

Submitter: C M

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Members of the transgender and gender diverse community often face significant health disparities and poor health outcomes based on their experiences with discrimination, stigma, and interpersonal and structural violence. Considerable research shows that transgender and gender diverse people suffer from more chronic health conditions, higher rates of substance use, increased suicidality, adverse mental health outcomes, higher rates of sexual and physical violence, houselessness, and lower wages than their cisgender counterparts. Recent widespread political attacks on access to gender affirming healthcare, transphobia, discrimination, insurance access, and provider training gaps severely impact the transgender community's ability to receive adequate, patient-centered healthcare, and this systemic marginalization and stigmatization through legislation threaten the health and well-being of this community and further impact health disparities. There is ample research that supports that gender affirming care IS LIFE SAVING CARE. In just one example, a study found that access to gender affirming care for trans youth and young adults decrease suicidality by 73% and was associated with 60% lower odds of depression rates. (doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978). I cannot stress enough that lawmakers who are passing anti-trans laws and restricting access to gender affirming care with kill kids. There is blood on their hands.

Don't believe me?

Here are other studies that prove the importance of gender affirming care, and how you will kill these kids by implementing transphobic laws against them rooted in bigotry and hate: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2021.08.020>
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2021.10.036>
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2020.09.010>
<https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000495>
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19359705.2021.2016537>

Gender affirming care is lifesaving care. Transgender kids and people just want to live and receive adequate care they need, they want to experience love and tenderness and care from their friends and family, they want to have jobs and go to school and grow old. If you take care away from them you are taking away their rights to do these things. You are ensuring that they will never grow into adults. You are contributing to the nationwide genocide of trans people.