



December 17, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Protecting Access to Healthcare for Transgender Californians

Dear Governor Newsom:

As leading LGBTQ+, health, and civil rights organizations, we write in the spirit of partnership and urgency as California confronts a rapidly worsening crisis in access to healthcare for transgender, gender-diverse, and intersex (TGI) people. Recent decisions by major California healthcare institutions to halt or restrict care for transgender youth, together with coordinated federal actions designed to eliminate coverage and criminalize providers, have placed TGI Californians, their families, and their healthcare providers in immediate jeopardy. Families are losing trusted providers, youth are being turned away from medically necessary care, providers are working in fear, and community clinics are stretched beyond capacity. The harm is unfolding now, and without swift state intervention, it will only accelerate.

For nearly a year, escalating federal attacks have slowly eroded access to gender-affirming care for TGI youth and their families. Federal executive actions, investigations, and subpoenas have already led to significant disruptions in care. Now, anticipated CMS rules are poised to escalate these attacks even further by attempting to prohibit Medicaid and CHIP reimbursement for gender-affirming care for patients under 19 and to prohibit hospitals from participating in Medicare and Medicaid entirely if they provide this care. These actions would place hospitals in an impossible position: comply with California law by providing medically necessary care, or lose the Medicare and Medicaid funding they rely on to serve entire communities.

The consequences of these actions are already being felt across California. Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Stanford, Kaiser Permanente, and others have stopped providing some gender-affirming services or closed their programs entirely; thousands of young people have lost continuity of care; and families are being pushed onto waitlists, forced to travel long distances, or left with no options to access care at all. This erosion of care is not theoretical. It is happening in real time and is disproportionately harming low-income families and Medi-Cal beneficiaries who face the greatest barriers to care.

The consequences of recent federal actions extend beyond patients. Providers who have dedicated their careers to evidence-based, medically necessary care now face uncertainty, institutional pressure, and the threat of investigation and prosecution simply for following state law and established clinical standards. Without additional legal and financial support, California risks losing the very workforce that sustains access to quality healthcare for TGI Californians. These clinicians deserve clarity, protection, and the confidence that California stands behind them.

California has long stood as a national beacon for LGBTQ+ rights and equality because leaders like you have acted decisively when confronted with immense challenges. That legacy is being tested now. Transgender youth, their families, and their healthcare providers are experiencing the most severe threats to their safety and wellbeing in decades, and they are looking to California's elected leaders for assurance that our state's legal protections will hold even as the federal government works to dismantle them.

California must act now to preserve access to care that is both medically necessary and legally protected. State law is clear: TGI people have the right to receive medically necessary gender-affirming care without discrimination. We need your leadership to uphold and enforce California law and to ensure that families and providers can continue to rely on the strong protections the state has enacted.

To meet this moment, we are eager to partner with your Administration and the Legislature on urgent budget and policy actions to provide healthcare institutions with the legal clarity and financial support they need to continue delivering medically necessary care despite federal policy changes. Without immediate state investment, providers will remain under increasing pressure to scale back or discontinue services, leaving TGI youth and their families facing growing disruptions, delays, and loss of access to essential healthcare.

California's values are being tested at a moment when thousands of young people and their families cannot afford hesitation. The actions taken now will be remembered for decades. We ask for your partnership and resolve so that California continues to lead with moral clarity, legal strength, and compassion. With your support, we can prevent irreversible harm, protect healthcare providers, and preserve access to care that is quite literally lifesaving.

We stand ready to work with you to uphold California law, maintain access to essential healthcare, and protect the futures of TGI Californians. Their lives and their wellbeing depend on our willingness to act.

Sincerely,

ACLU California Action
Alliance for TransYouth Rights
APLA Health
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
Casita Feliz Latine LGBTQ Center
Children Now
Courage California
CPCA Advocates
Equality California
Gender Affirming Professionals
Gender Justice LA
Justice in Aging
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Mirror Memoirs
National Health Law Program
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Rainbow Families Action
Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance
San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center
The Children's Partnership
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
TransFamily Support Services
Transgender Law Center

Western Center on Law and Poverty

CC:

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