

SHOWING UP FOR THE TRANS COMMUNITY

WHAT TO WATCH FOR & HOW YOU CAN HELP

Extremists tried to divide and distract us by putting our trans friends and family members through hell in 2024. Now that the election is over and Project 2025 is in full swing, it's gotten even worse. Here are attacks to be prepared for at the national and state level. We can and will fight back.

WHAT WE'VE ALREADY SEEN:

Executive Orders:

- Banning transgender people from serving in the military.
- Declaring that the U.S. will only recognize two biological sexes, male and female, which is assigned at birth and cannot be changed. This completely ignores the existence of the trans community.
- Banning trans athletes from women's sports.
- Banning health care for transgender youth.

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING FOR:

Executive Orders:

- Banning transgender people from social services like homeless shelters.
- Targeting parents and families who seek health care for their transgender kids.
- Defunding school districts – and states and cities – that allow transgender students to use the bathroom or play sports, or that allow books about LGBTQ+ people or families.

National Legislative Actions That:

- Passing executive orders permanently into law, including a military ban, a ban on health care for young people in federally-funded programs, a ban on accessing social services, and defining “sex” as biological sex at birth.
- Further weaponizing and threatening to defund school districts, cities, and states that maintain policies that support transgender people.
- Using federal health care money to coerce hospitals and health care systems into ceasing health care for transgender young people.
- Banning certain care, including the reversible hormone therapy pediatricians often recommend for trans kids.

Escalating State Attacks:

- Already 27 states have banned transgender students from participating in sports and 26 states have banned medical care for transgender youth. But with a federal government that supports these bans, we expect to see states pushing their anti-trans legislation even further.
- As states push for more extreme legislation, Texas is leading the way with a bill that would ban transgender kids from any interscholastic activity, including things like chess club and theater. This goes far beyond the sports bans. It would also require students suspected of being transgender to have forced chromosome testing and body exams.

Policies at the School District Level:

- Banning trans students from playing school sports, participating in school clubs or using the bathroom of their gender identity.
- Banning books about LGBTQ+ characters.
- Requiring school staff to notify parents if their children uses pronouns that don't match their biological sex.

Supreme Court Action:

- U.S. v. Skrmetti: The Supreme Court will be hearing a case that challenges the constitutionality of a law in Tennessee that bans health care for transgender youth. If the ban is upheld, it will pave the way for other states to follow. We expect a ruling in late June or early July.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

Contacting your representatives to express opposition to attacks is essential. But long term, culture change will only happen if we're willing to organize in our local communities and talk to the people we know about our values. It's the most effective thing we can do because our friends and family trust us and see us as a valuable resource of information. So let's have those conversations, even if they may not be easy. Here are some talking points to help you get started:

How to talk about the attack on sports:

1. We don't want politicians making decisions about children's sports programs. Local schools and sports associations should be handling this issue, not national politicians.
2. There is a tiny number of trans students playing sports (Alabama's law affects one child) — the laws discriminating against them will wind up hurting all kids, no matter how they identify. Here's how:
 - A federal ban on trans students in sports would result in young children answering invasive questions and undergoing physical inspections in order to play sports.
 - These bans would invite anyone to call for a "gender check" on any girl who wants to play sports if they deem her "too tall" or "too strong".
 - Bans would serve as a barrier for young girls to participate in local sports for fear of invasive questions and public ridicule.
3. Elementary school sports are not about athletic achievement — at this level, sports teach important values like perseverance, dedication, self-assurance, and teamwork. We should want more young people to play sports, not put up barriers.

How to talk about the attacks on youth health care:

1. We don't want politicians in our hospitals. Medical decisions should be made between doctors, patients and their families.
2. No matter who their kids are — no parent should ever be punished for getting their child the health care they need and no doctor should be jailed for following the medical standards of care.
3. Medical care for transgender youth includes safe and age-appropriate physical and mental health care that happens over years. It is not a rushed decision.
4. Access to best-practice health care dramatically reduces the tragically high rate of suicide among trans kids — this is what we mean when we say it saves lives.
5. Politicians should focus on the issues that actually affect American families like lowering costs or keeping our communities safe. They shouldn't be telling parents how to make private decisions regarding their kids' health.