

## **Society for the Study of Social Problems Statement Supporting Gender-Affirming Healthcare**

Gender-affirming healthcare is important evidence-based healthcare that improves the lives of transgender and gender diverse people. It allows people to express themselves in ways that are authentic, promoting positive mental health and social experiences. Gender-affirming care is associated with decreased rates of depression, suicidal ideation, and attempted and completed suicide, and therefore is considered life-saving care.

Lawmakers in several U.S. states have introduced and/or passed bills that restrict access to gender-affirming healthcare for transgender and gender-diverse adolescents and young adults. These bills politicize healthcare access and perpetuate stigma and social exclusion for transgender and gender-diverse people. They disproportionately impact racial/ethnic minoritized groups and people who have limited economic and other resources that would allow them to otherwise obtain gender-affirming healthcare. Therefore, these bills constitute healthcare discrimination and perpetuate health and social inequalities.

The Society for the Study of Social Problems joins numerous health organizations, including the American Medical Association,<sup>1</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics,<sup>2</sup> and others<sup>3-6</sup> in asserting support for gender-affirming healthcare and opposing legislation that restrict people's access to gender-affirming care. We call on lawmakers to oppose legislation that restricts gender-affirming healthcare and support legislation that protects transgender and gender diverse people from discrimination. Such protection is needed to promote a fair and just society.

Notes:

1. American Medical Association. 2021. [AMA Reinforces Opposition to Restrictions on Transgender Medical Care.](#)
2. American Academy of Pediatrics. 2021. [Frontline Physicians Oppose Legislation That Interferes In or Penalizes Patient Care.](#)
3. Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. 2023. *SAHM Statement about the Politicization of Gender-Affirming Care and Threats of Violence Against Clinicians.* [SAHM Statement about the Politicization of Gender-Affirming Care and Threats of Violence Against CI – SAHM \(adolescenthealth.org\)](#)
4. American Public Health Association. 2016. *Promoting Transgender and Gender Minority Health through Inclusive Policies and Practices.* [Promoting Transgender and Gender Minority Health through Inclusive Policies and Practices \(apha.org\)](#)
5. American Nurses Association. 2022. [American Nurses Association Opposes Restrictions on Transgender Healthcare and Criminalizing Gender-Affirming Care.](#)
6. American Psychiatric Association. 2020. [Position Statement on Treatment of Transgender \(Trans\) and Gender Diverse Youth.](#)