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Families Sue to Block Idaho's Ban on Health Care for Trans Youth

BOISE — An Idaho law criminalizing gender-affirming health care for transgender youth is being challenged by families in federal court.

In a lawsuit filed by the [American Civil Liberties Union](#), the [ACLU of Idaho](#), [Wrest Collective](#), [Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP](#), and [Groombridge, Wu, Baughman & Stone LLP](#), two Idaho families assert that HB 71, signed into law by Governor Brad Little earlier this year, violates the rights of transgender youth and their parents under the U.S. Constitution.

“Being able to live my life as my true self has been a long journey and my medical care has been an important part of that journey. My family, my doctors, and I have worked together to make decisions about my medical care, and it’s shocking to have politicians take those decisions away from us,” said **Plaintiff Jane Doe, a 16-year-old transgender girl**. “Trans people like myself deserve the same chance at safety and liberty as everyone else, but this law specifically targets us and our health care for no good reason. I’m 16--I should be hanging out with my friends and planning my future instead of fighting my State for the health care I need.”

“This law is a dangerous intrusion upon the rights and lives of Idaho families. Our state should be a safe place to raise every child, including transgender youth, and HB 71 threatens to deny them the safety and dignity they deserve,” said **Amy Dundon, Legislative Strategist with the ACLU of Idaho**. “We welcome this opportunity to

defend the transgender youth of Idaho and their families from this discriminatory political attack and we won't stop defending them until each one has all the care and support they need to thrive.”

“We are determined to protect the transgender youth of Idaho, their families, and their medical providers from this unjust and dangerous attack on their rights and lives,” said **Li Nowlin-Sohl, Senior Staff Attorney at the ACLU’s LGBTQ & HIV Project.** “This health care is supported by every major medical organization in the U.S. and is critical for the futures of transgender youth across the state. We will not rest until this unconstitutional law is struck down.”

The challenge filed today is the eighth legal challenge by the ACLU and its nationwide affiliate network so far against a wave of bans targeting health care for transgender youth. The ACLU and the ACLU of Arkansas filed the first such challenge against the first such law in the country in 2021 and similar challenges have been filed in Indiana, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Montana, Kentucky, and Nebraska.

Today’s challenge filed in federal court in Idaho can be found [here](#).

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