



State bills restricting access of transgender youth to health care, school facilities, and school athletics threaten health and well-being

POLICY BRIEF TALKING POINTS

Politicians should stay out of doctor-patient relationships

- Medical experts in endocrinology, psychiatry, and psychology support gender-affirming medical care. Politicians should not interfere in medical decisions between a doctor and their patients.
- Professional associations for pediatricians, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, oppose these bills.
- Professional medical associations including the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Psychiatric Association oppose these bills.
- Medical experts in endocrinology including the Endocrine Society and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health oppose these bills.

Let kids be (healthy) kids

- Putting the rights of children and adolescents up for debate, restricting their medical care, and isolating them from their peers adversely affects their health.
- Research shows that public debate about the rights of people who have been marginalized, including transgender and gender diverse youth, can harm their mental health.
- Lack of access to gender-affirming health care for young transgender and gender diverse people can harm their mental health over the course of their lifetimes—so the harm being done by these bills will be felt for decades.

These bills are causing immediate harm

- These bills subject transgender and gender diverse youth to government-approved stigma and discrimination.
- They deny these young people access to medically-necessary health care that their doctors have prescribed for them.
- Denying young people access to educational activities such as school sports deprives them of the social, emotional, and health benefits these activities bring.

The true purpose of these bills is to advance the right-wing culture war against LGBTQIA+ people

- The New York Times reported that these bills are part of a “coordinated and poll-tested campaign by social conservative organizations like the American Principles Project and Concerned Women for America.”
- An anti-LGBTQIA+ coalition called Promise to America’s Children has drafted the language for anti-gay bills for lawmakers and distributes talking points and social media content to parents.
- Groups involved with Promise to America’s Children—like Alliance Defending Freedom, Family Research Council, and Family Watch International—have been on the frontlines of anti-LGBTQ activism for so long they’ve actually been designated as hate groups. We should not be passing laws written by hate groups.

Read our policy brief and learn more about anti-transgender legislation here:

<https://fenwayhealth.org/anti-transgender-bills-threaten-to-harm-the-health-of-trans-youth-by-limiting-access-to-health-care-denying-access-to-athletic-activities-and-contributing-to-stigma-and-discrimination/>

