

Oppose HB 417 – Don’t Deny Life-Saving Gender-Affirming Care to Transgender Youth

Bill Summary: HB 417 would add medically necessary and safe gender-affirming health care to the definition of child abuse.

Gender-affirming care saves lives. Major public health and medical associations recognize the importance of and support access to gender-affirming care, including the American Academy of Pediatrics,ⁱ American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists,ⁱⁱ Association of Medical Colleges,ⁱⁱⁱ and the American Medical Association.^{iv} In addition to support among the major public health and medical associations, a recent The Trevor Project study found that transgender youth with access to gender-affirming hormone therapy have lower rates of depression and are at a lower risk for suicide.^v Legislators should not intervene with the medical decisions that belong to transgender youth and their doctors.

Laws attacking trans youth will hurt the New Hampshire’s economy. New Hampshire’s economic well-being relies on the ability of Granite State businesses to attract and retain a diverse, inclusive, and talented workforce. Families who would be affected by this legislation may consider leaving their homes, their extended families, their communities, and even their jobs to ensure that their children are able to receive gender-affirming care. The legislation could also discourage other LGBTQ+ individuals and their families from moving to the state altogether. This legislation is not only harmful to trans youth, it is also bad for business.

People do not support limiting access to gender-affirming care. Even in deep red states, voters don’t want the government intervening with people’s healthcare decisions. Of Kentuckians, 71% say they would oppose a proposed state law that would allow the state to overrule parents’ decisions to obtain health care for their transgender teenager.^{vi}

The fight for access to gender affirming care is based on a simple belief — you are the rightful author of your own life story. Gender-affirming care gives Granite Staters the freedom to determine their own paths in life and to defy barriers that oppress and erase LGBTQ+ people. The politicians who want to strip people of that freedom want to write your story for you, deciding who you are. These efforts are designed to target people who are already marginalized in our country, particularly young people. These questions are deeply personal, and everyone must be able to make their own decisions about their lives without government interference.

Oppose HB 417 – Being a kid is hard enough. Don’t make it even harder for kids who are transgender.

ⁱ *Brandt et al., v. Rutledge*, 4:21-CV-00450-JM, US. District Court Eastern District of Arkansas Central Division, Amicus Brief of American Academy of Pediatrics, filed June 23, 2021. (“Proper gender-affirming care can mitigate a patient’s clinical distress and lead to significant improvements in the overall well-being of youth and adolescents who are at risk of or have been diagnosed with gender dysphoria ... studies show that transgender adults who received appropriate treatment during adolescence had a lower incidence of lifetime suicidal ideation than those who wanted but could not obtain such treatment.”).

ⁱⁱ Resolution on Supporting Sexual/Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Schools, American Psychological Association, 2020, available at <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/policy/gender-diverse-children>. (“[T]he American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists encourage school staff to honor self-determination by supporting the decisions of children, adolescents, and families regarding a

student's gender identity or expression, including whether to seek treatments and interventions, and discourage school personnel from requiring proof of medical treatments as a prerequisite for such support[.]”).

ⁱⁱⁱ American Association of Medical Colleges Statement on Gender-affirming Health Care for Transgender Youth, April 9, 2021, available at <https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/press-releases/aamc-statement-gender-affirming-health-care-transgender-youth>. (“Efforts to restrict the provision of gender-affirming health care for transgender individuals will reduce health care access for transgender Americans, promote discrimination, and widen already significant health inequities.”).

^{iv} Press Release, AMA reinforces opposition to restrictions on transgender medical care, American medical Association, Jun.15, 2021, available at www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-reinforces-opposition-restrictions-transgender-medical-care. (“The AMA opposes the dangerous intrusion of government into the practice of medicine and the criminalization of health care decision-making[.] ... Gender-affirming care is medically-necessary, evidence-based care that improves the physical and mental health of transgender and gender-diverse people.”).

^v Josh Weaver, *New Study Finds Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy Linked to Lower Rates of Depression, Suicide Risk Among Transgender Youth*, The Trevor Project, Dec. 14, 2021, available at <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/new-study-finds-gender-affirming-hormone-therapy-linked-to-lower-rates-of-depression-suicide-risk-among-transgender-youth/>.

^{vi} Olivia Krauth, *Fairness Campaign releases poll showing most Kentuckians oppose anti-trans legislation*, Louisville Courier Journal, Feb 23, 2023, available at <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/2023/02/23/poll-most-kentuckians-oppose-anti-trans-legislation/69937206007/>.