



JOHNS HOPKINS
MEDICINE

Look Back. Look Around. Look Ahead: The Environment for Providing Gender-affirming Care

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Hi Folks!



PRIDE



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Objectives

- Discuss the historical social, political, and legal environment in which transgender and gender-expansive (TGD) health care has evolved
- Describe the current status of the anti-transgender executive action and state / federal legislation introduced in 2023
- Identify actions that individual practitioners can take to be advocates and allies to TGD people



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Discuss the historical social, political, and legal environment in which transgender and gender-expansive (TGD) health care has evolved

Society & Medicine

- TGD people have always existed (Neira & Lee, 2021)
 - The binary notion of gender is a Western European concept
 - Many indigenous people around the world view gender as a spectrum
- Society has progressed
 - Drag is not new
 - TGD people - poorly portrayed in the media; punchline of the joke
 - 21st Century – lots of change
- Medicine has progressed
 - Magnus Hirschfeld
 - Harry Benjamin and the WPATH Standards of Care
 - Johns Hopkins Medicine
 - Movement away from Psychopathology and Gate Keeping



EX-GI BECOMES BLONDE BEAUTY

Operations Transform Bronx Youth



A World of Difference

George W. Langford, 21, son of a Bronx surgeon, served in the Army 18 months and was discharged honorably December 15, 1953. Now George is in town after his hair-raising, dangerous and sometimes painful operations to correct his condition. He is now a handsome young man. (Special photo by the Staff Photographer in Chicago. Patients were released of the day through a special Chicago clinic. The paper today will be taken tonight.) —Story on page 2

Politics

- Stonewall Riots (1969)
- The Reagan Years
 - The Moral Majority
 - The AIDS Crisis
- 1990's Culture War
 - Continued use of LGBTQ+ community as scapegoat
- Project Blitz (Clarkson, 2021; Neira & Lee, 2021)
- Supreme Court LGBTQ+ Wins
 - Lawrence v. Texas (2003 - Sodomy laws)
 - Obergefell v. Hodges (2015 - Marriage)
 - Bostock v. Clayton (2020 - Employment)
- Pivot to attacking TGD (Richardson, 2022)



The Law

- Anti-LGBTQ+ history
 - Anti-sodomy laws
 - Anti-crossdressing laws (1848 – 2011) (PBS, 2015)
 - Tennessee is trying again!
- 1979-1981: First legal challenge to military ban
- Employment discrimination is legal until *Bostock*
- ENDA / Equality Act
- ACA Section 1557





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Describe the current status of the anti-transgender executive action and state / federal legislation introduced in 2023

Situational Awareness

- 2023: Over **>650** anti-LGBTQ bills across 46 states
 - Goal is to remove LGBTQ+ people from society
 - Many target transgender youth

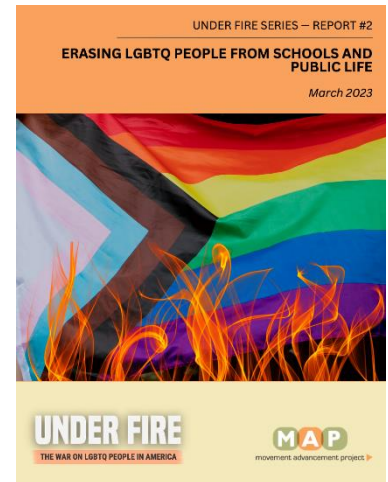
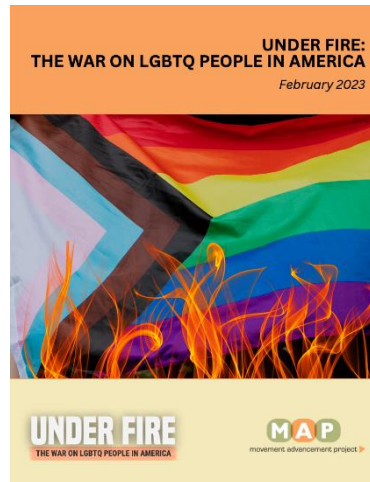
(Miller, 2023; MAP, 2023a; 2023b)



Anti-LGBTQ+ Agenda

- Erase LGBTQ+ people from schools and public life
- Ban gender-affirming care
- Embed anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination in the law
- Build structural barriers to change

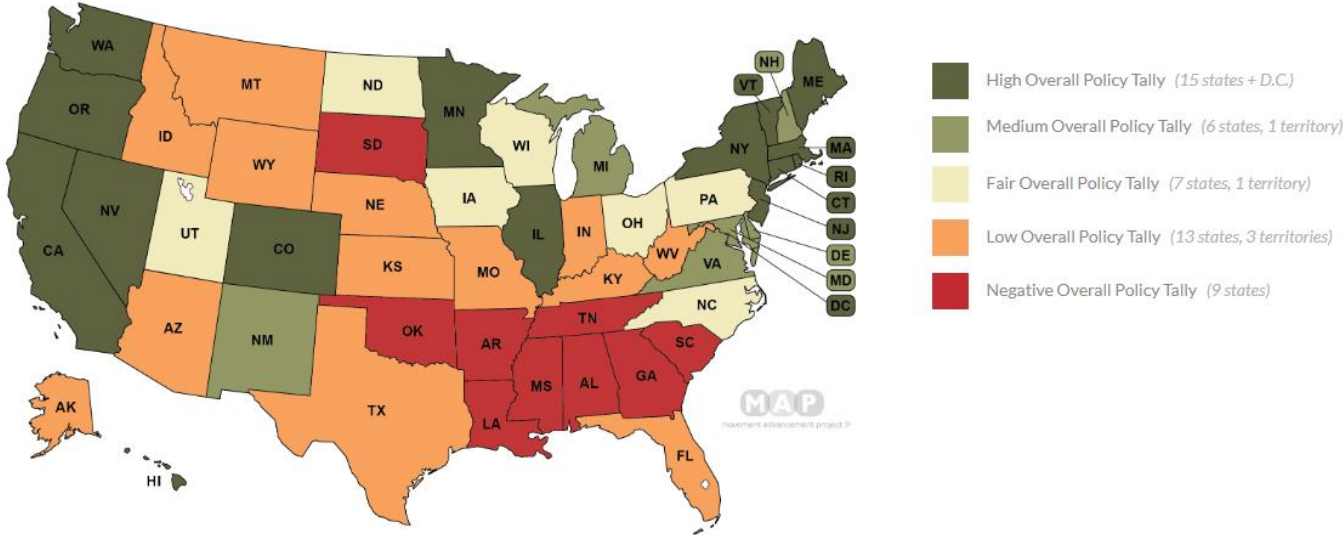
(MAP, 2023a; 2023b)



Implementing the Agenda

- Prohibit, penalize or criminalize the provision of gender-affirming care
- Define gender-affirming care as “child abuse”
- Prohibit updating government-issued identification
- Prohibit discussions of sexual orientation or gender identity
- Ban books with LGBTQ+ topics
- Prohibit use of pronouns
- Require teachers to out children
- Bar participation in athletics
- Reimpose a ban on transgender military service (Federal)
- Create non-evidence-based standard of care for accessing gender-affirming care (Missouri) (ACLU, 2023; Translegislation.com, 2023)

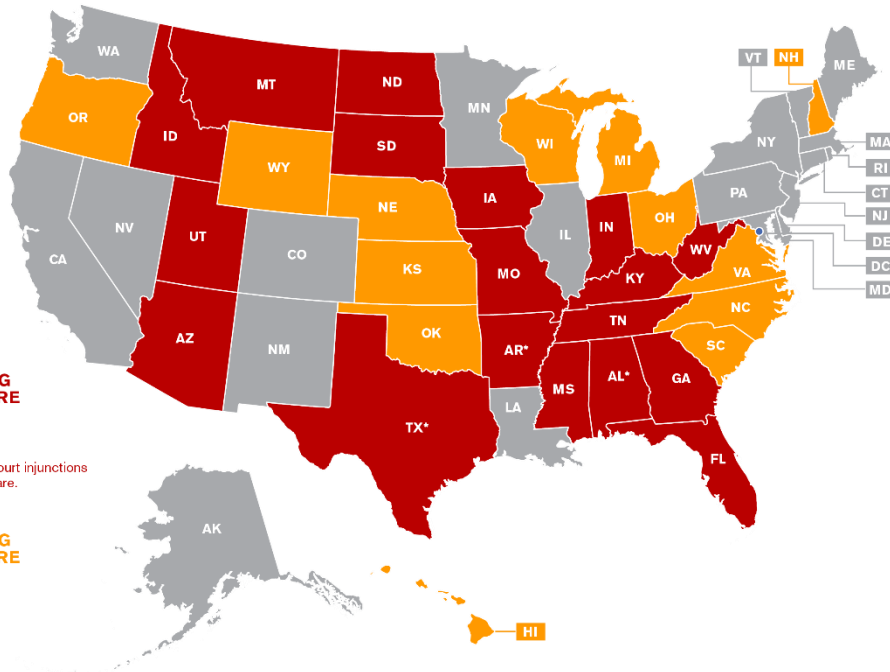
The Landscape



U.S. Territories

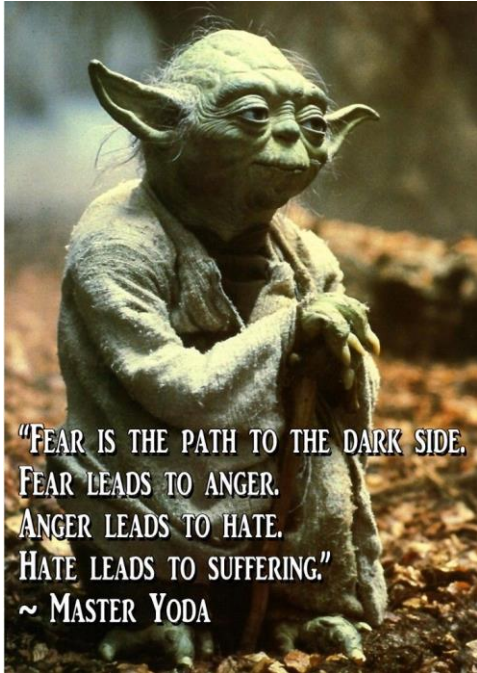


Gender-Affirming Care Bans Impacting Youth



last updated 05/02/23

Why?



(The Phantom Menace,
Lucasfilm Ltd., 1999)

Fueled by a toxic mix of

- Partisan politics
- Religiosity
- Non-evidence based policies and decisions

Unconscious Bias

- Bias is normal and a survival mechanism
- Acts as a filter to help process the onslaught of information
- Product of culture, identity, and experience
- Influenced by social media, popular culture, law, governmental action/policy, family, faith groups, peers

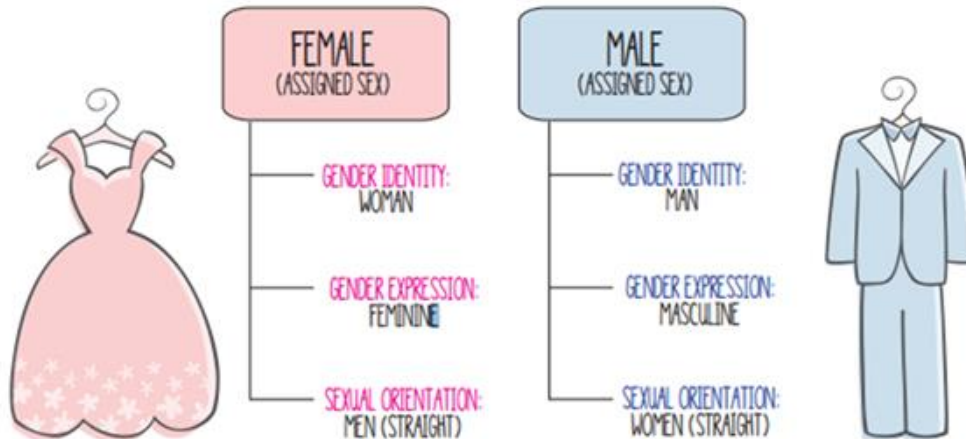
*“You must
unlearn what
you have
learned”*

(The Empire Strikes Back,
Lucasfilm Ltd., 1980)

Cisheteronormativity

- A pervasive system of belief that centers and naturalizes heterosexuality and a binary system of assigned sex/gender when there are two rigid, distinct ways of being: assigned-male-at-birth masculine men and assigned-female-at-birth feminine women.

(MSU, n.d)

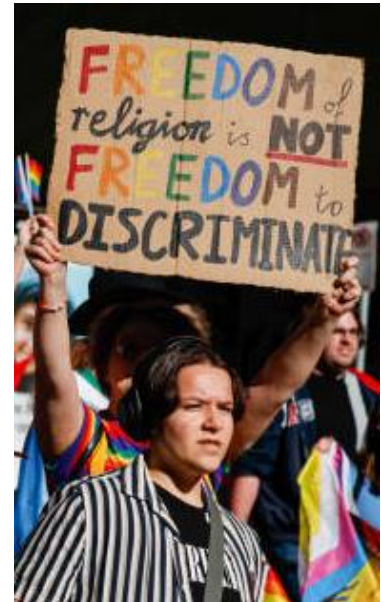


(PFLAG, 2020, p.14)

Religiosity and Politics:

Impact on Health Policy

- Conscious partisan tactic to motivate base of the Republican Party
 - GOP State Resolutions / Platforms (KS, TX)
 - “...oppose all efforts to validate transgender identity.”
(Shorman & Woodall, 2018; Texas GOP, 2022, p.21))
- Alignment of “Christian” hate groups (SPLC, n.d.) with GOP
 - Family Research Council
 - American College of Pediatricians
 - Alliance Defending Freedom
 - Liberty Counsel
- “Religious Liberty” being used as a weapon to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people broadly, transgender people specifically



In their own words . . .

(Homosexuality and Gender Issues)

143. Homosexuality: Homosexuality is an abnormal lifestyle choice. We believe there should be no granting of special legal entitlements or creation of special status for homosexual behavior, regardless of state of origin, and we oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values. No one should be granted special legal status based on their LGBTQ+ identification.

144. Gender Identity: We oppose all efforts to validate transgender identity. For the purpose of attempting to affirm a person age 21 or under if their perception is inconsistent with their biological sex, no medical practitioner or provider may engage in the following practices:

- a. Intervene in any way to prevent natural progression of puberty.
- b. Administer or provide opposite sex hormones.
- c. Perform any surgery on healthy body parts of the underage person.

145. No Taxpayer Funding for Sex Change: We oppose the use of taxpayer funds for any type of medical gender dysphoria treatments or sex change operations and/or treatments. This includes but is not limited to military personnel as well as inmates in federal, state, or local prisons or jails. Inmates must be housed according to their biological sex. No Federal, state, insurance, or probate monies may be allocated for the use of such treatment.

146. Counseling Methods: Therapists, psychologists, and counselors licensed with the State of Texas shall not be forbidden or penalized by any licensing board for practicing Reintegrative Therapy or other counseling methods when counseling clients of any age with gender dysphoria or unwanted same-sex attraction.

206. Gender Identity: We support enacting legislation in the State of Texas ensuring that:

- a. No government entity in the state shall be allowed to take it upon itself to define for any private business or private entity how it must segregate its restrooms, changing facilities, or showers.
- b. Nor may any government agency be allowed to require businesses to profess, espouse, or adopt specific views on sex, sexuality, gender, or gender identity. We oppose any attempt to criminalize and/or penalize anyone for the wrong use of pronouns.
- c. Government agencies must guarantee that views and positions on these matters are not used as a basis to deny access to public accommodations, as defined by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, nor to deny employment, or discriminate in employment decisions, solely on the basis of a person's views on these matters.
- d. We recognize that gender identity disorder is a genuine and extremely rare mental health condition and that denial of an immutable gender binary not only denies those with the condition proper mental healthcare but also leads to physically and psychologically abusive "social transitioning" as well as irreversible physical mutilation. We urge the State Legislature to pass legislation that requires adherence to sex identifications on all official documents that will be based upon biological gender, as well as legislation enacting civil penalties and fiscal compensation awarded to de-transitioners who have received "gender affirming surgery" as compensation for malpractice.

(Texas GOP, 2022, p.29)

(Family and Gender Issues)

207. Human Sexuality: We affirm God's biblical design for marriage and sexual behavior between one biological man and one biological woman, which has proven to be the foundation for all great nations in Western civilization. We oppose homosexual marriage, regardless of state of origin. We urge the Texas Legislature to pass religious liberty protections for individuals, businesses, and government officials who believe marriage is between one man and one woman. We oppose the granting of special legal entitlements or creation of special status for sexual behavior or identity, regardless of state of origin. We oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose non-traditional sexual behavior out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values.

208. Protect Minors Until Age of Consent: A law should be enacted to protect the rights of the individual until the age of consent is reached.

- a. Prohibit sexual transition surgeries, hormonal blockers, social transitioning, or other treatments
- b. Protect against predatory sexual behaviors, including but not limited to "Drag Queen Story Hour"
- c. Remove immunities or protections from school districts and personnel which participate in the sexualization of our children
- d. Require disclosure of the above offenses to parents or guardians

209. Definition of Marriage: We support the definition of marriage as a God-ordained, legal, and moral covenant only between one biological man and one biological woman.

It was NEVER About Bathroom Safety



21c Museum Hotel in Durham, NC;
design by Peregrine Honig

“...largely contrived.”

“Our side concocted the “bathroom safety” male predator argument as a way to avoid an uncomfortable battle over LGBT ideology, and still fire up people’s emotions. It worked in Houston a few years ago.” (Mass Resistance, 2018)



Impact on LGBTQ+ Youth

- LGBTQ+ youth are at risk
 - 45% suicidal ideation within last year
 - 73% report discrimination
 - <33% home was gender affirming
 - 60% could not access mental health care

(The Trevor Project, 2022a)

- 86% of transgender and Nonbinary youth have had a negative mental health impact from the debates
45% have been victims of cyberbullying (The Trevor Project, 2023)





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Identify actions that individual practitioners can take to be advocates and allies to TGD people

What Can I do?

- Language Matters

- Use the patient’s chosen/affirmed name and pronouns
- Use culturally-aware terminology
- Mirror the language the patient uses to describe themselves / their anatomy

- Actions Matter

- Do not exhibit “Transgender Broken Arm” syndrome
- Practice gender-affirming care
 - Meet the patient where they are at in their journey
 - Whatever the patient’s gender identity happens to be is OK
 - Practice trauma-informed care (Examinations, procedures, questioning)

Transgender Broken Arm Syndrome

“Trans Broken Arm Syndrome typically stems from a failure by health professionals to recognize that trans patients have the same general health needs as any of the rest of us; that their health is not purely defined by their trans status”

(Graham, 2021)

How this plays out in practice:

- Clinician’s reflexive loss of general competence when the patient is identified as transgender
- Inordinate focus on patient’s status of being transgender / transition (genitals)
- Blaming hormones as cause for all presenting complaints

(Brice, 2020; Graham, 2021; Neira & Bowman, 2022)

Advocate for Organizational Change

- **Health System Access to Care Issues**
 - Insurance (Payor/Payee mix)
 - Ownership / Affiliation
- **Staff Training / Education**
 - Formal training remains lacking in most school curricula
 - Online education – free and accessible
- **Facilities**
 - Signage
 - Gender-neutral bathrooms
- **Forms & Policies**
 - Language and Options
- **Electronic Medical Records**
 - Legal Name / Chosen Name / Pronouns to use
 - Gender Markers
 - System Interface Issues / Reference Ranges (Lab)
 - Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI)

Be an Ally / Advocate

- **Look Inside** – what are your blind spots? What is your learning curve?
- **Listen** – to your TGD community and staff members
- **Learn** – Seek out knowledge from reputable sources / experts
- **Lead** - Speak Up! Speak Out! Set the example!
 - Avoid performative allyship
 - No tolerance for willful ignorance, intentional misrepresentation, prejudice, harassment, bigotry
 - Do not let the lies/ false narratives/ gaslighting go unchallenged
 - Engage your circle of influence

Allyship



(thetrevorproject.org, 2022b)

the incredibly detailed honest forthright
fully comprehensive completely blunt
wonderfully helpful and witty exposition
on a topic that makes some people stress
because they doubt they understand it or
know enough about it but they'll soon be
ready to talk because this compelling and
transformative (no pun intended) little
publication will answer lots of questions
and start to demystify the not-at-all secret
world of people who are transgender and
become your tried and trusted

**guide
to being a
trans ally***

(pflag.org, 2020)

Be Resolute

- ✓ For those who suffer injustice, justice never comes fast enough . . . if at all
- ✓ Be Strategic
- ✓ Take Care of Yourself
- ✓ Actual Victory is Better than Emotional Wins



Sometimes leadership is planting trees under whose shade you'll never sit.

— *Jennifer Granholm* —

Never Surrender



You have two options:

- a) Fight
- b) Quit

“The colors must never be struck!”

“I have not yet begun to fight!”

THESE are the times that try men's souls.

The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly:
it is dearness only that gives every thing its value.

Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods;
and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as
FREEDOM should not be highly rated.

THE AMERICAN CRISIS. (No. 1)
THOMAS PAINE
DECEMBER 23, 1776

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Resources

Organization	Website
GLAAD (Media Reference Guide - 11 th ed.)	https://www.glaad.org/reference
Fenway Health	http://fenwayhealth.org/care/medical/transgender-health/
GLMA (formerly Gay & Lesbian Medical Association)	http://glma.org/
Human Rights Campaign (HRC)	http://www.hrc.org/
PFLAG	https://www.pflag.org
National Center for Transgender Equality	http://www.transequality.org/
The Trevor Project	https://www.thetrevorproject.org
UCSF Center of Excellence for Transgender Health	http://www.transhealth.ucsf.edu
World Professional Association for Transgender Health	http://www.wpath.org/
Johns Hopkins Center for Transgender and Gender Expansive Health	https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/center-transgender-health
Johns Hopkins Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Health Equity	https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/diversity/

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