charg        right       murder      colorado        accord
        0.44         0.39         0.37         0.35         0.35

$woman
        date          man      struggl       biolog         blow       surviv      suspect
        0.56         0.53         0.45         0.45         0.40         0.40         0.40
      victim      antiviol      crystal     director          ear          far       funlov
        0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40
     program        taken        train         work       answer         back      confront
        0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40
         got       attract        black          eye          men       strike         tall
        0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40
 kindergarten        life       rochel     boyfriend         end         four  relationship
        0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40         0.40
         way            -
        0.40         0.40

$hate
      orient       sexual          law       person       feloni     prosecut         race     religion        anoth         base
        0.95         0.95         0.77         0.72         0.66         0.66         0.66         0.66         0.63         0.63
      commit       consid         file          ken          may      allianc    angelesba        defam       design        glaad
        0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63
         los          new      section          tri         york          add        state      lesbian     colorado        charg
        0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.53         0.53         0.53         0.50         0.50
      accord          gay     attorney         buck       counti     district    firstdegr         weld        believ          one
        0.50         0.45         0.43         0.43         0.43         0.43         0.43         0.43         0.43         0.43
      murder        first
        0.34         0.34
```

Fox news is not the only one that unprecedentedly identifies these murders as hate crimes. The word "hate" is central to the article, with significant correlations to "crime," "state," "statute," and "bias," which indicates a discussion on a hate motive. The word "victim" and its correlations (question, saw, sit, affidavit, sex, polic, oral, perform, bigotry, hatred) indicate that CNN provided a relatively detailed coverage of the victim's experience, likely through personal testimonies and police reports. Because of this, we can expect that the sentimental survey of the CNN report will likely provide a significantly more negative value, as the details of the crime are more elaborate.

This is precisely supported by the sentiment analysis. As can be seen below, both articles have a negative sentiment score in regard to the total news coverage, with CNN being almost -0.2 more negative than fox news.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-4.0000 -0.3500  0.0000 -0.2437  0.0000  2.0000

> summary CNN(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-5.4500 -0.6000  0.0000 -0.4243  0.0000  1.8500
```

To further elaborate, we can take a look at the survey sentiments below (Left: Fox News, Right: CNN). As one can see, words associated with negative emotions were significantly used by both news sources. That being said, the CNN coverage utilized a significantly larger number of emotionally charged words, which is why the mean syuzhet vector scores differ that much between the two. It is interesting to see the significantly higher number of sentimental words used in the CNN reports.
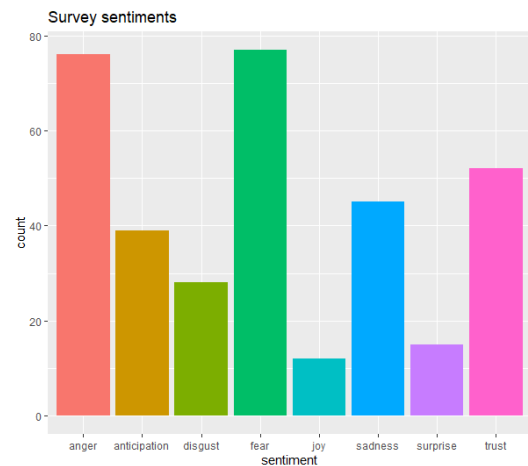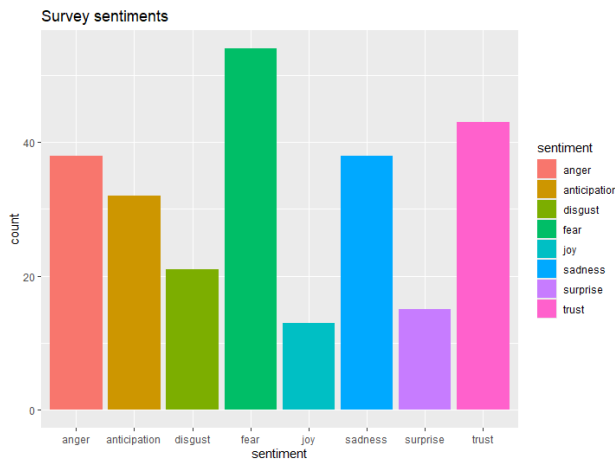
5.1.2. Barack Obama: 2009 – 2017

In comparison to the previous presidency, the era of Barack Obama saw a larger escalation of prominent LGBT events. Likely riding on the back of previous legal victories during the Bush era, the period of 2009 to 2017 was arguably the most proactive timeframe for LGBT legal rights than ever before. There are six main events that had been narrowed down for this thesis: the passing of the Matthew Shepard Act, the end of "Don't ask don't tell," inclusion of LGBT rights as a point of focus for the Democratic party, State v. Windsor, the legalization of same-sex marriage, and the Pulse terrorist attack.

In late October of 2009, the White House signed a landmark federal law into place, known as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act. After the murders of two men in 1998, since 2001, there had been attempts to pass a bill that would expand upon the then-current crime laws with the addition of the concept of hate crimes. From the 107th to the 109th Congress during the presidency of George W Bush, the act failed to pass multiple times. Despite many amendments and the approval of the Senate, George W Bush threatened to veto the bill if it were to reach his desk. Ultimately, the bill proposals were dropped, until the Obama administration came into power. The inclusion of the bill in federal law puts crime committed due to discrimination based on the victim's gender, sexual orientation, disability, or gender identity, under hate-crime motives (Department of Justice, 2023).

The Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) policy was passed in 1994 under the Clinton administration Since the Revolutionary war, discharging military personnel under the suspicion or reason that they were homosexual was an understood practice. The DADT policy was aimed to prohibit the discharging or discrimination of military personnel, while at the same time disallowing individuals to identify openly as homosexual. Should any individual openly disclose their sexual orientation, they would no longer be protected by this policy, and would be once again under threat of being discharged. In September 2011, the Obama administration formally repealed the policy, allowing any and all non-heterosexual individuals to openly serve in the US military without the fear of facing repercussions (Slack, 2012).

In late July 2012, for the first time in US political history, the Democratic party supported the inclusion of LGBT rights as a prominent point of focus for the Democratic party's policy statement. While during this time no set promises or reveals were made, the public democratic support for same-sex marriage was pushing the discussion of LGBT-rights into the limelight. In previous times, Obama had said that he considered the issue of homosexual marriage to be a state matter as opposed to a federal one. Now, topics of LGBT-rights,

including same-sex marriage, were to be spoken about on the federal level (Associated Press, 2012).

Another landmark legal ruling was that of State v. Windsor, 570 US 744 (2013). A step closer to the acceptance of same-sex marriage, this Supreme Court civil rights case ruled that the denial of recognition of same-sex marriages under the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was violating an individual's Fifth Amendment. Edith Windsor survived her spouse, Thea Spyer, and upon being denied the estate tax exemption for surviving spouses by Section 3 of DOMA, sued the federal government. In June of 2013, the court ruled that Section 3 of DOMA was in fact unconstitutional and that the federal government must recognize same-sex marriages that had been legally approved in the individual states (Wikisource, 2013).

Following State v. Windsor, the next landmark decision made was the legalization of same-sex marriage. On June 26, 2015, the US made global news when the Supreme Court decided to legalize same-sex marriage across all US territory, making it the seventeenth country in the world that has done so. The decision made during State v. Windsor provided a significant push for lawsuits to be made that would challenge the ban on same-sex marriage in individual states. On the 26th of June in 2015, the Supreme Court delivered the final verdict in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges 576 US 644 (2015). Herein, the right to marry was extended to everyone on the basis of the Due Process Clause, the Equal protection Clause, and the Fourteenth Amendment (Human Rights Campaign, 2015).

Although the Obama era ended on a melancholy note for the LGBT community with the Pulse terrorist attack, it has nonetheless seen a tremendous amount of progress in terms of LGBT-rights. Decades-old policies were overruled in favor of new, modern, inclusive ones. As such, overall, this era was held in high regard by the LGBT community, with the community holding onto a relatively positive outlook for the future.

5.1.2.1. Political Address

As previously mentioned, during Obama's presidential era, many positive developments occurred for the LGBT community in America, among which was the legalization of same sex marriage. As such, there were many political and presidential speeches made regarding related matters that one can analyze for this thesis. In order to simplify the process and develop a larger body of data, several related speeches were merged together to be analyzed. This consists of a presidential address after the Mathew Shephard act was passed, and two White House pride month addresses.

Viewing the word frequency below, we can easily deduce that the topics of the political speeches are related to matters of the LGBT community, American rights and values, equality, laws, and perhaps patriotism. The frequent occurrence of words such as 'love', 'work', and 'can' suggest ideas of positivity, progress, and determination in the speeches. It showcases that Obama had an overall positive approach to the community, which also correlates with his actions and the progressive nature of his presidential era. Furthermore, the repetition of words such as 'peopl', 'nation', and 'america' suggests he also had a focus on the idea of unity and a collective well-being of the US and its citizens.

	word	freq
lgbt	lgbt	29
american	american	25
right	right	21
equal	equal	19
law	law	18
america	america	16
peopl	peopl	15
nation	nation	15
will	will	15
love	love	14
come	come	13
work	work	12
can	can	12

In combination with the word frequencies seen above, when one further investigates the statistically significant word associations, one might deduce a few other insights. Again, it is very clearly possible to see a strong focus on LGBT related issues, values, equality, and rights in the chosen political speeches, through the frequent and deliberate occurrence of words such as 'lgbt', 'american', 'equal', and 'right'. Furthermore, the association of "LGBT" with words like 'community', 'advance', 'support', and 'pride', may suggest to the reader a narrative that is centered around empowerment, community, and progress for the LGBT individuals in the United States. Similarly, the strong association of "equal" with 'treat', guarantee', 'law', and 'promote' implies a personal dedication to promoting such progress and empowerment of the community.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("lgbt","equal","right"), corlimit = 0.33)
$lgbt
      movement       communiti          harass         profess        american             hiv
          0.70            0.61            0.54            0.54            0.53            0.50
        advanc             aid            live            also          epidem          includ
          0.50            0.48            0.47            0.47            0.46            0.46
          born            citi           event           forti             inn          patron
          0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44
         polic          resist york administration-   agencies-open          appoint
          0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44
        candid         determin        distinct             due          embodi            hous
          0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44
      individu             job            open           posit          public          qualiti
          0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44            0.44
  senateconfirm         servant           white            part             ago          achiev
          0.44            0.44            0.44            0.43            0.43            0.43
         month          nation         support           servic       commemor          stonew
          0.42            0.41            0.40            0.38            0.38            0.38
           way         benefit      strengthen          employ        administr          commit
          0.38            0.38            0.36            0.36            0.36            0.36
         great            feder           pride           first
          0.36            0.35            0.35            0.34

$equal
    regardless     treat     guarant      morn   reaffirm   principl    marriag       ago     advanc
          0.63      0.54        0.54      0.54       0.54       0.50       0.42      0.39       0.39
           law   benefit       creat     entitl   american      becam    columbia  district      firm
          0.36      0.36        0.36      0.36       0.35       0.35       0.35      0.35       0.35
         legal politician         ran      rest        run   communiti      affect    promot  unfulfil
          0.35      0.35        0.35      0.35       0.35       0.35       0.35      0.35       0.35
       address   gratifi      inaugur    second      truli       well       found
          0.35      0.35        0.35      0.35       0.35       0.35       0.34

$right
   civil   support     adopt      arm     bring     care  decrimin   enhanc homosexu    infect     initi
    0.58      0.52      0.51     0.51      0.51     0.51      0.51     0.51     0.51      0.51      0.51
  intern    number    outlaw  partner     polici   provid     reduc    secur spectrum      tell  workplac
    0.51      0.51      0.51     0.51      0.51     0.51      0.51     0.51     0.51      0.51      0.51
  advanc       way       law   measur       also   nation       aid    whose      ago   citizen     stand
    0.47      0.47      0.45     0.44       0.42     0.41      0.39     0.37     0.37      0.37      0.37
    full      live     pride   celebr        hiv    servic     coupl    learn     must     level    around
    0.37      0.36      0.35     0.34       0.34     0.34      0.34     0.34     0.34      0.34      0.34
   fight  commemor    stonew   epidem     includ    ensur     exist     forc     join      rang      wide
    0.34      0.34      0.34     0.34       0.34     0.34      0.34     0.34     0.34      0.34      0.34
```

This positive tone can also be clearly seen in the sentiment analysis of the texts. As one can see below, the overall average syuzhet score is at 0.68, indicating a strong positive sentiment in the message as well as the way the message was presented.

```
> summary(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-3.0000  0.0000  0.0000  0.6805  1.3000  5.2500
```

When looking at the survey sentiment analysis, trust, joy, and anticipation are the three most prominent emotion categories utilized, explaining the positive sentiment score seen above. One can also see that the rest of the emotion categories have relatively high counts of use. Considering the word associations that include 'stonewall', 'infect', and 'hiv' among others, one can see that the president delved into the topics of these incidents. Given the nature of them (uprising and epidemic), it can perhaps be assumed that many of these negative sentiment words were utilized in accordance with these topics. Nonetheless, the predominant message of the text was shown to be positive, in favor of the LGBT community.

Survey sentiments
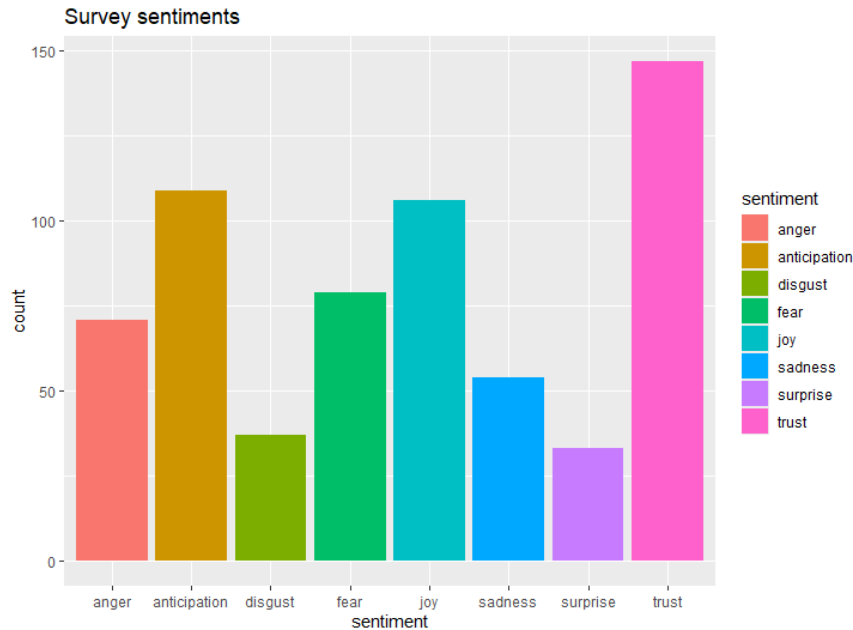
5.1.2.1. Fox News and CNN Comparison
5.1.2.1.a Matthew Shephard Act and Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT)

The decision to merge the analysis of these two topics came from the often-interrelated mention of each topic in the selected articles. The repeal of DADT was particularly possible through the passing of the Matthew Shephard Act. From the word frequencies, we can observe different thematic emphases. In the CNN news source (right), the terms 'Obama', 'law', 'right', 'gay', 'crime', 'repeal', and 'hate' stand out the most. This may indicate a primary focus on legal aspects of the development that is being reported on, as well as possibly addressing hate and hate crimes towards the LGBT community. In the Fox News source (left), the primary word frequencies are 'crime', 'will', 'crew', 'military', 'hate', and 'homosexual'. While CNN seems to focus more on the legislative and civil rights aspects of the report, Fox News appears to lean more towards topics of the military, defense, and potentially religious ('religi') viewpoints. This appears to be one of the first times the topic of religion was repeatedly brought up parallel to the topic.

```
crime     crime    16        obama    obama    18
will      will     15        law      law      16
crew      crew     12        right    right    14
militari  militari 11        gay      gay      12
hate      hate     11        crime    crime    12
homosexu  homosexu 10        polici   polici   11
bill      bill      9        repeal   repeal   10
defens    defens    8        hate     hate     10
religi    religi    7        bill     bill      9
dadt      dadt      6        feder    feder     9
repeal    repeal    6        militari militari  8
soldier   soldier   6        presid   presid    8
view      view      6        call     call      8
right     right     6        work     work      7
```

Looking at the word correlations, coupled with frequencies provided, the word "hate" is strongly associated with words like "crime," "local," "prosecut," "state," "law," and "offici." This suggests that hate crime legislation as well as its enforcement are unsurprisingly prominent themes around the Matthew Shepard Act discussion. The word "homosexu" associates with words like "will," "belief," "view," "sin," "biblic," "military," and "soldier." One might argue that this highlights the conflict between religious/moral beliefs and the acceptance of LGBT individuals in military service. The rather strong presence of religious terms in the article may indicate that it is strongly framed around beliefs and moral viewpoints, as well as the practical implications for the military that stem from them ("soldier," "forc").

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("hate","homosexu","religi"), corlimit = 0.33)
$hate
      crime       local    prosecut       state       legisl      report     current     general     investig
       0.89        0.68        0.68        0.62        0.54        0.50        0.48        0.48        0.48
      offici      statut      combat      commit       grant      juvenil       ensur       final   general er
       0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48
     highest      holder       incid        near     prioriti     testifi    fbi sinc         law
       0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48        0.48        0.39

$homosexu
        will      belief        view        forc        hold         sin      biblic     concern    disciplin       might
        0.68        0.61        0.61        0.52        0.52        0.52        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42
    orthodox     militari     soldier
        0.42        0.36        0.36

$religi
     liberti       might      clergi        form        view         ask        fear        take
        0.52        0.52        0.52        0.49        0.42        0.41        0.41        0.41
     allianc        ariz      coalit    conflict      denomin    director      endors      execut
        0.41        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
        meet       newli    scottsdal     sponsor    inconsist      modifi      prayer       requir
        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
   statement       tenet     worship         abl        bunk       close      exercis        free
        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
        live        mate         may       privat      pulpit     quarter       share       sleep
        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
       stori      trench    uncomfort        away        case      defend       produc       thoma
        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
      troxel       video       worst          "        colleg      express      ground       known
        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
      murder        name      public   shepard act    student        wyom     matthew      demint
        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
        loud       peopl         rsc     sen jim     thought      toward        warn      whether
        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
      around        bias         fbi     frequent        half       motiv        next      orient
        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
     percent      racial      sexual      belief     support
        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.34        0.34
```

When looking at the CNN article, there is a strong legislative focus on the topic. The frequency of "obama" (18) and "presid" (8) further suggests the emphasis on the role of Obama and his administration in advocating and enacting legislative changes. The word "homosexu" correlating with terms like 'abort', 'bias', 'concern', and 'controversial' may suggest that its discussion is framed within broader debates about social issues, such as abortion. There is a lack of frequent religious terms in the article, in comparison to the Fox News source. Nonetheless, it is interesting that the word associations between "homosexu" and "religi" are overlapping. This may suggest that discussions on these social issues and its legislation is intrinsically linked.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("hate","homosexu","religi"), corlimit = 0.30)
$hate
     crime    expand  challeng   contend     exist     oppon   specifi   suffici    legisl      bill
      0.92      0.65      0.58      0.58      0.58      0.58      0.58      0.58      0.55      0.54
      base       law   protect     peopl     civil     feder     right     first    measur    gender
      0.52      0.49      0.48      0.48      0.45      0.43      0.42      0.40      0.40      0.39
      ident      hail     major      byrd     sever particular  communiti    speech  prosecut     final
      0.39      0.39      0.39      0.39      0.39      0.39      0.39      0.37      0.37      0.30
      need       one   shepard     relat
      0.30      0.30      0.30      0.30

$homosexu
     abort    belief      bias   concern controversi    crimin   express    racial   subject
      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00
      use    violent    speech  prosecut      base   conserv     sever  hatecrim     howev
      1.00      1.00      0.89      0.89      0.75      0.70      0.70      0.70      0.70
    holder     relat       law     group       act
      0.57      0.57      0.47      0.44      0.32

$religi
     abort    belief      bias   concern controversi    crimin   express    racial   subject
      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00      1.00
      use    violent    speech  prosecut      base   conserv     sever  hatecrim     howev
      1.00      1.00      0.89      0.89      0.75      0.70      0.70      0.70      0.70
    holder     relat       law     group       act
      0.57      0.57      0.47      0.44      0.32
```

Interestingly, we are beginning to see a stronger difference when comparing the sentiment scores for the two sources. When discussing the repeal of DADT and the passing of the Matthew Shepherd act, the average article sentiment of the Fox News source was -0.03. While minutely negative, it is interesting to see that it is nonetheless different to the CNN source, which stands at +0.12. Previously, both sources had similar approaches to the analyzed topics, so this marks an interesting change.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
    Min.  1st Qu.   Median     Mean  3rd Qu.     Max.
-3.05000  0.00000  0.00000 -0.02952  0.15000  4.30000

> summary CNN(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median     Mean 3rd Qu.     Max.
-3.05000  0.00000  0.00000  0.12250  0.43750  3.30000
```

This change is interesting to see as when looking at the survey sentiment graphs (left: Fox News, right: CNN), one can notice it is highly similar in the distribution of emotion sentiments. That being said, when taking into consideration the word associations as well as the

frequencies of the articles, it may be possible to deduce that the words utilized with negative associations are perhaps contextually more important in the Fox News article, to the extent that it would impact the sentiment scores to this extent.
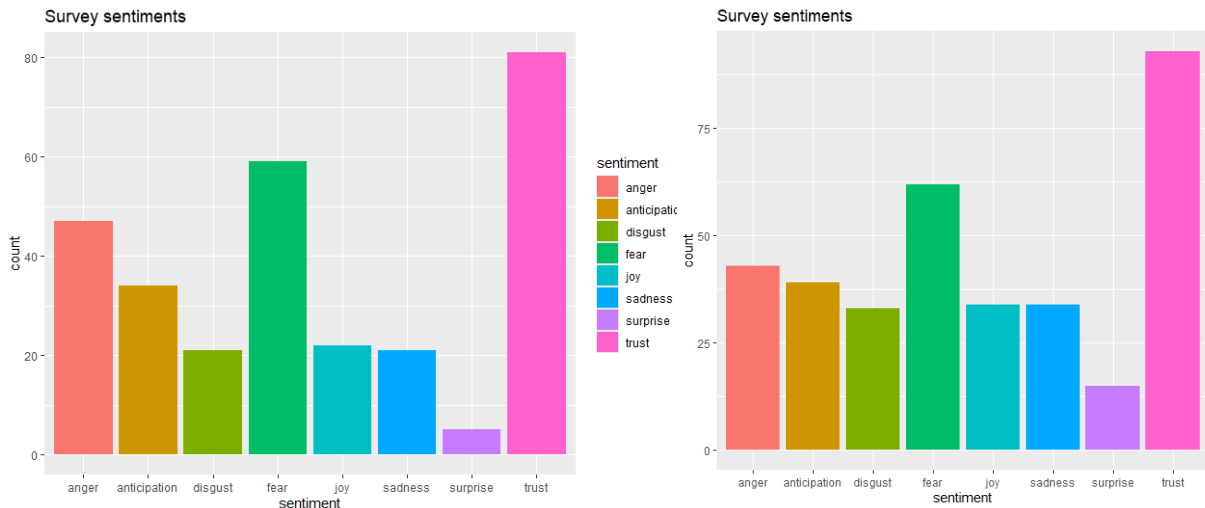
5.1.2.1.b   Democratic Party Statement

Looking at the word frequencies of both sources (left: Fox, right: CNN), we see that both sources had different approaches to the topic at hand. CNN heavily focused on the issue of same-sex marriage as a primary topic. With mentions of 'romney' and 'republican', it may also suggest that the article discussed the opposing party's stance or reaction to the mater. With 'parti' and 'democrat' being the central terms used in the Fox article, it suggests that heavy emphasis was being placed on the actions of the Democratic party and Obama. While CNN focuses on the intersection of Obama's stance on same-sex marriage in the next campaign, Fox News appears to concentrate on the Democrats more broadly.

parti	parti	17		marriag	marriag	16
democrat	democrat	16		obama	obama	10
marriag	marriag	15		presid	presid	8
presid	presid	15		sex	sex	8
obama	obama	11		republican	republican	8
gay	gay	10		romney	romney	8
support	support	8		campaign	campaign	8
group	group	8		new	new	7
sex	sex	7		event	event	6
interest	interest	7		obama'	obama'	6
convent	convent	6		monday	monday	5
countri	countri	6		recent	recent	5
nation	nation	5		support	support	5
year	year	5		will	will	5
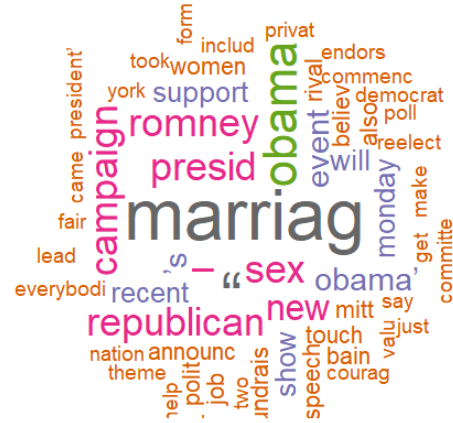
Fox News' associations to the word "right" include "debate," "constitu," "corpor," "decad," "trial," "cautionari," "claim," "backlash," "polit," and "society." It suggests a multifaceted debate over the issue of same sex marriage, covering constitutional arguments as well as long term social and cautionary perspectives on the matter. With words like "pastor," "controversi," "activist," "leftward," "pressur," and "backlash," it seems the article also tackles the difficult topics of campaigning, including the necessity to gather votes and listen to group of people with influence.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("right","campaign","gay"), corlimit = 0.32)
$right
      debat      constitu     contribut        face         name        reason
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.49          0.49
    respond         simpl         corpor       decad         ensu         follow
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.49          0.49
   footstep         later         lawyer       loyal        trial         worker
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.49          0.49
        ask     cautionari          claim     connect       fought          peopl
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.49          0.49
    people"          serv           tale     "parti       countri          core
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.36          0.32
    african       backlash         desper        need environmentalist        hear
       0.32          0.32          0.32        0.32         0.32          0.32
    hickori        member            old       polit      society"        "humbl
       0.32          0.32          0.32        0.32         0.32          0.32

$campaign
     desper          need         pastor       obama        black        presid          vote      announc       continu
       0.70          0.70          0.66        0.61         0.58         0.56          0.55         0.49          0.49
 controversi        endors         launch      report         stir       surfac        though      tuesday       courtesi
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.49         0.49          0.49         0.49          0.49
    discuss         given           owen        repli          rev         urg         voter      william       withdraw
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.49         0.49          0.49         0.49          0.49
    constitu      contribut          face        name       reason      respond         simpl     activist         ballot
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.49         0.49          0.49         0.49          0.49
       bear           box           cash       demand        exact       expect         front       kabuki       leftward
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.49         0.49          0.49         0.49          0.49
       much       perform      politician       posit      pressur      regular        reluct         sure           team
       0.49          0.49          0.49        0.49         0.49         0.49          0.49         0.49          0.49
     terribl          issu         nation      marriag      support         move         becam        final         monday
       0.49          0.43          0.40        0.34         0.33         0.32          0.32         0.32          0.32
   statement          core         opposit      african       coalit       grant       backlash         danc          liber
       0.32          0.32          0.32        0.32         0.32         0.32          0.32         0.32          0.32
       know          chang           mani
       0.32          0.32          0.32

$gay
       issu         becam         desper        need      activist       ballot         bear          box          cash
       0.69          0.60          0.60        0.60         0.58         0.58          0.58         0.58          0.58
     demand         exact         expect       front        kabuki      leftward         much      perform    politician
       0.58          0.58          0.58        0.58         0.58         0.58          0.58         0.58          0.58
      posit        pressur        regular      reluct         sure         team       terribl        obama          just
       0.58          0.58          0.58        0.58         0.58         0.58          0.58         0.53          0.46
    marriag         presid           move       final         core         danc         liber         know          chang
       0.44          0.44          0.37        0.37         0.37         0.37          0.37         0.37          0.37
       mani      communiti
       0.37          0.35
```

When looking at the CNN article word associations, the analysis also suggests the article went into a detailed exploration of the political, social, and legal dimensions of the Democratic Party's new focus on same-sex marriage. The consistent mentioning of figures like Obama and Biden suggests that the support of key political figures is significant in the discussions around this topic. This analysis also further supports the previous analysis which showcased the different approaches the two sources had to this topic; CNN takes a more figure-centric approach, whereas Fox News discusses the actions of the Democratic Party in general.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("marriag","campaign","gay"), corlimit = 0.30)
$marriag
         sex      announc      support        presid       barack        equal   "strengthen         last
        0.71         0.61         0.52          0.47         0.42         0.42          0.42         0.42
        week       appear        view"        biden'      comment         hous        intend          joe
        0.42         0.42         0.42          0.42         0.42         0.42          0.42         0.42
       offici      opinion         push        reveal       sooner       sunday          vice        white
        0.42         0.42         0.42          0.42         0.42         0.42          0.42         0.42
      debate"        endur     fundament          man       matter          may           one      principl
        0.42         0.42         0.42          0.42         0.42         0.42          0.42         0.42
 relationship        today        topic        woman"      "cultur         show         touch          say
        0.42         0.42         0.42          0.42         0.42         0.41          0.37         0.32
        york       endors       recent
        0.32         0.32         0.31

$campaign
    governor massachusett       privat        romney       attack         bite         capit        equiti
        0.81         0.81         0.65          0.60         0.57         0.57          0.57         0.57
        firm        still         time         trail       andrea      attempt     campaign'         creat
        0.57         0.57         0.57          0.57         0.57         0.57          0.57         0.57
       experi         fail       nation"        pivot       record      respond       romney'         saul
        0.57         0.57         0.57          0.57         0.57         0.57          0.57         0.57
      sector    spokesman       "welcom          job       monday         took          help        former
        0.57         0.57         0.57          0.53         0.48         0.47          0.47         0.47
        obama         mitt         bain        defens         play         back           gop       discuss
        0.45         0.39         0.39          0.38         0.38         0.38          0.38         0.38
         day        entir
        0.38         0.38

$gay
      announc        admir       affirm          ago       belief       courag     equality"       introduc         kind        prior
        0.70         0.70         0.70          0.70         0.70         0.70          0.70           0.70         0.70         0.70
        stage           "          abc       conduct     disapprov         full        implic      interview       remain       survey
        0.70         0.70         0.70          0.70         0.70         0.70          0.70           0.70         0.70         0.70
      verdict    wednesday      support         show         year       martin        expect           last         like         week
        0.70         0.70         0.62          0.62         0.48         0.48          0.48           0.48         0.48         0.48
         news         seen     american        approv        coupl        entir        gallup          marri          two         poll
        0.48         0.48         0.48          0.48         0.48         0.48          0.48           0.48         0.39         0.39
       endors   president'       releas         polit
        0.39         0.39         0.39          0.33
```

In the sentiment analysis, we once again see relative agreement between the two sources (positive score), although there is nonetheless a clear difference in the significance of the score. Interestingly, both sources have a relatively positive approach to the debate albeit at different levels. Fox News has a mean score of +0.29, whereas CNN stands at a means core of +0.87. Both news sources appear to have delved into the societal conflicts a decision like this may entail; however, perhaps Fox News delved into it on a deeper level, thus decreasing the overall sentiment score.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-4.5000  0.0000  0.0000  0.2855  1.1125  3.6500

> summary CNN(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-0.4000  0.0000  0.0000  0.8657  1.6250  5.0500
```

This is further supported by the survey sentiment graphs (left: Fox, right: CNN). As can be seen below, both mirror each other in terms of the distribution. That being said, anticipation, fear, and disgust are more prevalent in the Fox News data. Accordingly, CNN utilizes slightly more positive vocabulary in the groups of joy and trust.
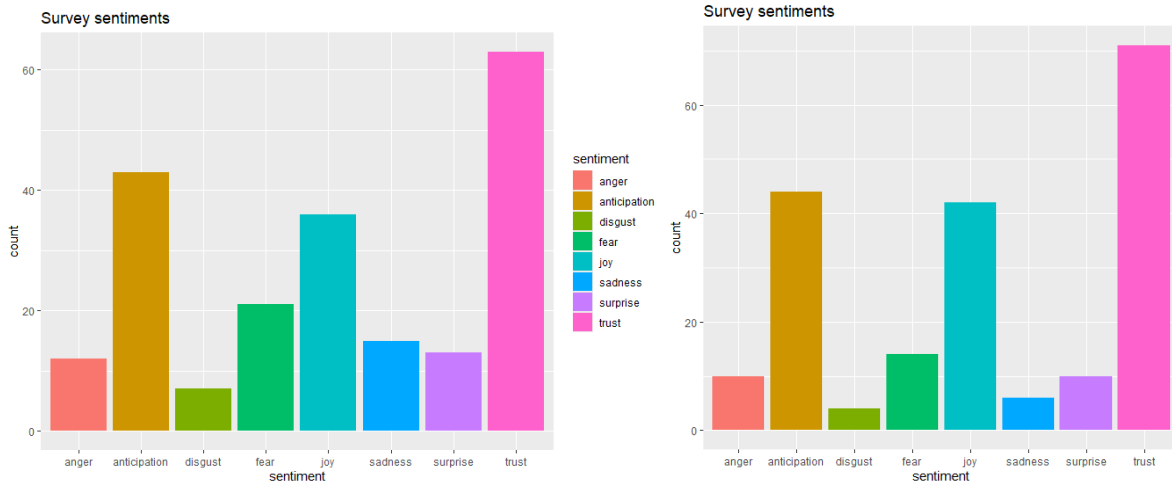
5.1.2.1.c   Same Sex Marriage

Based on these word frequencies, deducing the primary topic for both sources comes with ease. Both sources utilized legal terminology, indicating a strong focus on court decisions in respect to same sex marriage. CNN uses a high frequency of "gay," "gay marriage," alongside the use of "celebrate," suggesting a supportive stance towards the matter. Meanwhile, Fox News also mentions "gay" and "sex" in relation to marriage; however, the lower frequency in comparison to CNN may indicate a different focus or opinion on the topic. Overall, while Fox News also delves into the legal matters of the decision made, terms such as "refuse" and "religi-" may suggest a potential religious/moral angle to the reporting.

marriag	marriag	19		marriag	marriag	18
court	court	10		gay	gay	17
sex	sex	10		court	court	16
decis	decis	9		right	right	14
one	one	8		marri	marri	10
suprem	suprem	8		state	state	10
gay	gay	7		coupl	coupl	9
refus	refus	6		rule	rule	9
religi	religi	6		sex	sex	8
right	right	5		case	case	8
civil	civil	5		ban	ban	8
honor	honor	5		justic	justic	7
say	say	5		celebr	celebr	6

When it comes to association with "marriage", terms like 'redefine,' 'value,' 'religion,' 'heterosexual,' and 'status' perhaps suggests that Fox News is debating about the value this decision will bring to marriage, creating a tradition vs modern dichotomy. In addition to that, further association of words like 'cheapen' and 'counterfeit' may indicate a concern about the traditional concept of marriage. When it comes to the word "civil," words like 'right,' 'religion,' 'chapel,' and 'ceremony' suggest there is a discussion on civil rights and how they may intersect with religious freedoms, particularly when it comes to same sex marriage and contrasting religious practices/ideology. This is especially highlighted by the last term that was analyzed, which is "relationship." The significant correlation this word has with terms such as 'god,' 'jesus,' and 'unbiblical,' suggests a deep religious/moral framing of relationships, with an emphasis on traditional Christian beliefs. Including words such as 'adulteri', 'divorce', and 'deviat' may suggest Fox News delved further into other matters that deviate from traditional Christian marital norms. Overall, there is an incredibly strong emphasis on religious viewpoints, with religion framing this discussion.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("marriag","civil","relationship"), corlimit = 0.38)
$marriag
         gay          now          can       anytim       bother      cheapen        clear
        0.69         0.60         0.60         0.60         0.60         0.60         0.60
 counterfeit         everi         fair       includ        marri         real      redefin
        0.60         0.60         0.60         0.60         0.60         0.60         0.60
      someth        thing         valu "counterfeit        religi    heterosexu        right
        0.60         0.60         0.60         0.60         0.58         0.56         0.53
      status    taxexempt       expect        alito         also         drop         rate
        0.48         0.47         0.46         0.46         0.46         0.46         0.46
     adulteri        divorc    marriage"       reason       acceler        anyon          arm
        0.46         0.46         0.46         0.46         0.41         0.41         0.41
      bakeri          busi         case      ceremoni       chapel       consid      convict
        0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41
    embolden       enshrin     exponenti        first     floodgat      florist       guilti
        0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41
    individu         litig         open        oppos      particip     progress          put
        0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41
       ramif        right"         seen         suit        violat          wed       "civil
        0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41
        oral          elev     interraci         jone        organ organization-bob          par
        0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41
       point      prohibit      rational       recogn        revoc   university-       upheld
        0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41
       revok         refus          sex     argument        justic
        0.41         0.40         0.39         0.39         0.39
```

```
$civil
   expect      right     religi        gay       case        now      alito    acceler      anyon        arm     bakeri
     0.94       0.87       0.82       0.81       0.74       0.68       0.68       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65
     busi   ceremoni     chapel     consid    convict   embolden    enshrin   exponenti      first   floodgat    florist
     0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65
   guilti   individu      litig       open       oppos    particip   progress        put      ramif     right"       seen
     0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65
     suit     violat        wed     "civil     action      addit   administr        ask      coupl       deni      donald
     0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65
   expand    general government       hous     issue"       lose      obama      offer     requir    respond       risk
     0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65
   samuel   solicitor   verrilli   verrilli      refus     status       oral   taxexempt      decis      honor      legal
     0.65       0.65       0.65       0.65       0.58       0.56       0.52       0.49       0.48       0.43       0.42
  alreadi      april   argument        can      colleg    institut     justic     repeat
     0.42       0.42       0.42       0.42       0.42       0.42       0.42       0.42

$relationship
     god'      best"       care    collect       fist     import      life'      repres
     0.91       0.85       0.85       0.85       0.85       0.85       0.85       0.85
    shake    adulteri      divorc     deviat       gift homosexuality-     origin       plan
     0.85       0.85       0.85       0.81       0.81       0.81       0.81       0.81
  polygami        sex      taught     unbibl     variat      woman  -premarit        say
     0.81       0.81       0.81       0.81       0.81       0.81       0.81       0.79
     face      don't       know      jesus          "        one
     0.67       0.56       0.56       0.53       0.41       0.38
```

Regarding CNN, it appears it frames the topic of equality marriage rights within a broader context of history ('stonewal', 'histor'), advocacy ('advoc'), and quick societal changes ('rapid,' 'recent'). CNN emphasizes the legal proceedings as well as public opinion ('opinion,' 'public,' 'historian,' 'landmark,') and appears to utilize wording that seemingly supports the advancements in same sex marriage rights. Unlike Fox News, there appears to be a significant lack of religious terminology in the text, signifying a lack of moral questioning and the traditionalist viewpoint.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("marriag","civil","right"), corlimit = 0.30)
$marriag
              gay              ban            state  affirmed grow            allow
             0.75             0.65             0.57             0.55             0.55
             fall            group           number pollreligiongaymarriag    rapid
             0.55             0.55             0.55             0.55             0.55
           recent             seen            swell         twothird           ushttp
             0.55             0.55             0.55             0.55             0.55
             come          perform         question            favor             year
             0.50             0.50             0.50             0.49             0.43
           recogn                -            decid           public         american
             0.40             0.38             0.38             0.35             0.35
        wwwcnncom           second          whether           assist           bursch
             0.35             0.35             0.35             0.35             0.35
           defend            defin           earlier          general           rather
             0.35             0.35             0.35             0.35             0.35
            relev             serv          special          states'             deko
             0.35             0.35             0.35             0.35             0.35
         tennesse             armi             pair            posit            refus
             0.35             0.35             0.35             0.35             0.35
              now            decis
             0.33             0.30

$civil
      one      advoc      divid  establish     friday       hand     histor   landmark    victori        day      eloqu        era
     0.81       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57
      inn    liberti     modern       near       riot      settl      spoke   stonewal      usher       valu     condemn     exclud
     0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57
    grant      hope"     loneli     oldest     right"    opinion    kennedi     famili   fundament    languag   movement    digniti
     0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.57       0.55       0.49       0.39       0.39       0.39       0.39       0.39
  institut        law        new     suprem      fight       love       york        eye   constitut
     0.39       0.39       0.37       0.30       0.30       0.30       0.30       0.30       0.30

$right
  opinion   movement        sex        gay      coupl    support      marri  fundament       year        abl     public       come
     0.61       0.59       0.56       0.46       0.45       0.43       0.42       0.42       0.42       0.42       0.42       0.42
    advoc      divid  establish     friday       hand     histor   landmark    victori        day      eloqu        era        inn
     0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41
  liberti     modern       near       riot      settl      spoke   stonewal      usher       valu      broke     exercis    galleri
     0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41
      key     sentenc    signific      smile       tear      utter       wipe    written      anthem     banner    campaign       clap
     0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41
     emot       flag      flood      free"      front      human      hundr       land     moment     nation      plaza      proud
     0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41
  rainbow      repres       sang  sidewalk       sign       sing       wave       wild      peopl        can  nationwid     suprem
     0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.40       0.35       0.35       0.32
  kennedi      equal        now
     0.31       0.30       0.30
```

Perhaps unsurprising, given the previous analysis, the sentiment scoring for these two sources on this matter differ greatly. For the first time, there is a vastly contrasting opinion of this matter, with Fox News measuring at -0.62 and CNN at +0.85. This does not come at a surprise, given the significant emphasis on the moral and religious dilemma posed from the conservative Christian perspective that Fox utilizes.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
 -2.050   0.000  -0.030  -0.618   0.800   2.040

> summary CNN(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
 -2.850   0.000   0.000   0.853   1.550   6.600
```

What perhaps comes as a bit more of a surprise is how similar the two sources are when it comes to the word distribution of the emotional sentiment categories (left: Fox, right: CNN). A big difference also lies in the fact that instead of 'joy' being the third highest category as it is for CNN, for Fox News, it is 'fear.' Nonetheless, the syuzhet sentiment scores are much better explained with the word association analysis, as opposed to the survey sentiment graphs.
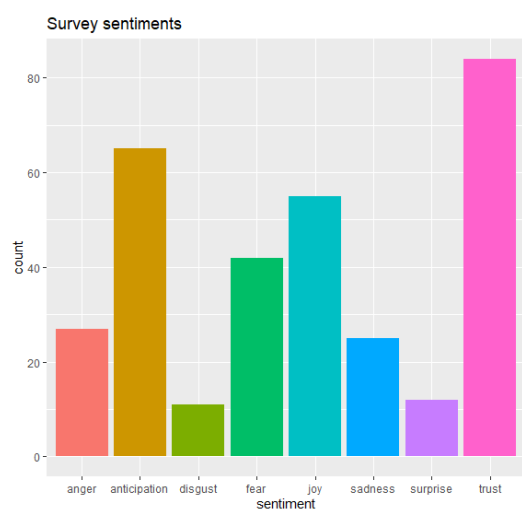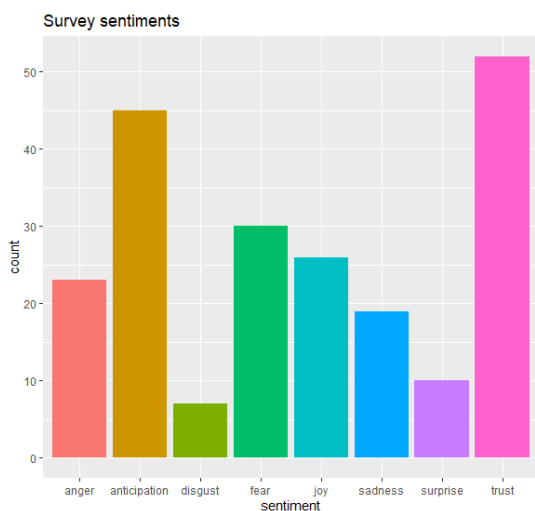
5.1.3. Donald Trump: 2017 – 2021

Despite being only an era of a one-term president, the Donald Trump presidency saw by far the largest number of major LGBT-relevant moments that had to be narrowed down to be analyzed in this thesis. In a complete juxtaposition of the previous era, the Donald Trump era witnessed a reversal in pro-active legal development of LGBT-Rights. Trump and Pence worked to dismantle much of the decisions and programs made by the Obama administration, seemingly shocking the world with their radical approach. The five most prominent events that have been recognized for this timeframe are: attempts to ban trans individuals from serving in the military (2017 and 2018), introduction of the Conscience and Religious Freedom division at the Department of Health, the Bureau of Prisons' changes to their transgender offender manual, opposition to the equality act, and lastly, the insurrection at the capitol. While the last events in not the result of direct LGBT activity, the movement has been sparked by a radical increase in far-right groups in protest of liberal development. As such, it is to remain as a consideration and be examined in case of links with the LGBT rights movement.

Near the start of his presidential term, Trump was active on social medias, namely on X - formerly known as Twitter. There, in July of 2017, he announced that "The United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military," (Human Rights Campaign, 2017). While Trump mentioned that this decision had been made under the guidance of Generals and military experts, uncovered emails showed that senior Pentagon leaders were caught by surprise by the decision (American Oversight, 2021). The informal announcement was further supported on August 28th, 2017, when Trump published a formal memorandum to advance with the ban on the enlistment of any transgender individuals, irrelevant of the position they apply for (Human Rights Campaign, 2017). This ban was not too long-lived as on the 13th October of 2017, the US House of Representatives passed a legislation to protect trans individuals who had enlisted and were serving in the military at the time of the memorandum. In addition to that, a few days later on the 30th of October, a federal judge blocked the ban, alongside another federal judge who did so in November (Human Rights Campaign, 2021). In early 2018, the Trump administration attempted to renew their ban; however, they were met with a rejection in an April 13 ruling, which claimed the new policy had not been altered or updated to pass muster since its original proposal. Expectations remained that the Trump administration was to keep trying to pass their proposed policy throughout the remainder of his term (HRC, 2018).

In early 2018, the Trump administration introduced the Division of Conscience and Religious Freedom (CRFD) at the Department of Health. According to the CRFD, the division has been

established to "restore federal enforcement of our nation's laws that protect the fundamental and unalienable rights of conscience and religious freedom," (First Liberty Institute, n.d.). Through the laws supported by this division, a license to discriminate will be enabled against anyone under the excuse of religious or conscientious disagreement. The division encourages the prioritization of religious beliefs of healthcare workers over the welfare of their patients and allows for workers to be able to deny health-related services if they conflict with their religious ideology. Going beyond gender-(re)affirming healthcare, these rules extend to providing or denying contraceptives, or even denying life-saving care if the patient's characteristics or behavior is perceived as contrary to the worker's religion or conscience (Raifman & Galea, 2018).

The topic of transgender criminal offenders is not entirely well-developed, particularly in regard to prison housing. It was under the Obama administration in 2016 that the Department of Justice formally released a guideline that would disallow correction agencies from placing trans inmates into prisons based on solely their biological gender. Under the Transgender Offender Manual (TOM), criminal housing was to be provided by "gender identity, when appropriate," (Gathright, 2018). Under the Trump administration, the TOM saw revisions made wherein housing was now determined on a case-by-case basis, with the initial determination being done by biological sex (Gathright, 2018). This decision significantly increased the chances of abuse, assault, and other means of discrimination against transgender inmates, with many human rights groups bringing up concerns for the safety of the offenders (Human Rights Campaign, 2018).

5.1.3.1. Political Address

Unlike the Obama administration that commemorated June as pride month, the Trump administration declined to recognize LGBT Pride Month up until 2019. As such, their archives do not entail any commemorative speeches about this matter. Though Trump was the first Republican president to eventually acknowledge LGBT Pride Month, doing so in a short, one-line statement. That being said, an unprecedented and significant decision of his presidency was the establishment of the Conscience and Religious Freedom Division at the department of health, directly interweaving religion into politics. Given this significant decision, his speech at the Faith & Freedom Coalition Gala was taken to be analyzed.

Unsurprisingly, given the context of the speech, faith-based wording is prominent in the speech. Words like 'import', 'will', 'believe', and 'faith' reflect that religion and belief is of significance to this speech. What is especially important of note is the higher frequency and emphasis on elections. As the word 'elect' appears six times, it implies a focus on the electoral

processes, voting, or political campaigns. This is particularly interesting as it appears that Trump is entangling his identity and campaign with the Christian community. While appealing to particular groups for elections is not anything new, considering the significant rise in religious associations in news reports during the Obama era, it makes for a particularly interesting point.

```
elect    elect    6
countri  countri  5
import   import   4
will     will     4
believ   believ   4
want     want     4
ever     ever     3
faith    faith    3
freedom  freedom  3
group    group    3
million  million  3
war      war      3
never    never    3
```


Overall, the word associations calculated alongside the word frequencies further indicate that the speech focuses on topics of faith, patriotism, values, and ideological beliefs ('freedom', 'defense', 'god', 'nation', 'religion', 'sinister', 'atheist') In addition to that, there is a suggestion that Trump delves into the ongoing societal and political struggles related to these themes. For example, the references to 'globalist', 'marxist', 'republic', 'righteous', and 'great' imply a discussion of national identity, political ideologies, as well as the defense of his perceived American virtues.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("faith","american","democraci"), corlimit = 0.25)
$faith
   freedom    defens      year       'll       god    nation      ever    import
      1.00      0.76      0.76      0.76      0.76      0.71      0.66      0.66
      will      want        's      alon     anoth christian    church    coalit
      0.66      0.66      0.57      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
   crucial       day      door      even    fought     group    harder      hell
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
      home     incred       job judeochristian knock      last  magnific   million
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
     ralph     reach       say      sinc     stand    strong     think    uphold
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
      valu    victori    volunt     voter    actual   almighti  approach     battl
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
    believ     belov   destroy       edg     enemi      evil     fight      forc
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
    gather      hate    histori       law      live  religion     rescu    scienc
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
     seven      side    sinist    teeter     today    tradit   tyranni      wage
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
       war       win     anyth  arsonist   atheist      away     crusad     don't
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
    either     first      flag       get globalist      good    happen     justic
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
       let    liberti   marxist       one     peopl     place     republ    restor
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
  righteous     room      sick      stop    togeth    warrior     waver    wonder
      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50      0.50
    countri     elect     never
      0.46      0.45      0.35

$american
     never        's    abolish    attack    belief   blasphem    border     child communism constitut   corrupt     creed      eras
      0.94      0.79      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66
     everi      fire      free      hard     impos      like       man     radic     religi     right       set     situat    speech
      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66
       tri      woke     woman     anyth  arsonist   atheist      away     crusad     don't    either     first      flag       get
      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66
  globalist     good    happen     justic       let    liberti    marxist      one     peopl     place     republ    restor  righteous
      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66
      room      sick      stop    togeth    warrior     waver    wonder      will      want     elect     defens       'll       've
      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.66      0.59      0.59      0.42      0.36      0.36      0.36
     great       god    nation       now
      0.36      0.36      0.36      0.36
```

```
$democraci
 actual almighti approach   battl believ  belov destroy    edg   enemi    evil   fight    forc  gather    hate
   1.00    1.00     1.00     1.00   1.00   1.00    1.00   1.00    1.00    1.00    1.00    1.00    1.00    1.00
 histori     law    live religion  rescu scienc   seven   side  sinist  teeter   today  tradit tyranni    wage
   1.00    1.00     1.00     1.00   1.00   1.00    1.00   1.00    1.00    1.00    1.00    1.00    1.00    1.00
    war     win     year      god nation    now freedom    're
   1.00    1.00     0.66     0.66   0.66   0.66    0.50   0.38
```

The overall mean sentiment score lies at a +0.31, indicating a positive approach to the topic. Given the rather significant number of negatively connotated words ('evi', 'tyranni', 'war', etc.), this comes off as a bit of a surprise.

```
> summary(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-1.4000 -0.6000  0.0000  0.3111  0.0000  3.3000
```

The three largest emotion categories in his speech are trust, fear, and anticipation. While trust is significantly high and anticipation can have a both positive and negative association, fear is significantly negatively associated. The results nonetheless give a clear indicator that Trump has a positive sentiment association with the topic of Christianity and his political campaign.
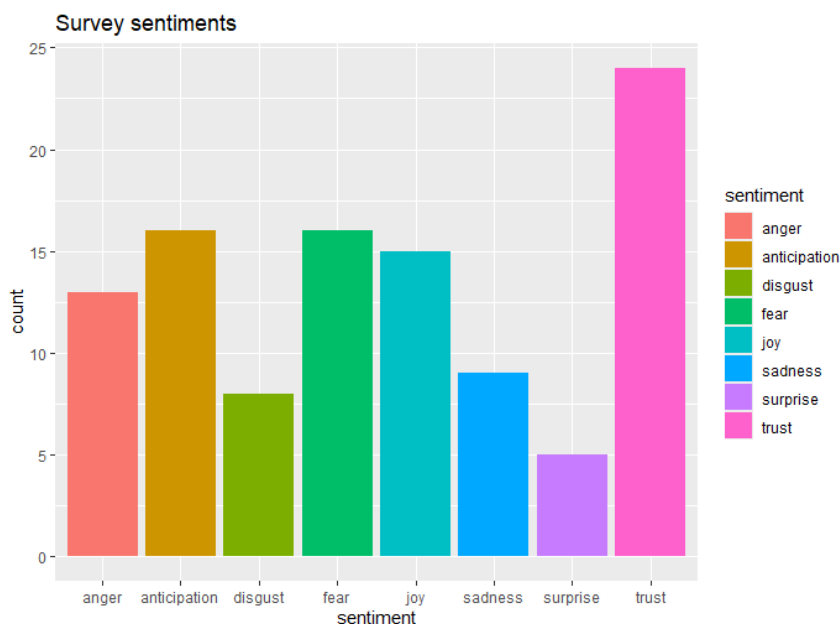
5.1.3.2. Fox News and CNN Comparison
5.1.3.2.a   Trans Ban

In the CNN article (right), the high frequency of "transgend" (40), "militari" (39), and "polici" (35) indicates a primary focus on the policies affecting transgender individuals in the military. On the other hand, Fox News (left) first utilized more of "militari" (14). Alongside the frequency of "polici" (8), it may indicate a focus on military policy before the emphasis of transgender individuals. CNN appears to create a narrative that centers itself around the experiences and rights of trans individuals, with context provided from a broad legal and societal perspective. Fox News may have created a narrative that primarily focuses on the broader concept of

military policy and the medical consideration ('dysphoria'), although also addressing the impact this decision has on transgender military personnel.

```
militari     militari     14        transgend transgend  40
transgend transgend       10        militari     militari  39
polici         polici      8        polici         polici  35
trump           trump      6        serv             serv  20
individu     individu      5        ban               ban  18
presid         presid      5        allow           allow  15
defens         defens      5        trump           trump  14
gender         gender      5        individu     individu  13
ban               ban      4        defens         defens  13
pentagon     pentagon      4        servic         servic  13
dysphoria dysphoria        4        court           court  13
servic         servic      4        effect         effect  11
depart         depart      4        presid         presid  10
lgbt             lgbt      4        depart         depart  10
medic           medic      3        will             will  10
```
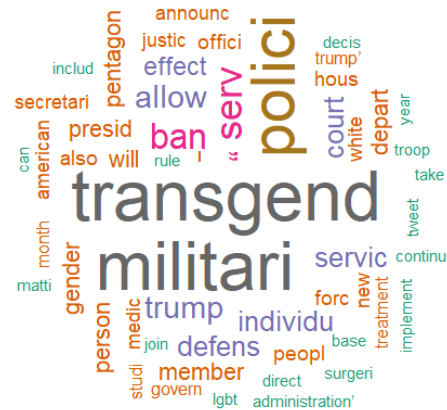
When looking at the word associations of the Fox News article, terms like "burden," "disrupt," "undermine," "unreason," and "tremend" in association to "military" suggest that the article may be delving into potential challenges of allowing transgender individuals to serve openly in the military. Words like "health," "mental," "physical," and "dysphoria" further suggests that arguments are also being made about the medical and psychological characteristics of transgender service members, which may bring about questions of their ability to meet military standards ("cohesion," "standard," "unit").

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("militari","trump","lgbt"), corlimit = 0.31)
$militari
     burden      disrupt    transgend     dysphoria        effect         also          appli         cohes
       0.66         0.66         0.53          0.51          0.48         0.46           0.46          0.46
    conduct       exempt         find     furthermor        health        impos         mental           mot
       0.46         0.46         0.46          0.46          0.46         0.46           0.46          0.46
     physic        readi       sexbas       standard      undermin         unit       unreason wellestablish
       0.46         0.46         0.46          0.46          0.46         0.46           0.46          0.46
    without         cost       entail          focus          must    overwhelm           time        tremend
       0.46         0.46         0.46          0.46          0.46         0.46           0.46          0.46
     victori       gender       includ         person         lethal     individu         presid         servic
       0.46         0.45         0.45          0.45          0.45         0.41           0.41          0.41
      medic       member       depart
       0.37         0.37         0.36
```

```
$trump
        donald            push            read           allow            abil          follow            join
          0.54            0.54            0.40            0.40            0.38            0.38            0.38
          made           offici           pledg       transgend            year           accus   antitransgend
          0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38
      campaign            civil           human         largest            onto           organ         prejudic
          0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38
         right            back           brave          closet          fulfil         instead          insult
          0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38
          mike          nation'            oath         patriot            penc         protect            real
          0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38
         shove          uniform            wear          exercis        februari        independ             jim
          0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38
      judgment           matti            part            sent   memorandum lay          accept           barack
          0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38
         capac            feder  government wil            juli      move caught           obama         pentagon
          0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38
        revers          surpris           tweet           began           block         challeng          enlist
          0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38
       januari           legal            seek           sever             ban
          0.38            0.38            0.38            0.38            0.31

$lgbt
      democrat          nation           advoc            came          critic      leadership           parti           quick
          0.69            0.53            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48
         accus   antitransgend        campaign           civil           human         largest            onto           organ
          0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48
      prejudic           right            bill          caucus           chair        chairman        committe        derrough
          0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48
           dnc            earl           fowlk             gay            open           perez         prevent            sign
          0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48
           tom         treasur           activ        advocaci          around            corp            duti           estim
          0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48
         figur           group            near            rand          report          reserv
          0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48            0.48
```

Word associations from the CNN text are relatively similar with Fox news. At the same time, there are different emphases on matters, which can be seen in the order of associations. For example, when it comes to "military," while Fox appears to delve into the possible negative impacts of allowing trans individuals to join the military, CNN more so appears to delve into consultation and discussions with upper military management ('general,' 'advis,' 'consult,' 'expert'). Without context, the CNN news report may be suggesting that expert consultation occurred before this decision. That being said, the actual news report stated a *lack* of military personnel and expert consultation. This is further made difficult when the association of 'advoc' and 'met' is made with "Trump." In this case, the article took a direct quote from Trump where he stated he had met and discussed this decision with his generals. Upon further investigation, the generals later refuted his claim. This comes to show the careful need to understand the context of the articles when making these analyses.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("militari","trump","lgbt"), corlimit = 0.27)
$militari
  accept     general      advis     burden      capac    consult    disrupt    entail"     expert      focus  military"
    0.61        0.61       0.59       0.59       0.59       0.59       0.59       0.59       0.59       0.59       0.59
    must    overwhelm      pleas    tremend       unit  transgend          "      decis       cost      tweet     victori
    0.59        0.59       0.59       0.59       0.59       0.58       0.56       0.52       0.51       0.48       0.46
   state        medic   individu       will       join      allow       juli      activ     leader     physic      associ
    0.45        0.43       0.42       0.42       0.38       0.32       0.31       0.31       0.31       0.31       0.31
  govern
    0.28

$trump
  surpris      victori      advis     burden      capac    consult    disrupt    entail"     expert      focus  military"
    0.56        0.56       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52
    must    overwhelm      pleas    tremend       unit  transgend      tweet     direct          "       took     accept
    0.52        0.52       0.52       0.52       0.52       0.50       0.50       0.41       0.41       0.41       0.41
 general       govern   individu       cost      state      allow       plan       serv   homeland      chief      joint
    0.41        0.41       0.36       0.34       0.34       0.33       0.33       0.33       0.33       0.33       0.33
  leader        troop      tweet   secretari
    0.33        0.29       0.29       0.28
```

```
$lgbt
        call          back        trump'      progress         notion        reject        rhetor
        0.66          0.62          0.62          0.62          0.44          0.44          0.44
         vow          walk         advoc          argu          civil         face          flew
        0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44
      impact           met         minim          parti         rebuk          show    widespread
        0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44
     advocaci        attack        countri discriminatori        group          live          push
        0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44
      volunt       activist          blow    court allow          deal          irrat       tuesday
        0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44
      suprem         cener       communic         laura        project      research "dehumanizing"
        0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44          0.44
       right      american        amount       campaign       discrimin       insist        revers
        0.39          0.30          0.30          0.30          0.30          0.30          0.30
       cruel          vice         durso
        0.30          0.30          0.30
```

When looking at the syuzhet vectors, we can see a surprising similarity in the sentiment
between the two sources. Fox News appears to have a minutely better sentiment score, with
+0.27, whereas CNN stands at +0.09. To a certain extent, it appears that both news sources
took a more pragmatic and neutral approach to the topic, albeit still leaning more towards the
positive side. Given the past approaches to topics such as these, seeing a rather neutral
approach for CNN is rather surprising.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-2.5500  0.0000  0.0000  0.2700  0.2000  7.4500

> summary CNN(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-2.3500  0.0000  0.0000  0.0884  0.3625  4.4000
```

This might be explained with the significantly higher number of 'trust' words in both news
sources. At the same time, we can see that 'fear' is the second most prominent category.
This may explain the rather subdued results, with the sentiment numbers leaning more to
neutral.
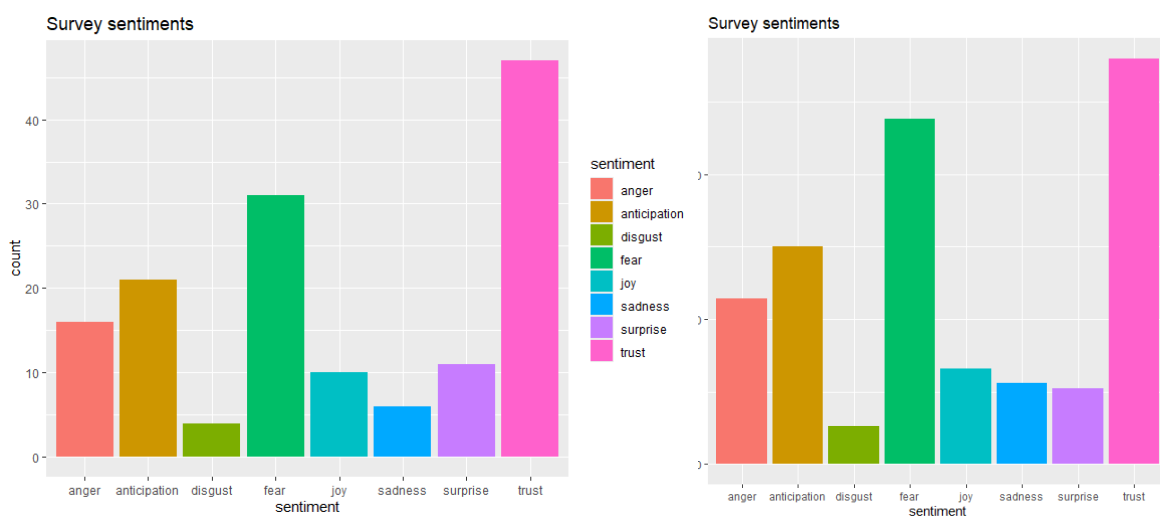
5.1.3.2.b CRFD

It is interesting to see the difference between the emphasis of these two sources on the topic of the Conscience and Religious Freedom Division. In the CNN article (right), we see the most frequently used words being "rule" and "right," when, taking them together into consideration, joint by other frequent words like "protect" and "final," perhaps suggests a legal and regulatory focus on the new division's rules and aims. On the other hand, these same words, when paired with "civil" and "liberti" suggest a discussion on civil rights and liberties. This may devolve into a discussion on the balance of religious freedoms and civil liberties of other unrelated groups. On the other hand, Fox News (left) appears to have much more prominent religious and freedom emphasis, possibly creating a discourse on religious rights. Additionally, Fox presents a unique emphasis on Trump and his presidential actions through terms like "trump," "presid," and "promis." All in all, CNN may appear to focus on the regulatory and civil right aspects with a broad implication for the healthcare, while Fox News primarily appears to focus on the religious aspect, highlighting Trump's role on the matter as well as conservative values.

religi	religi	22		rule	rule	12
trump	trump	15		right	right	12
conscienc	conscienc	13		religi	religi	9
presid	presid	12		health	health	9
conserv	conserv	10		civil	civil	8
court	court	10		protect	protect	7
health	health	10		final	final	7
liberti	liberti	9		care	care	7
freedom	freedom	9		patient	patient	6
protect	protect	9		will	will	6
rule	rule	9		offic	offic	6
promis	promis	8		statement	statement	6
life	life	8		conscienc	conscienc	5
care	care	8		liberti	liberti	5
abort	abort	7		new	new	4

When looking at the Fox News article, the frequent association of "religion" with words like "liberty," "freedom," "life," "protect," and "civil," indicates a prominent repetition of the idea of protection of religious liberties and freedoms, possibly suggesting they are essential and fundamental rights. With the associations with Trump, it is interesting to see the extend of Christian and moral association. Words like "christian," "moral," "faith," and "proreligion" undoubtedly suggest his strong alignment with religious conservative ideology.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("religi","trump","lgbt"), corlimit = 0.31)
$religi
     littl    liberti    freedom       life     import     arguabl     cultur       fidel       inde     modern
      0.64       0.59       0.59       0.51       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49
    rather      stick      think       wage        war     welcom     wonder     conserv       year     attack
      0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.49       0.43       0.43       0.43
 contracept     sister    protect      court      civil      suprem       feder       offic       ever       take
      0.43       0.43       0.41       0.38       0.38       0.35       0.34       0.32       0.32       0.32
     first
      0.32

$trump
  christian      moral        may     conserv      presid        one      promis       ever
      0.76       0.61       0.61       0.57       0.47       0.47       0.47       0.47
    actress       porn     appoint       year       admir     behavior     comment     deepli
      0.44       0.44       0.44       0.44       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43
     deserv      doubt       excus        far        flaw       gone        keep      leader
      0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43
        man      offens        past      person      qualiti      ration abortionright        ago
      0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43
   campaign     complain      exact       front       lobbi       naral       pledg    relentless
      0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43
       seen         ten      unborn       worst        come     exemplar       faith        good
      0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43       0.43
 proreligion     uphold        work        life        done      suprem      import       stand
      0.43       0.43       0.43       0.42       0.41       0.38       0.36       0.33
      offic     administr      feder
      0.33       0.32       0.32

$lgbt
      amid      among     cathol     caught     critic      debat   intersect      renew     repeat   reproduct
      1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00
    shield    surround      thing     agenda        hhs       came     mandat   leftlean contracept      regul
      1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       1.00       0.70       0.70       0.70       0.57       0.57
     includ       issu    administr     entiti      group    freedom
      0.49       0.49       0.43       0.40       0.39       0.31
```

One can see differences in the discussion when comparing the above-mentioned terms with the CNN associations. When looking below, words like "medic," "care," "patient," and "harm" are significantly associated with "religion," possibly indicating a discussion on the intersection between religion and healthcare delivery. The biggest difference occurs with word associations for the word "Trump." In the CNN article and unlike in Fox News, the Trump administration was generally examined in their efforts to protect religious freedoms ("administration," "faith based," "protect"). There was a lack in prominent associations between religious ideology and Trump himself. Instead, CNN appeared to take a general approach in the actions of Trump's administration, and the possible outcomes that may result from them.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("religi","trump","transgend"), corlimit = 0.27)
$religi
      medic     liberti    american        base       care"      deputi     doesn't     express    fundament
       0.87        0.76        0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73
       guid      includ       legal       louis        mell      others"    standard       union       "deni
       0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73        0.73
     "religi    director     discrimin     belief      gender     patient        harm    administr   announced
       0.73        0.66        0.66        0.62        0.47        0.47        0.46        0.46        0.46
      field       moral     objector     particip         pay protections       right       civil   statement
       0.46        0.46        0.46        0.46        0.46        0.46        0.43        0.40        0.39
   conscienc        care       abort         aim      assist       steril      suicid       enforc     freedom
       0.38        0.29        0.27        0.27        0.27        0.27        0.27        0.27        0.27
        law
       0.27

$trump
   thursday    administr   announced       field       moral    objector     particip         pay protections
       0.80        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70
     chariti         day    faithbas      garden        hous        long        nurs    pharmacist   physician
       0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70
      prayer        rose     service     student     teacher       time"       today        want       white
       0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70
        've       "just         new    conscienc       abort         aim      assist      steril      suicid
       0.70        0.70        0.68        0.49        0.47        0.47        0.47        0.47        0.47
      nation     protect      servic       medic
       0.47        0.42        0.29        0.27

$transgend
       care      affect    communiti      condemn        drew      endang       group        hurt
       0.74        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
       idea      immedi      justifi        lgbtq        live        lose      member       negat
       0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
       seek       sever       stand          use        warn      women'      denial discriminate"
       0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
      easier      former      justic        make        mani       offici    particular   substanti
       0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
     system        well       women           -      "hhs's      center   dangerous"      execut
       0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
        get     hayashi       immor        kris         let         way      "outrag     patient
       0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.49
    reproduct      health        will      depart      govern         law       gupta      person
       0.48        0.45        0.39        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36        0.36
       harm      belief       final       civil
       0.36        0.36        0.35        0.31
```

Although there are topical differences in the discussions, the relative sentiment values of both sources are surprisingly similar. As can be seen below, there is only a ~0.2 difference, with Fox News standing at +0.44 and CNN at +0.24. This indicates that the overall word usage of the texts invoked neutral to positive associations, which comes as a little bit of a surprise for CNN. Despite the possible social repercussions that this decision may have on civil rights of minority groups, CNN appears to have reported less provocatively on the matter. Just like with the reports following the ban of trans military personnel, CNN seems to take a more neutral stance on the matter. This is significantly different to the approach they had during Obama's presidency era.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-1.4500  0.0000  0.0000  0.4415  0.5750  4.5500

> summary CNN(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-1.2000  0.0000  0.0000  0.2371  1.3500  3.5000
```

When looking at the sentiment survey graphs below, we can see that the "trust" sentiment dominated both sources, while the rest of the emotion categories remained relatively subdued. This may account to the overall sentiment score leaning more so onto the positive side, despite the second and third most prominent categories for CNN to be "fear" and "sadness."
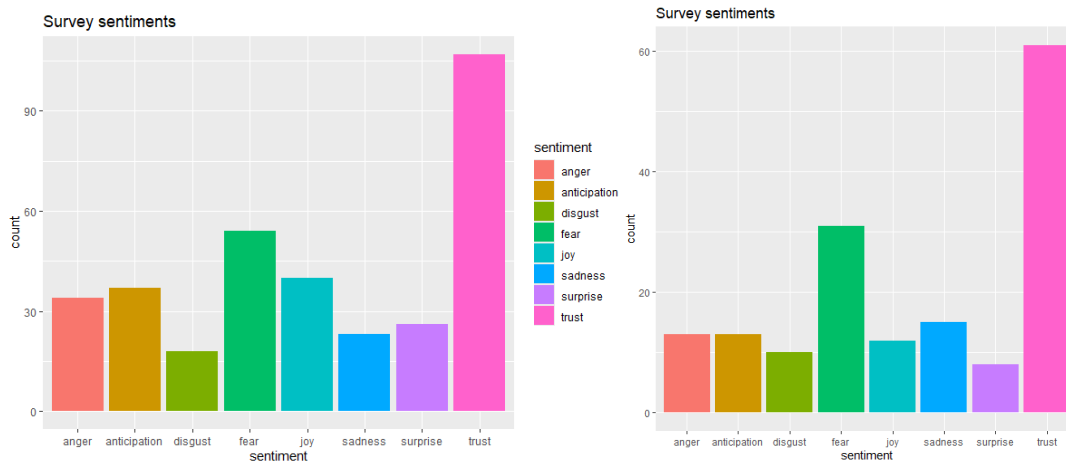
5.1.3.2.c   BOP

Based off of the word frequencies alone, both articles utilize relatively similar wording for the topic at hand. Without properly delving into the word associations, there are just a few observations that can be made. First, it is very clear that the CNN article (right) utilizes the term "transgender" much more frequently than Fox News (left), possibly suggesting a higher focus on trans individuals and issues related to them. While Fox does utilize the term frequently enough, the smaller emphasis may suggest the articles have more of a focus on other matters. Both articles reference "women" an equal number of times, possibly indicating a shared focus on the impact the policy change has on female inmates.

prison	prison	20	transgend	transgend	36
women	women	17	prison	prison	31
california	california	12	tran	tran	29
state	state	12	peopl	peopl	28
inmat	inmat	10	incarcer	incarcer	26
sex	sex	9	hous	hous	22
transgend	transgend	8	assault	assault	18
peopl	peopl	8	women	women	17
make	make	8	facil	facil	16
popul	popul	8	correct	correct	12
femal	femal	7	say	say	11
condom	condom	5	request	request	11
rape	rape	5	sexual	sexual	10
men	men	5	rape	rape	9

Looking at the Fox News article, from the get-go, utilizing words like "nonbinary" and "intersex" in relation to "transgender" suggests that the article acknowledges the spectrum of identity beyond the topic at hand. Nonetheless, topic remains on the transgender community, given the frequency of the term. Strong associations of words like "breast," "hair," "laser," "surgeries," "facial," "femin," "implant," and "cosmetics," suggests a relatively prominent discussion on medical and surgical issues related to gender transitions. With these associations alone, it is not yet possible to consider a positive or negative sentiment association between all these terms.

It is interesting to see words like "male," "offend," "right," "prison," "harm," and "violate" strongly associated with the word "women." This may indicate a possible discussion on conflicts and safety concerns when it comes to the female convicts. There are also a lot of words that correlate to reactions or testimonies ("feel", "deal", "whistleblower"), indicating Fox News may have utilized personal accounts to cover the story.

Lastly, regarding the term "men," there is a significant association between words like "biolog," "identify," "infiltrate," and "pretend," possibly insinuating a perhaps skeptic coverage on gender identity claims. There is also a significantly high number of crime-related wording associated with "men," (kidnapp," "murder," "rapist," "abuse"), which may indicate a discussion on crimes and safety, possibly discussing issues of housing. The gender identity skepticism coupled with a significant number of crime related terminology might suggest there is a discussion on the safety of female prisoners when housed with "men".

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("transgend","women","men"), corlimit = 0.27)
$transgend
      digit        news    nonbinari    communiti      environ     intersex        senat      respect       includ
       0.67        0.67         0.66         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.63         0.62         0.60
      provid         act        agenc      digniti        human       former       breast          hair        laser
       0.51        0.51         0.51         0.51         0.51         0.41         0.41         0.41         0.41
     surgeri        bill    implement         safe   california      incarcer       biolog          law        remov
       0.41        0.41         0.41         0.41         0.40         0.36         0.34         0.34         0.31
      health        cdcr       commit         work         care      activist         evid      identifi       welcom
       0.31        0.31         0.31         0.31         0.30         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29
       advoc         ami      central       describ      exploit       pretend       result        spoke        allow
       0.29        0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29
      believ        came        declar       effect        email         flood        gavin          gov         harm
       0.29        0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29
       known      letter       newsom        phone         sign        violat       almost          bar       behind
       0.29        0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29
      brutal       facial        femin        fiscal      implant         juli     malefemal      million       obtain
       0.29        0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29
     patient       public       record         relat       servic         spent         two vaginoplasti      actual
       0.29        0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29
        bodi         cap        care…       cosmet          get          guid        limit         menu        reduct
       0.29        0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29         0.29
         see       teeth       tiptop         tripl
       0.29        0.29         0.29         0.29

$women
       insid        femal         also         male       offend        right       prison         call        world
       0.61        0.53         0.52         0.52         0.52         0.45         0.39         0.39         0.39
       allow       believ         came        declar       effect        email        flood        gavin          gov
       0.37        0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37
        harm        known       letter        newsom        phone         sign       violat        along       contact
       0.37        0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37
       daili documentari         duck         expos       fallout       featur        forum      independ      maintain
       0.37        0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37
    nonprofit        open          run          sit        takeov whistleblow         eras        exist         feel
       0.37        0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37
      matter      semblanc        deal        agenda      challeng        equip        exact       neglig        uncar
       0.37        0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37
        drop      question         rate       recidiv  reexperienc       suppos underreport          law        inmat
       0.37        0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.37         0.36         0.32
      women'      convict       erasur        happen
       0.30        0.30         0.30         0.29

$men
      biolog       acquir        among        clear         data     document        first         give       identif       infiltr       kidnapp
       0.76        0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75
      murder         new       number        option       publish        reduc        refus       stigma        digit          news        former
       0.75        0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.75         0.65         0.65         0.51
        abus       rapist       accord      transfer      activist         evid      identifi       welcom         advoc          ami       central
       0.51        0.40         0.40         0.40         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36
     describ      exploit      pretend        result        spoke          bit         deni         fact        instal         littl       obvious
       0.36        0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36         0.36
       penis    recently…         sens        sexual        women'
       0.36        0.36         0.36         0.33         0.31
```

When looking at the CNN word associations below, they too acknowledge a broad inclusion of other gender identities that are associated with the term "transgender." Unlike Fox, CNN terminology appears to more so revolve around statistics and the incarceration facilities, with terms like "rate," "double," "report," "facil," "staff," "correct," "prison," "house," etc. This may suggest a discussion on incarceration rates of transgender individuals, as well as the general facilities and environments in which they are housed. Just like with Fox, the topic of safety also occurs when discussing "women," albeit to a lesser extent and primarily in regard to words like "comfort" and "safer." The words "guard," "search," "strip," and "facility" may insinuate a discussion on the staff practices and treatment of female inmates and the general conditions of female prisons. Lastly, the biggest difference between the two are the words associated with "men." In the CNN articles, one can immediately notice the lack of criminally related vocabulary. Discourse on gender identity is visibly prominent with words like "ident," "gender," "preference," and "pronoun." Additionally, what is also relatively visible is the statistical terminology such as "percent," "compar," "random," "sample," "study." This suggests that CNN is utilizing studies or comparisons to discuss the topic at hand.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("transgend","women","men"), corlimit = 0.27)
$transgend
        rate      incarcer         peopl         facil       accord          time      nonbinari
        0.49          0.48          0.46          0.44         0.43          0.40           0.40
       doubl   national us     nationwid     ntce' survey conduct        assault       intersex
        0.40          0.40          0.40          0.40         0.40          0.38           0.38
      higher         staff       correct        report        black          like         gender
        0.38          0.37          0.36          0.36         0.36          0.33           0.33
       prison          feel    california        nation       includ          hous           safe
        0.32          0.32          0.32          0.30         0.29          0.29           0.29
      offend      rehabilit          last        within        ident        requir         search
        0.29          0.28          0.27          0.27         0.27          0.27           0.27
      manual         revis
        0.27          0.27

$women
       avail       comfort          data         guard        howev         limit        lower        safer        share        speak       women'
        0.81          0.81          0.81          0.81         0.81          0.81         0.81         0.81         0.81         0.81         0.76
           -       whether        former        search      cellmat         facil         feel         rate      incarcer       practic        strip
        0.71          0.67          0.67          0.64         0.56          0.53         0.53         0.53         0.50          0.46         0.44
     current          tran      standard       general     exponenti        oppon    overwhelm         evid          cnn       assault
        0.44          0.35          0.33          0.32         0.31          0.31         0.31         0.30         0.29          0.28

$men
        men'         popul         ident        search       correct        gender       compar     fiftynin         irvin
        0.57          0.57          0.57          0.57         0.54          0.51         0.49         0.49          0.49
     percent        random         sampl         study        univers     exponenti        oppon    overwhelm       address
        0.49          0.49          0.49          0.49         0.49          0.49         0.49         0.49          0.49
      carcer        design        effect         gavin      governor    individual'      januari       legisl        newsom
        0.49          0.49          0.49          0.49         0.49          0.49         0.49         0.49          0.49
  preference"      pronoun       septemb          text       account          hear         now"        stori        though
        0.49          0.49          0.49          0.49         0.49          0.49         0.49         0.49          0.49
      "even         "sinc        happen           law       assault          've    california       requir          hous
        0.49          0.49          0.48          0.48         0.45          0.44         0.43         0.42          0.40
       evid         strip        sexual         facil         peopl         state         also         base        general
        0.39          0.39          0.37          0.36         0.36          0.36         0.36         0.34          0.34
      whole         alleg          argu         place           way          held       attack        claim          fals
        0.34          0.34          0.34          0.34         0.34          0.34         0.34         0.34          0.34
      realli          sign       consist           ...      individu     implement       accord         offic        prison
        0.34          0.34          0.34          0.34         0.34          0.34         0.30         0.28          0.27
```

When looking at the Syuzhet vectors, we see that both results are leaning towards a negative sentiment, with CNN slightly higher at a -0.33 as opposed to Fox's -0.16. Given the vocabulary in the Fox word association table, the negative sentiment was not particularly surprising. However, it is interesting to see that the CNN score is more prominent. This is also especially interesting given the last two analyses that were done during this era, when the CNN scoring did not appear to reflect the expected outcome.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-4.8500 -0.6000  0.0000 -0.1642  0.0500  5.7500

> summary CNN(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-9.0500 -0.3000  0.0000 -0.3312  0.0000  4.5000
```

When looking at the sentiment survey graphs below, it is possible to see how the scoring was affected by the emotion categories. As one can see, the negative emotion categories are especially frequent, particularly when we look at the CNN graph (right). Considering the frequency of "fear" in combination with "anger", it is rather surprising the sentiment score is not more negative. On the other hand, it is interesting to see that the Fox News emotion categories are not more prominent considering the word usage.

Survey sentiments
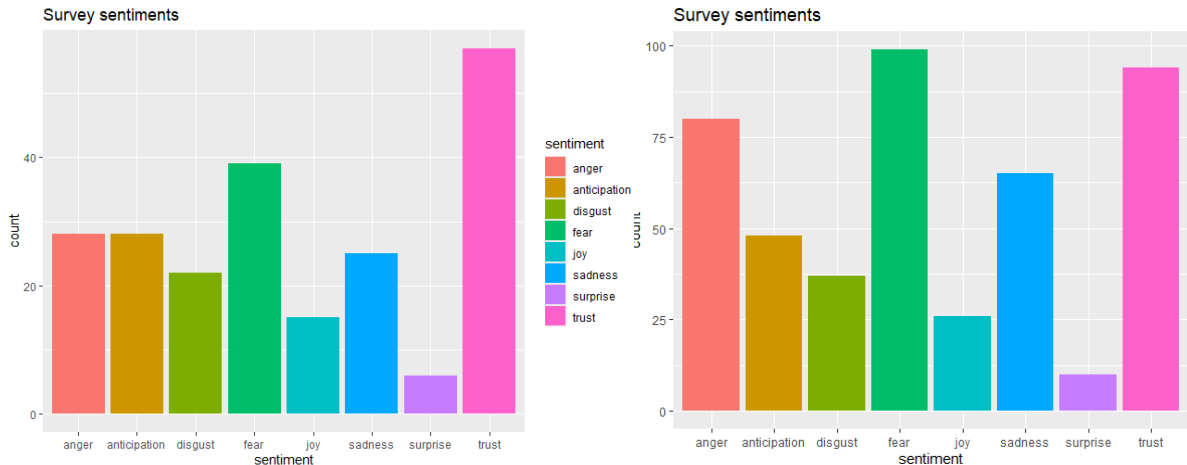
5.1.4.   Joseph Biden: 2021 – 2024

Lastly, the current presidential era of Joe Biden is to close off this thesis' timeframe. This era is rather interesting, given the lack of concrete activity regarding progressing LGBT-rights by the presidential administration. While reversals of Trump administration decisions have been made that benefited the LGBT community, Biden's administration did not appear to actively seek out to develop the legal sphere beyond that, in comparison to his democratic predecessor. Towards the end of his first term as president, the US has seen a drastic increase in anti-LGBT policies, as well as a general rise in the introduction of right-wing policies across different states. Although occurring in his presidential era, it is important to note that these policies were introduced at the state-level, and as such did not involve the Biden administration. Given the lack of concrete action from the Biden administration, the primary focus of this section will be on the unprecedented rise in anti-LGBT bill introductions.

As has been mentioned earlier before in this thesis, 2022 and especially 2023 were two significant years for LGBT individuals given the unprecedented rise in anti-LGBT bill introductions. In an almost reactive manner to the repeal of Trump-era policies, republican policy makers have introduced over 520 anti-LGBT bills in 2023 alone, over 200 bills more than the preceding year (Peele C. , 2023). In addition to this rise in policies addressing LGBT issues, between June 2022 and April 2023, more than 350 hate-crime incidents were documented across the country, ranging from demonstrations to bomb threats and shootings. At least half of this wave of extremism was perpetrated to some capacity by extremist groups, with a "grooming conspiracy theory" being the most cited reasoning (ADL, 2023). While considering this as backlash against the repealing of Trump's anti-LGBT policies, it could also be speculated that the Trump administration had put an anti-LGBT movement as a prominent focus of his work, bringing these topics more so to the public eye - and most importantly, to his supporters. His presidency put into place many conservative individuals

into position of power, enabling conservative policies to be accepted in a much easier manner than before. In addition to this, Trump would seemingly often cater to and try and sympathize to his extremist supporters, no doubt seeing and understanding the strength and power their support holds. While it may be speculative, it may not exactly be far-fetched to say that the Trump-era shifted the political and cultural climate of the US to foster the rise of the far-right, religious, and conservative populous.

5.1.4.1.   Political Address
5.1.4.1.a   2022 - 2023

As has been mentioned, the Biden era didn't necessarily go out of its way to progress the LGBT-rights of the United States. While Biden's administration did accomplish reversing many of Trumps anti-LGBT decisions, beyond that it remained uninvolved. Despite this, Biden did resume Obama's tradition of holding a speech to commemorate pride month.

When looking upon the word frequency below, we see the words "people" and "protect" take center stage. There appears to be a clear emphasis on the importance of individuals, centering his debate on topics of safety, well-being, and protection of the community. The frequent use of "equal" further emphasizes the point of bringing equality to the LGBT community and combating discrimination. The last interesting point to address is the heightened number of times Biden used the word "transgender." When comparing with Obama's speeches, there is a narrower focus here, likely in response to the recent challenges the transgender community had faced under the Trump administration.

```
               word freq
peopl          peopl    19
protect        protect  16
state          state    13
transgend transgend     13
lgbtq          lgbtq    11
just            just    10
equal          equal    10
know            know      9
work            work      9
see              see      8
discrimin discrimin       8
communiti communiti       7
stand          stand      7
take            take       7
```


Based on the word frequencies above as well as word associations below, Biden's speech for pride month appears to have focused on protecting and advancing LGBT rights ("discrim," "civil," "right"), highlighting civil protections ("legal," "civil," "discrimin"), healthcare ("health," "healthcare"), and inclusion ("inclusion," "diverse," "entire"). The speech appears to have also addressed the role of government actions ("federal," "government," "order," "sign"), while also calling for the persistent effort to promote equality and remove social and legal barriers

("barrier," "elimin," "access," "advance"). Like Obama, Biden's speech appears to reflect a continued commitment to preserve and advancing the rights of the LGBT community, which appears to reflect and resonate with the Democratic tradition of advocacy for inclusive and equal rights.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("lgbtq","protect","equal"), corlimit = 0.28)
$lgbtq
   discrimin    american      execut       order        sign         lbt        sure         day      govern
        0.54        0.50        0.47        0.45        0.42        0.41        0.41        0.41        0.41
    homeless       human        feder       women        peopl        hous     history       civil       right
        0.41        0.41        0.39        0.39        0.37        0.34        0.32        0.32        0.32
       depart     announc      affect       anoth      consecr    deadliest      famili   forgotten        lost
        0.32        0.31        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
       member       memori       minut    nightclub        piec        puls        site     surround    survivor
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
       aggress    families        lead     prolgbtq        root       whole      critic     develop    experienc
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
        urban      bureau      combat      consum      credit      financi      health    healthcar     lending
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
      prohibit     student        titl      access      across      advanc  background     barrier      direct
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
       divers      elimin     employe        entir      inclus        life   underserv    workforce      believ
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
   centerpiec    diplomaci     explicit       lack      shield   statelevel     accommod       disabl    doctors'
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
        exist       faith         gym        like        park      people   strengthen        age     confront
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
  disproportion      epidem     epidemic        erad      especi       final        isol       level     mention
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
       poverti      senior     support     unemploy     without       allow        came       decid       decor
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
        focus        home     instead        iraq      kosovo    primarili         set        talk         war
        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29
        state
        0.28

$protect
       deceas   delaware'       legal        tran       peopl      gender       ident    discrimin       ensur        basi       civil     announc
        0.55        0.55        0.55        0.55        0.48        0.43        0.43        0.42        0.40        0.40        0.40        0.39
       countri        made   establish        call      critic     develop    experienc       urban      bureau      combat      consum      credit
        0.37        0.37        0.37        0.37        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35
       financi      health   healthcar     lending        cruel       enjoy        fend        full        gain  must unconscion         yes
        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35
      accommod      disabl    doctors'       exist       faith         gym        like        park      people  strengthen        also      depart
        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.35        0.33        0.33
        servic    american         way    attorney        beau     general      legisl         son       still
        0.31        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29        0.29

$equal
        feder      govern      moment      access      across      advanc  background     barrier      direct      divers      elimin
        0.64        0.60        0.60        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58
      employe       entir      inclus        life   underserv   workforce       order      execut         ago        sign      includ
        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.58        0.53        0.45        0.40        0.40        0.39
       marriag         act        make        also         're       everi     opportun        serv        folk        time       first
        0.39        0.39        0.31        0.31        0.31        0.30        0.30        0.30        0.30        0.30        0.29
```

The overall message of the speech was unsurprisingly positive, given the previous analyses. The mean sentiment score stands at +0.61. Although a little lower than Obama's, it nonetheless conveys a strong positive sentiment towards the topic at hand, showcasing that Biden has a relatively positive approach on the matter of pride month.

```
> summary(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-2.5500  0.0000  0.0000  0.6108  1.0750  7.1000
```

Similar to Obama's sentiment survey graph, Biden's speech also resonates primarily with emotion categories of "trust", "joy", and "anticipation." Given the significant peaks of these categories, we can see how the syuzhet vector score got as significantly positive as it did. It is also interesting to see that "fear" is relatively prominent as well. While there aren't as many words with negative connotations as Obama's speech had, one can nonetheless see words like "discrimination" and "epidemic," which could be playing a significant role in increasing the

frequency of negative-connotated emotion associations. Despite this, the overall survey sentiment is clearly positive leaning, showcasing a positive association between Biden's speech and the LGBT community.
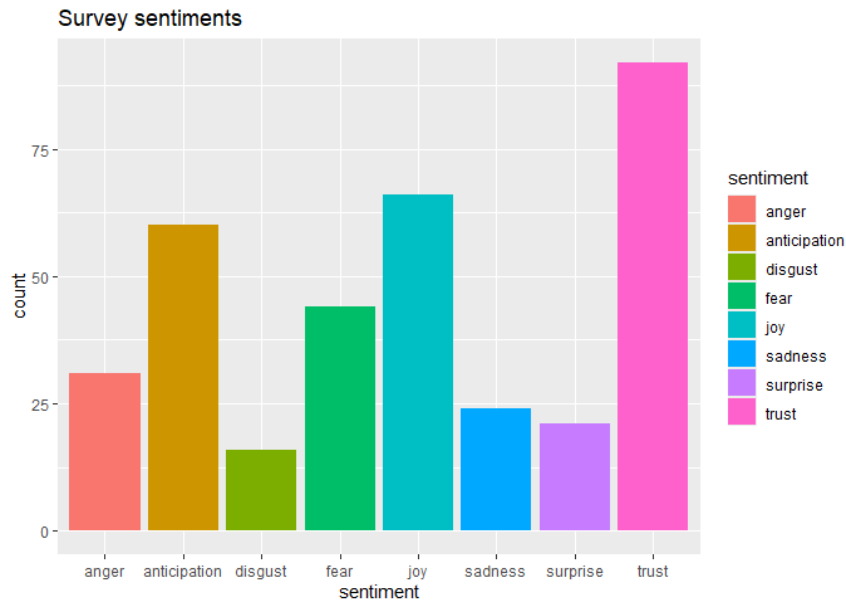
5.1.4.2.   Fox News and CNN Comparison
5.1.4.2.a   2022 - 2023

When looking at the coverage on topics related to the sudden rise in anti-LGBT political activity during this time frame, one can see a slight difference on the thematic focus. Fox News (left) can be seen strongly highlighting an educational point, especially with a significant emphasis on the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). When contextualizing the different articles, it appears that Fox focuses on educational policies and their relation to anti-LGBT activity, for example book bans or digital content. This is a quite different approach to CNN, which can be seen focusing on legislative and healthcare matters ("health," "genderaffirm," "care") and how those relate to the LGBT community.

```
dodea       dodea       17      state                    state         20
pentagon  pentagon     8      care                      care         19
school      school       8      peopl                    peopl        15
educ         educ         6      transgend          transgend    14
teacher    teacher      6      bill                        bill           14
defens      defens       5      genderaffirm  genderaffirm  11
children  children     5      health                  health        11
smith        smith        5      lgbtq                    lgbtq        11
book         book         5      just                      just          10
librari      librari       5      stump                  stump        10
student    student      5      year                      year           9
depart      depart       4      last                      last            8
digit         digit         4      right                    right           8
black        black        4      law                       law            8
want        want         4      ban                       ban            6
```
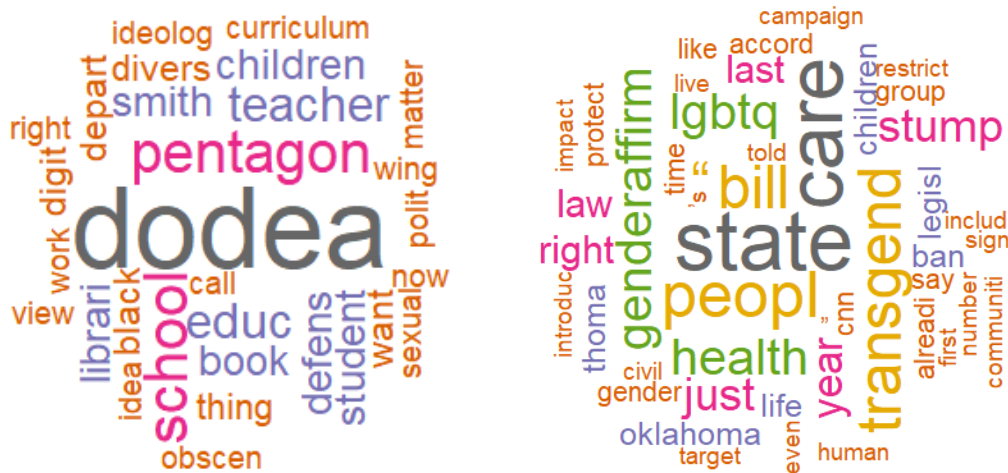
From the Fox News word associations below, it is possible to deduce a few matters. Regarding libraries, one can see that a prominent focus was on the content of books ("book," "explicit," "notice," "transform"). It is interesting to see political and social relations ("marxist," "demand," "disgusting," "republican") associated with the word, possibly used as a further effort to scrutinize library content. This is further supported by the deduction that there is discourse on "woke" ideology. The articles include words like "woke," "hypersexual," "fear," and "identity," possibly bringing up a concern about "woke ideals" being present in schools and libraries, and thus providing a reasoning for the recent string crack-down on LGBT-friendly literature and education.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("librari","ideolog","school"), corlimit = 0.30)
$librari
      direct      select    previous        book       dodea        call     alexand
        0.61        0.61        0.61        0.54        0.47        0.47        0.42
       anoth   classroom        last     marxist       notic   transform        year
        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42
    congress       dozen     explicit      expos         led       outrag      answer
        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42
      approv       bradi       decemb      demand    director disgusting book    recent
        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42
   republican        tom     activity…   communiti    militari      reflect      releas
        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42
   statement        coat      collect     contain        entir       first       kendi
        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42
        mani       menac        probe      random      respond    tanehisi       ibram
        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42        0.42

$ideolog
    activity         eye    hypersexu       plung       watch        woke      depart      altern    american     consequ
        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
      describ      detail     disagre         due      effort     environ        fear        ident      inform        know
        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
     maintain         met       other     prevail  profession      retali        role       share      silenc        stori
        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
         view    withheld       adorn      around    backlash     blatant        deal         era      exampl     hallway
        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
      honesti        kind        like        live       minor      narrat necessarili       place      poster         put
        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.56
     repercuss       tump       lgbtq       thing        polit       black     teacher       accord    headquart      includ
        0.56        0.56        0.56        0.52        0.49        0.43        0.41        0.37        0.37        0.37
          two      cultur      gender      histori     protect      report    transgend
        0.37        0.37        0.37        0.37        0.37        0.37        0.37
```

```
$school
curriculum    children      dodea        two      direct      social        use   transgend      believ       thing
      0.57        0.47        0.46        0.46        0.46        0.46        0.46        0.46        0.46        0.41
      book       black    activity        eye    hypersexu       plung     teacher       watch        woke      depart
      0.38        0.37        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32
    across        enrol       globe       locat      member      overse      servic        sourc       spoke     alexand
      0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32
     anoth    classroom        last     marxist       notic   transform        year       adorn      around    backlash
      0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32
    blatant        deal         era      exampl     hallway     honesti        kind        like        live       minor
      0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32
    narrat  necessarili       place      poster         put    repercuss       tump        lgbtq        busi    constant
      0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32
    embrac       promot      willing        bro      broself        caus     identifi  neopronoun      uptick    congress
      0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32
     dozen      explicit       expos        led      outrag       chang         god        much       order      possibl
      0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32        0.32
     radic      surround
      0.32        0.32
```

When it comes to the CNN articles, there is a very clear difference in the manner that the events were reported on. From the get-go, there is a strong positive message on accessibility and inclusivity. Words like "support," "uplift," "world," and "health" further support the idea that libraries are utilized as supportive spaces for everyone. This positive message is also relatively noticeable in the word associations for "school." Words like "access," "support," "kind," and "uplift," suggest on the support that LGBT youth experience – or should experience. There is also a strong concern on the mental and general welfare of the youth ("anxiety," "depress," "suicide"), likely as a response to the sudden rise in anti-LGBT policies. As "ideology" didn't have any significant association responses, the term "target" was taken instead. It is interesting to see the word "drag" in association with this word, as it wasn't mentioned in the Fox News sources although it was a very prominent topic of discussion during this timeframe, as well as a very strong focus of the right-wing.

```
> findAssocs(TextDoc_dtm, terms = c("librari","target","school"), corlimit = 0.25)
$librari
   access     anybodi       basic       clear       exist      featur        kind        loud       messag   microscop  particular     recreat
     1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00
    stage     things"      uplift        voic       world        tran        syke     support      whether        peopl         get        even
     1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        1.00        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.70        0.63        0.57        0.49
       's        just      health       lgbtq
     0.49        0.30        0.26        0.26

$target
     aclu       accord       lgbtq      afraid      continu      despit        drag      latest      parent     perform        show       speak     testifi
     0.56        0.55        0.52        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49
     week       youth     restrict      around      compil      countri       march     surpass       total       futur        juno       woman     advocaci
     0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49
    burden    director       execut     freedom       nicol       worse"       young     tenness        becam        bill        data     alreadi       state
     0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.49        0.43        0.43        0.43        0.43        0.42        0.40
  oklahoma       share         "'s       becom       effort       public         ban        least      liberti      rights       union       year'       polici
     0.37        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33
    propo         far         one       worri        feel        harm        last        mani       senat       queer    american         get       mcafe
     0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.33        0.31        0.26        0.26        0.26        0.26        0.26        0.26
      now
     0.26

$school
      anxieti          center         control            disea         fraction             high           higher
        0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70
     identifi            less          ostrac    prevention estim        profess            rate       republicanl
        0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70
      struggl           study          suicid            tini            type            unit          depress
        0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70
       access         anybodi           basic           clear           exist          featur            kind
        0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70
        loud          messag        microscop       particular         recreat           stage         things"
        0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70            0.70
      uplift            voic           world         transgend            kid          effort            tran
        0.70            0.70            0.70            0.62            0.62            0.49            0.49
       youth            make            push            syke         support         whether           peopl
        0.49            0.49            0.49            0.49            0.49            0.49            0.42
     student             get          health            even             's         alreadi            like
        0.39            0.39            0.37            0.33            0.33            0.29            0.29
```

The results of these syuzhet vectors are rather interesting to analyze. The general predisposition of the news sources is neutral-positive. Despite the prominence of rather many negative words, Fox News stands at a +0.31. It could be assumed that Fox News has a relatively positive association with the anti-LGBT political activity that is occurring, hence the rather positive sentiment score. It is particularly interesting to see that CNN also has a positive sentiment score, sitting at around +0.26. It shows that the overall average sentiment of the source was rather positive towards the topic that was being reported on. When one looks at the word associations, it is possible to see many positive-connotated vocabulary involved, which may also significantly be influencing the scoring.

```
> summary Fox(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-1.4500  0.0000  0.0000  0.3600  0.3125  7.9500

> summary CNN(syuzhet_vector)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
-2.7000  0.0000  0.0000  0.2570  0.3625  3.0500
```

It is particularly interesting to see the survey sentiment graphs for both sources. As can be seen, CNN (right) appears to have utilized a wider variety of emotion categories than Fox (left). For Fox news, "trust" is significantly higher than any of the other categories. On the other hand, while "trust" is also the highest category for CNN, the categories of "anticipation," "fear," and "sadness" are arguably significantly prominent as well. Despite this, it is interesting to see that the overall article sentiment remains positive. One can see that despite this scoring, CNN's reports discussed topics that delved into more negative-leaning aspects.
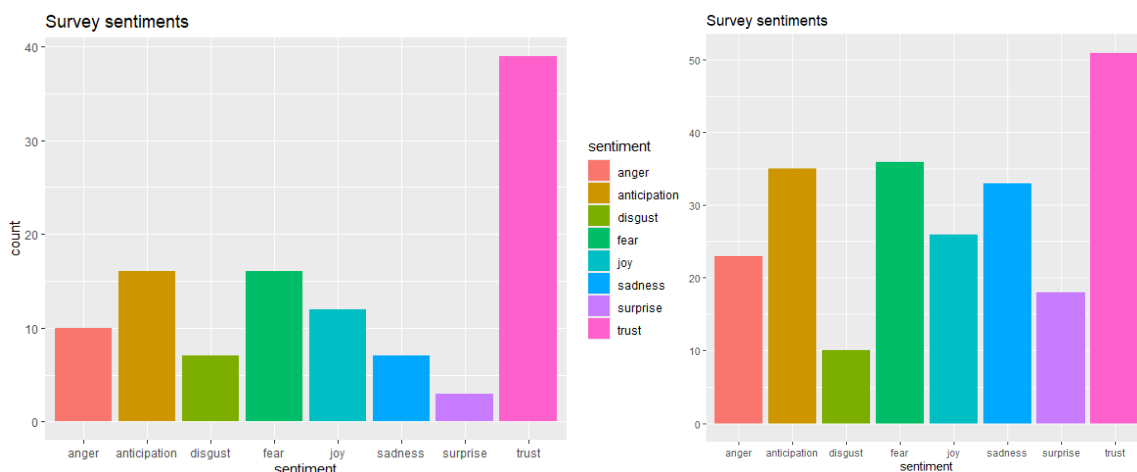
5.2. Results and Discussion

It is interesting to see the development in political action of the different eras, as well as the change in media coverage. While it seems that major LGBT events increased in frequency every year, it could perhaps be argued that it is the frequency and depth of media coverage on the matters which have increased instead. This can particularly be reflected in the difficulty of finding media coverage of LGBT topics during the George Bush era. Nonetheless, and despite this difficulty, interesting observations can be made on these past two decades.

If the eras were to be labeled in a few words, it could be done as follows; Bush: "the Compassionate Conservative," Obama: Drastic Progressive Development, Trump: Drastic Conservative Backlash, and Biden: "Damage Control." These labels act as good summaries of the overall LGBT atmosphere of their respective times, without delving into particular rhetorical nuances.

During the Bush era, one can recognize the traditional conservative ideas represented by the president. Bush was adamant about maintaining the traditional values of marriage, as well as was explicitly clear in his disapproval for legalizing same-sex marriage. At the same time, he did not discuss LGBT matters without respect for every individual, which led him to be called the "compassionate conservative." While no particular social progression occurred, there was nonetheless a seemingly respectful approach to ideologies that diverted from tradition. The singular policy progression occurred regarding Lawrence v Texas, 539 U.S, which legalized homosexual activity in the privacy of people's homes.

Although there was little media coverage of LGBT matters, some coverage does exist when it comes to the selected events covered in this thesis. Most interesting was the fact that Fox News appeared to be relatively more progressive in the coverage of Gwen Araujo's murder, than ABC. Although one cannot extrapolate assumptions of this to compare throughout the remainder of the thesis given the one-off differing progressive news source, this finding was nonetheless interesting to see. While Fox News did inform people of Gwen's dead name, ABC news continuously misgendered and utilized the dead name throughout their article. Both articles showed sympathy to the victim, with Fox taking a more crime-focused approach, whereas ABC discussed the victim's character and family. Regarding the progressive policy change, both articles showed an equal amount of positive sentiment, showcasing no particular difference in the press coverage between the two political sides.

As mentioned, Obama's era can be described as drastic progressive development. Although progress spanned two presidential terms, Obama brought about the abolition of many anti-LGBT policies, as well as legalized same-sex marriage. The radical progressive shift could

also be felt through the presidential addresses. After officially recognizing June as pride month, Obama consistently released yearly presidential speeches to commemorate historical LGBT struggles as well as to advocate for developing LGBT-friendly policy.

During this era, it was possible to witness the first mention of religious ideological views being brought up parallel with news reports covering prominent LGBT events. This was first seen very early on during the Matthew Shepherd Act and DODT repeal in 2009/2010. Coverage on these matters also saw the first minor shift in sentimental differences, with Fox measuring at -0.03 and CNN at 0.12. While minute, it is interesting to see the first occurrence where coverage of important LGBT matters differs. Even so, the most significant change occurs in 2015, with the legalization of same-sex marriage. Therein we see the first case of a complete opposite sentiment towards the topic, with CNN measuring at +0.85 and Fox at -0.62. It would appear that this was the event that significantly changed the reporting approach of Fox News, which at this point also significantly utilized religious ideology as a justification and point of contention.

With this change in mind, the US presidency transitioned over to Donald Trump, which also signified the era marked with significant conservative backlash. From the get-go, Trump did not continue Obama's yearly pride month addresses. Nonetheless, he was still the first Republican president to acknowledge June as pride month. A big development was the frequency of his attendance at religious rallies. Speaking at many Christian Republican rallies, Trump appeared to intricately weaved religion into politics. When one looks at his speeches, it is possible to visualize a strong "us versus them" dichotomy, with "us" usually centering around traditional Christian values. This was made further apparent with his use of arguably strong, instigating vocabulary such as "war", "religion", "faith", "god", "corrupt."

The prevalent dichotomy was consistently visible in media coverage during this era. Sentimentally, Fox News was seemingly always in agreement with the anti-LGBT matter at hand. That being said, CNN wasn't particularly different in the scoring. Word association analysis was able to differentiate the differences in how the topic was presented, with CNN almost always reporting with sympathy towards the LGBT community. Nonetheless, sentimental scoring for either source does not reach more or less than ±0.5, showcasing that although a large number of wordage was used in the different emotion categories, it wasn't particularly excessive.

This brings us to the last era; Biden's "damage control." While it would be disingenuous to say that Biden did not progress LGBT matters in the US, it was less so creating new policies, and more so repealing Trump's past bans and orders. Biden did resume with Obama's

tradition of giving speeches for pride month. It is rather interesting to see the development of the composition of these speeches. As could be seen, Obama's speeches delved into discussing historical struggles the LGBT community faces (stonewall, AIDS outbreak, etc.) while also advocating for future necessary reform. While Biden also advocated for equality and social progress, he particularly focused on the adversary that the LGBT community faced during the Trump administration. This can be seen with the direct and primary focus on the transgender community, which was often the primary target of Trump's anti-LGBT activity. As Obama's presidency did not come after a socially challenging time (for the LGBT community), it appears that he was able to maintain a general outlook on LGBT-policy matters, and likely also was the reason progressive policy change was able to occur at a relatively rapid rate. All in all, we can see how the relatively recent political events and contextual changes impacted the development of political rhetoric on LGBT matters.

When it comes to media coverage during this era, we see a continuation of the level of prominence the sentiment vector scoring had during the Trump era. What this means is that despite the sudden radical conservative backlash during 2022/2023, news coverage from both sources remained less than ±0.5. Although this remained similar, intricate differences occurred in the content of the news reports. Fox News maintained the "us versus them" rhetoric from Trump's era, labeling the dichotomy as Christian traditionalists versus liberal radicals. The topic of ideologies was greatly discussed, which further supported the clash between the two sides. From the content analysis and word associations, it is interesting to see just how similar yet different the two news sources are. Both news sources focus on the potential repercussions different policy changes may bring, but while Fox considers outcomes for the traditionalists, CNN focuses on the affected communities (youth, LGBT individuals, etc.).

6. Conclusion

To summarize, they years 2022 and 2023 brought about a sudden, unprecedented rise in anti-LGBT policies in the United States. Given the relatively progressive decade under Obama, as well as with the Democratic party once again reclaiming presidential power post-Trump, many people were left wondering where this sudden movement came from. To many, the anti-LGBT wave was sudden and unpredictable.

After studying the linguistic development of the past two decades, it is possible to trace the gradual development of the LGBT political climate. Bush had a disagreeable, yet sympathetic approach to the topic. Obama's two presidential campaigns witnessed rapid 'radical' progressive change in the short span of eight years, which was followed by Trump's 'radical' immediate backlash. Lastly, under Biden we were able to see attempts at damage control as opposed to further social progression.

It is also interesting to theorize that perhaps it wasn't necessarily only the immediate radical progressive change that triggered the backlash, but also the additional factor of a very prominent and strong Christian traditionalist population, coupled with a lack of centralized education. This last point is especially important, as decentralized education makes education - and hence changes in ideologies - greatly influenced and dependent on their local communities/governments. Unfortunately, this thesis was not able to delve into the educational impact on anti-LGBT sentiment, though it would make for an interesting addition to the study.

In any case, legalizing same-sex marriage at the end of Obama's term led to it being a significant change that was then immediately vulnerable to Republican opposition. Trump plays a significant role in this matter due to his character alone. While Bush also appealed to traditional Christian values, Trump heavily leaned into their support while introducing religion into political matters. This made progressive social policy furthermore vulnerable to traditionalist ideology. Trump carefully fostered and grew the Republican versus Democratic dichotomy, wherein he strongly wove traditional Christian values into the Republican side.

To conclude this thesis, it is imperative to reiterate the research question: *How has the anti-LGBT movement rhetorically developed in the United States in the past 20 years?*

To answer the question, throughout the past twenty years, it is possible to see a gradual increase in ideological and religious wordage in political speeches and media coverage of prominent LGBT events. This was eventually able to separate progressive social policy from being seen not as a general positive development for the country, but rather as a radical

liberal progressive policy, hence alienating the already incentivized Christian traditional right-wing. In this way, progress of LGBT social policies became a strong point of contention between the two sides. As the dichotomy between Republicans ("Traditional Christians") and Democrats ("Radical Liberals") grew, LGBT social policies under the presidential influence from both sides saw rapid as opposed to gradual shifts from progressing to regressing.

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8. Appendices

8.1. Appendix 1: Table showing compiled list of sources (color alternating between eras, starting from Bush):

Source	Topic	Title of Article	Link
Political	Gen	President Calls for Constitutional Amendment Protecting Marriage	https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2004/02/20040224-2.html
Political	Gen	Doug Wead Tapes	https://transcripts.cnn.com/show/snn/date/2005-02-20/segment/01
Fox	GA	No Verdict in Transgender Slaying	https://www.foxnews.com/story/no-verdict-in-transgender-slaying
Fox	GA	2 Convicted of Murdering Transgender Teen	https://www.foxnews.com/story/2-convicted-of-murdering-transgender-teen
Fox	LT	Supreme Court Overturns Texas Gay Sex Ban	https://www.foxnews.com/story/supreme-court-overturns-texas-gay-sex-ban
Fox	LT	What we ought to be asking gay marriage advocates	https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/what-we-ought-to-be-asking-gay-marriage-advocates
Fox	LGAZ	Police: Colorado Man Admits to Murder of Transgender Teen	https://www.foxnews.com/story/police-colorado-man-admits-to-murder-of-transgender-teen
Fox	LGAZ	Trial Begins in Beating Death of Colorado Transgender Woman	https://www.foxnews.com/story/trial-begins-in-beating-death-of-colorado-transgender-woman
ABC	GA	Mom of Slain Cross-Dresser Recalls His Pain	https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=125572&page=1
CNN	LT	Assessing the legal fallout after the Lawrence v. Texas ruling	https://edition.cnn.com/2003/LAW/07/08/findlaw.analysis.grossman.lawrence/
CNN	LT	Supreme Court expected to issue ruling on sodomy laws	https://edition.cnn.com/2003/LAW/06/25/scotus.sodomy/?Coll=cnn_xml&QuerySubmit=true&Page=1&sites=web&QueryText=Angie+Zapata&query=
CNN	LGAZ	Trial begins in slaying of transgender woman	https://edition.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/04/16/transgender.slaying.trial/index.html
CNN	LGAZ	Transgender murder, hate crime conviction a first	https://edition.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/04/22/transgender.slaying.trial/
Political	MSA	Remarks by the President	https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-reception-commemorating-enactment-matthew-shepard-and-james-byrd-
Fox	MSA	President Obama Signs Hate Crime Prevention Act	https://web.archive.org/web/20131006005532/http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/10/28/president-obama-signs-hate-crime-prevention-act/

Fox	MSA	Congress Approves Law Extending Hate Crime Protections to Gays	https://www.foxnews.com/politics/congress-approves-law-extending-hate-crime-protections-to-gays
Fox	DADT	Military Chaplains Mull End of Don't Ask, Don't Tell	https://www.foxnews.com/us/military-chaplains-mull-end-of-dont-ask-dont-tell
Fox	DPS	Dems move to include gay marriage support in official party platform	https://www.foxnews.com/politics/dems-move-to-include-gay-marriage-support-in-official-party-platform
Fox	DPS	How the Democratic Party lost its way	https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/how-the-democratic-party-lost-its-way
Fox	SSM	Gay marriage: Why Supreme Court got it wrong	https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/gay-marriage-why-supreme-court-got-it-wrong
Fox	PTA	49 killed in shooting at Florida nightclub in possible act of Islamic terror	https://www.foxnews.com/us/49-killed-in-shooting-at-florida-nightclub-in-possible-act-of-islamic-terror
CNN	MSA	Obama signs hate crimes bill into law	https://edition.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/10/28/hate.crimes/
CNN	DADT	Obama calls for 'don't ask, don't tell' repeal	https://edition.cnn.com/2010/POLITICS/01/27/obama.gays.military/index.html
CNN	DADT	Obama signs repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' policy	https://edition.cnn.com/2010/POLITICS/12/22/dadt.repeal/index.html
CNN	DPS	Obama calls for marriage equality, says 'I want everyone treated fairly'	https://edition.cnn.com/2012/05/14/politics/obama-gay-marriage/index.html
CNN	SW	Scenarios, terminology key in prepping for same-sex court ruling	https://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/31/politics/court-same-sex/index.html2013-05-31T21:20:38Znever0.5
CNN	SW	Supreme Court strikes down federal provision on same-sex marriage benefits	https://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/26/politics/scotus-same-sex-doma/index.html
CNN	SSM	Supreme Court rules in favor of same-sex marriage nationwide	https://edition.cnn.com/2015/06/26/politics/supreme-court-same-sex-marriage-ruling/index.html
CNN	PTA	Orlando shooting: 49 killed, shooter pledged ISIS allegiance	https://edition.cnn.com/2016/06/12/us/orlando-nightclub-shooting/index.html
Political	SSM	Transcript: Obama's remarks on Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage	https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2015/06/26/transcript-obamas-remarks-on-supreme-court-ruling-on-same-sex-marriage/
Political	PTA	President Obama on the Tragic Shooting in Orlando	https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2016/06/12/president-obama-tragic-shooting-orlando#:~:text=We%20stand%20with%20the%20people,resolve%20to%20defend%20our%20people.

Political	Pride Month	Remarks by the President at LGBT Pride Month Reception	https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2015/06/25/remarks-president-lgbt-pride-month-reception
Political	Pride Month	Proclamation 8387—Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month, 2009	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/DCPD-200900419/pdf/DCPD-200900419.pdf
Fox	BOP	Biological men are now welcome in California women's prisons	https://www.foxnews.com/media/biological-men-welcome-california-womens-prisons-agenda-female-erasure
Fox	TB	President Trump issues order to ban transgender troops from service except in 'limited circumstances'	https://www.foxnews.com/politics/president-trump-issues-order-to-ban-transgender-troops-from-service-except-in-limited-circumstances
Fox	CRFD	Stormy Daniels vs. Trump -- Here's why conservative Christians are sticking with the president	https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/stormy-daniels-vs-trump-heres-why-conservative-christians-are-sticking-with-the-president
Fox	CRFD	Protections expanded for doctors with 'conscience' objections to abortions, other procedures	https://www.foxnews.com/politics/protections-expanded-for-doctors-with-conscience-objections-to-abortions-other-procedures
Fox	CI	Tucker Carlson: The truth of what happened on Jan. 6 is still unknown	https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/tucker-truth-happened-jan-6-unknown
Fox	CI	How Wednesday's Capitol riot came to fruition and who made it happen	https://www.foxnews.com/politics/how-wednesdays-capitol-riot-come-to-fruition
CNN	TB	Trump signs directive banning transgender military recruits	https://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/25/politics/trump-transgender-military/index.html
CNN	TB	White House announces policy to ban most transgender people from serving in military	https://edition.cnn.com/2018/03/23/politics/transgender-white-house/index.html
CNN	TB	Supreme Court allows transgender military ban to go into effect	https://edition.cnn.com/2019/01/22/politics/scotus-transgender-ban/index.html
CNN	CRFD	Trump announces 'conscience objection' rule for medical care is finalized	https://edition.cnn.com/2019/05/02/politics/trump-administration-final-rule-conscience-objections/index.html
CNN	BOP	Trans women are still incarcerated with men and it's putting their lives at risk	https://edition.cnn.com/2021/06/23/us/trans-women-incarceration/index.html
CNN	CI	ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY Paths to Insurrection	https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2021/06/us/capitol-riot-paths-to-insurrection/
CNN	CI	Timeline of the coup: How Trump tried to weaponize the Justice Department to overturn the 2020 election	https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/05/politics/january-6-timeline-trump-coup/index.html
Political	TB	Trump: Transgender people 'can't serve' in US military	https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40729996

Political	PTA	Read Donald Trump's Speech on the Orlando Shooting	https://time.com/4367120/orlando-shooting-donald-trump-transcript/
Political	TB	Former President Trump announces 2024 presidential bid Transcript	https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/former-president-trump-announces-2024-presidential-bid-transcript
Political	CRFD	Trump Speaks at Faith & Freedom Coalition Gala Transcript	https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/trump-speaks-at-faith-freedom-coalition-gala-transcript
Political	CI	Read Trump's Jan. 6 Speech, A Key Part Of Impeachment Trial	https://www.npr.org/2021/02/10/966396848/read-trumps-jan-6-speech-a-key-part-of-impeachment-trial
Political	Pride Month	Statement from the President	https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/statement-from-the-president-9/
Political	EO	Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation	https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-preventing-and-combating-discrimination-on-basis-of-gender-identity-or-sexual-orientation/
Fox	TB	Female recruit considered resigning after being forced to shower with trans women with full male genitalia	https://www.foxnews.com/media/female-recruit-considered-resigning-being-forced-shower-trans-women-full-male-genitalia
Fox	2022/23	DoDEA sources speak out about woke 'Marxist' indoctrination: 'I'm not a... sexual realignment engineer'	https://www.foxnews.com/media/dodea-sources-speak-out-woke-marxist-indoctrination-sexual-realignment-engineer
Fox	TB	Biden reverses Trump ban on transgender individuals serving in military	https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-reverses-trump-ban-on-transgender-individuals-serving-in-military
Fox	EO	Nikki Haley calls Biden's executive order about transgender athletics an 'attack on women's rights'	https://www.foxnews.com/politics/nikki-haley-criticizes-biden-executive-order-transgender-athletics
CNN	TB	Biden lifts transgender military ban	https://edition.cnn.com/2021/01/25/politics/lloyd-austin-transgender-military-harris-biden/index.html
CNN	EO	Biden administration says it will enforce federal transgender health care protections, undoing controversial Trump-era reversal	https://edition.cnn.com/2021/05/10/politics/hhs-transgender-healthcare-protections-biden-administration/index.html
CNN	2022/23	More states are proposing bills targeting LGBTQ rights. 'It's only getting worse,' advocate says	https://edition.cnn.com/2023/03/09/us/transgender-people-bills-oklahoma-tennessee-reaj/index.html

CNN	2022/23	Human Rights Campaign declares a national state of emergency for LGBTQ+ people	https://edition.cnn.com/2023/06/06/us/hrc-lgbtq-emergency-declared/index.html
Fox	2022/23	Gay rights group declares 'national state of emergency' over passage of 75+ 'anti-LGBTQ+ bills' in U.S.	https://www.foxnews.com/media/gay-rights-group-declares-national-state-emergency-over-passage-75-anti-lgbtq-bills-u-s
Political	TB	Remarks by President Biden in Signing of Executive Order Reversing the 2018 Transgender Military Ban	https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/01/25/remarks-by-president-biden-in-signing-of-executive-order-reversing-the-2018-transgender-military-ban/
Political	2022/23	Transcript of President Joe Biden's State of the Union address 2024	https://apnews.com/article/state-of-union-transcript-biden-2024-e84f5134e5201987eb441629aef5240c
Political	Pride Month	Remarks by President Biden Commemorating LGBTQ+ Pride Month	https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/06/25/remarks-by-president-biden-commemorating-lgbtq-pride-month/