



HB 71 Talking Points: Ban on Medical Care for Trans Youth

Everybody deserves access to medical care

Trans youth want to and deserve to live in their most authentic self and deserve the same chance to thrive as their peers. Everyone in Idaho should have the right to access the healthcare they need. HB 71 would take away the ability of that choice and medical professionals to provide best practice care for transgender youth.

Trans kids benefit when they get affirming care

Research shows that transgender youth who have supportive families and communities, and access to affirming medical and mental health care, have significantly more positive health outcomes than those who lack that support and care. Transgender youth whose families support their gender identity have a 52% decrease in suicidal thoughts, a 48% decrease in suicide attempts, and significant increases in self-esteem. On the other hand, denying healthcare to transgender youth can be life-threatening. Research shows it contributes to depression, isolation, eating disorders, self-harm, and suicide.

Lawmakers should not make personal medical decisions for families

HB 71 is severe government overreach into the medical decision-making rights of parents. Decisions about medical treatment of kids should be made by patients, their families, and their medical providers - not politicians.

Our state should be a safe place to raise every family. Banning this care will force many families to consider leaving the state and send the message to many more families their child's life is not worth saving.

Gender-affirming care for youth is often misunderstood

Some of the most common care for transgender youth simply delays puberty to give a young person and their family more time to make informed medical decisions about their care and their needs. This legislation strips away families' abilities to make that important personal choice, forcing youth through puberty--a process that cannot be reversed. Other types of care for transgender youth follow standards of care that are age-appropriate, carefully studied and established by medical experts around the world.

All major medical associations support care for transgender youth

Care for transgender youth is based on established medical best practices rooted in science. Blanket bans on treatment disrupt medically necessary care for transgender youth. Every major medical association, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry opposes these bills and supports medical care for transgender youth as safe, effective, and administered under established standard of care within the medical community.



Idaho

Medical professionals should not be criminalized for doing their jobs

These bills criminalize healthcare providers who are just doing their job by providing needed healthcare to transgender youth. Medical professionals should not have to risk prosecution, losing their license, and even prison time to provide transgender kids with best practice care.

Trans people belong and our part of our community

Trans youth have always been here—but generations have been forced to live under shame and secrecy. We want young people to feel comfortable living as their authentic selves and trans kids are just like every other kid—they will gravitate towards people and spaces who make them feel safe and seen.