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ANTI-TRANS
LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP

THE FIGHT GOING
FORWARD



Photo: MLenny

ANTI-TRANS LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP

The rights of transgender people to exist in public spaces and receive critical gender-affirming health care are under attack. This booklet contains an overview of anti-trans bills to watch out for during the 2023-2024 legislative session.

LIMITATIONS ON GENDER AFFIRMING CARE

HOUSE BILL 808

House Bill 808 would make it illegal for doctors to perform gender-affirming surgery on minors. While the most harmful provisions of this bill — ones that blocked trans youth from accessing critical health care services, such as puberty blockers and hormone therapy — have been removed, this bill relies on misinformation about transgender health care and serves only to stir up transphobic rhetoric.

Additionally, legislators added an amendment banning state funding for any “gender transition procedures,” which could prevent trans youth from accessing broader gender-affirming health care if they have state-funded insurance.



LIMITATIONS ON GENDER AFFIRMING CARE

Bottom Line:

Gender affirming healthcare is live-saving for trans youth. Transgender youth who are affirmed in their gender through supportive families and medical providers have health outcomes comparable to their non-transgender peers. By contrast, when denied treatment and affirmation, transgender youth experience high rates of suicidality and negative health outcomes. Trans youth deserve to access the health care they need to lead full, healthy lives.

RESTRICTIONS ON PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS

SENATE BILLS 631, 574

Several different bills have been introduced in both chambers that would require participation in school team sports to be based on “biological sex,” essentially preventing transgender students from competing on sports teams that align with their gender identity, including **Senate Bill 631** and **House Bill 574**.

Each of these bills defines “biological sex” as “based solely on the student's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.”



RESTRICTIONS ON PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS

SENATE BILLS 631, 574

HB 574 not only bans trans girls from playing on girls' sports teams, but goes even further as it extends the biological sex requirements to higher education, including the UNC system, community colleges, and private universities in North Carolina. Additionally, while SB 631 only forbids trans women from participating on women's sports teams, HB 574 also excludes trans men from participating in men's sports.



RESTRICTIONS ON PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS

Bottom Line:

Trans students participate in sports for the same reasons other young people do: to challenge themselves, improve fitness, and be part of a team. Efforts to ban trans students from participating in sports that align with their gender identity jeopardize their mental health, physical well-being and ability to access educational opportunities comparable to their peers.



DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOLS

SENATE BILL 49

All students, including LGBTQ students, just want to be safe at school. **Senate Bill 49** forces educators to push children who confide in them to share that information with their parents, and in some cases requires the teachers to notify the parents, even if they know the parents will not be supportive.

It specifically requires school officials to notify parents if their child is choosing to go by a different name or pronoun at school, effectively outing students against their will. The bill also unnecessarily stigmatizes conversations about gender and sexuality in primary schools, which are already not in the curriculum.



DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOLS

Bottom Line:

Building trusted relationships with teachers is a foundational part of a child's education. Requiring school employees to categorically out students who question their gender identity is a serious violation of student privacy. While many parents are supportive, this bill puts students at risk who fear mistreatment from disapproving parents. It also drives young people away from trusted adults with whom they may feel more comfortable discussing sensitive subjects.



Photo: MLenny

THE FIGHT GOING FORWARD

These bills demonstrate a coordinated campaign to ostracize trans youth and push them out of public life, but they won't stop youth from being trans.

We need to ensure that trans youth across the country feel loved and supported as we combat these awful attacks on their safety and civil liberties. Here's where you can make a difference in North Carolina.



CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Transgender people have a right to live in safety, to thrive, and to be treated with dignity. As North Carolinians, we have a responsibility to make our state a safe and inclusive place for transgender people. Our legislators have pushed a regressive and dangerous agenda targeting already marginalized groups, but we do not have to let them get away with it.

Call and email your representatives and tell them you support the rights of transgender North Carolinians to live safe and healthy lives.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Working within the legislative system is not the only way to make our communities safer for our transgender friends and neighbors. There are lots of ways you can make a difference. Support community organizations like Equality NC and your local LGBTQ center. Donate to mutual aid funds that provide financial assistance to trans people in need.

Buy banned books by LGBTQ authors and request them in your local library. Educate yourself on anti-LGBTQ discrimination and allyship. Talk to your friends and loved ones about gender and sexuality. Small steps can make a massive difference in creating social change.

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!

This year, we have seen increasing attacks on our civil rights and liberties and efforts by partisan extremists to restrict voting rights and access. They know that their agenda is unpopular and harmful. That's why they're trying to make it harder for marginalized people to vote. We will continue to push for voting rights in our state, but we need your help. Every vote counts, especially when those most impacted by these elections face insurmountable barriers to the ballot box. Voting is a harm reduction measure. It allows us to prevent bigoted legislators from passing dangerous bills. We hope you'll join us in electing legislators who are prepared to represent all of the communities in their districts.

"THE END GOAL OF ANTI-TRANS LEGISLATION IS TO DENY TRANS PEOPLE THE WORDS TO DESCRIBE OUR IDENTITIES, TO PREVENT US FROM EXPRESSING IT SAFELY, AND THE COMMUNITY WE BELONG TO DESERVES BETTER."



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**...LATION IS DENYING TRANSGENDER
...UR EXPERIENCE, THE MEANS TO
...MUNITY AND SUPPORT WE ALL
.../E."**

**— Gillian Branstetter, Communications
Strategist at the ACLU's Women's Rights
Project and LGBTQ & HIV Project**





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