

Dear Members of Congress:

The undersigned 115 organizations, including civil rights, health care access, LGBTQI+ rights, and women's rights organizations, urge you to oppose efforts to restrict access to best practice, medically necessary gender-affirming health care for transgender people, including transgender youth.

Over the last several years, some public officials have made transgender people political scapegoats, both in the United States and around the world. They are pushing for policies attacking the transgender community in all areas of life, including their workplaces, access to public spaces, in schools, and especially their access to health care. Some go so far as to redefine sex in a way that erases the existence of transgender, gender-diverse, and intersex people. At least 25 states have banned access to age-appropriate gender-affirming care for young people. Members of Congress have introduced legislation to ban access to gender-affirming care, including efforts to criminalize those who provide it, and have attempted to attach these bans to unrelated must-pass legislation. The Trump administration has issued executive orders, enforcement priorities, and new regulations attempting to block access to gender-affirming care through every avenue that they can. Several of these actions threaten to take away access to gender-affirming care for adults as well.

These efforts have not only imposed or attempted to impose legal restrictions on care, but they have also served to pressure gender-affirming care providers to close down, even where care remains legal. It has led to harassment and violent threats against providers, including bomb threats. Unfortunately, many health care providers across the country have stopped providing legal, safe, evidence-based health care to transgender patients—not because this care is unlawful, unsafe, or due to any change in medical recommendations, but purely because of the unending political attacks on providers and their funding, their ability to practice, and their safety.

As a result of these state bans, ongoing federal attacks, and hostile rhetoric, many transgender people, and especially transgender youth, can no longer readily access the care they need. Evidence has shown that even awareness of these attacks alone may increase rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality amongst transgender youth.^[1] Transgender youth, like all youth, have the best chance to thrive when they get the support and health care they need when they need it. Decisions about this best-practice care, which is essential to the wellbeing of transgender young people, should rest with families, their providers, and the patient—not lawmakers. Health care bans prohibit medical professionals from providing vital care to transgender youth, while allowing the same care (for example, prescribed hormone therapy) to be provided to minors who are not transgender. And many of these bans make explicit exceptions to allow the continued practice of non-consensual surgeries on intersex youth.

All the leading medical associations in the U.S.—including the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics— support gender-affirming care.^[2] Extensive peer-reviewed research shows that this care is safe, effective, and essential to the health and wellbeing of transgender people.^[3] Health care providers follow guidelines when providing gender-affirming care that are based on the latest

science and medical evidence. These guidelines are updated regularly in consultation with leading public health experts, researchers, and clinicians. Providers work with patients and families to answer questions and make a personal plan with each patient based on their needs. These well-established standards of care ensure that families can get their child timely care that is right for them.

Lawmakers are putting the well-being of transgender youth at risk by interfering in the provision of best practice medical care. No one benefits from lawmakers making it even harder for young people who are transgender, denying them essential care and singling them out for increased bullying and harassment.

Again, we urge you to oppose attempts to ban or restrict access to gender-affirming health care for transgender people.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

Act Now: End AIDS (ANEA) Coalition

Advocates for Trans Equality

Advocates for Youth

AIDS Action Baltimore

All in Action Fund

American Atheists

American Civil Liberties Union

American Humanist Association

Amnesty International USA

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

AVAC

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Center for American Progress

Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
CenterLink
Christopher Street Project
Council for Global Equality
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Doctors for America
Equality Federation
Equity Is the Word
Families USA
Global Justice Institute
GLSEN
Guttmacher Institute
Health GAP
HealthHIV
HIV Medicine Association
Human Rights Campaign
Ibis Reproductive Health
Immigration Equality
Impact Fund
Indivisible
interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care
Ipas US
Just Detention International
Justice in Aging

Keshet

Methodist Federation for Social Action

Minority Veterans of America

Movement Advancement Project

National Abortion Federation

National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development

National Association of Social Workers

National Council of Jewish Women

National Coalition for LGBTQ Health

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans

National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association

National Health Law Program

National HIV/AIDS Housing Coalition

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice

National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund

National LGBTQ+ Bar Association

National Network of Abortion Funds

National Partnership for Women & Families

National Women's Law Center

National Working Positive Coalition

NBJC

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

NMAC

PFLAG National

Physicians for Reproductive Health

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Positive Women's Network-USA
Power to Decide
PrEP4All
Presbyterian HIV Network, PHEWA, PC USA
Pride At Work, AFL-CIO
Reproductive Freedom for All
Ribbon-A Center of Excellence
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
SAGE
Save HIV Funding Campaign
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
The AIDS Institute
The Center for HIV Law and Policy (CHLP)
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Reunion Project
The Trevor Project
The Union for Reform Judaism
The Well Project
Transgender Law Center
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
United Church of Christ
Vivent Health
Women of Reform Judaism

State Organizations:

AIDS Foundation Chicago — IL

California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network — CA

Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ — TX

Colorado Organizations and Individuals Responding to HIV/AIDS (CORA) — CO

Equality California — CA

Equality Florida — FL

Fair Wisconsin — WI

Garden State Equality Action Fund — NJ

Health Access California — CA

Housing Works, Inc. — NY

Lavender Rights Project — WA

Los Angeles LGBT Center — CA

Makom Shelanu Congregation — NY

Mazzoni Center — PA

Oasis Legal Services — CA

One Iowa — IA

Pride Action Tank (PAT) — IL

PROMO Missouri — MO

Reproductive Justice Action Collective — OH

Rocky Mountain Equality — CO

San Francisco AIDS Foundation — CA

Silver State Equality — NV

TaskForce Prevention and Community Services — IL

Transcanwork — CA

Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT) — TX

[1] Wilson Y. Lee et al., *State-Level Anti-Transgender Laws Increase Past-Year Suicide Attempts among Transgender and Non-Binary Young People in the USA*, Nat. Hum. Behav. 1 (2024); Kirsty A. Clark et al., *Real-Time Exposure to Negative News Media and Suicidal Ideation Intensity Among LGBTQ+ Young Adults*, JAMA Pediatr. (2024), <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2024.3133>; Lindsay Y. Dhanani & Rebecca R. Totton, *Have You Heard the News? The Effects of Exposure to News About Recent Transgender Legislation on Transgender Youth and Young Adults*, 20 Sex. Res. Soc. Policy 1345 (2023).

[2] <https://transhealthproject.org/resources/medical-organization-statements/>

[3] See, e.g., Joanne LaFleur, University of Utah, *Gender-Affirming Medical Treatments for Pediatric Patients with Gender Dysphoria* (Aug. 6, 2024), <https://le.utah.gov/AgencyRP/reportingDetail.jsp?rid=636> (systematic evidence review commissioned by the Utah Department of Health and Human Services finding that “the consensus of the evidence” demonstrates the safety and effectiveness of gender-affirming care for transgender youth). See also Sari L. Reisner et al., *Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy and Depressive Symptoms Among Transgender Adults*, 8 JAMA Network Open e250955 (Mar. 17, 2025), <http://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.0955>; Diana M. Tordoff, et al., *Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care*, 5 JAMA Network Open e220978 (Feb. 25, 2022), <http://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978>; Jack L. Turban, *Access to Gender-Affirming Hormones During Adolescence and Mental Health Outcomes Among Transgender Adults*, 18 PLOS ONE e0287283 (Jan. 12, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0261039>; Kellan E. Baker et al., *Hormone Therapy, Mental Health, and Quality of Life Among Transgender People: A Systematic Review*, 5 Journal of the Endocrine Society bvab011 (Feb. 2, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1210/jendso/bvab011>; Caleb Smith & Haley Norris, *Transgender Medical Care: What You Should Know and How to Preserve Access to Care* (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/transgender-medical-care-what-you-should-know-and-how-to-preserve-access-to-care>.