

# ATTACKS ON THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

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## BACKGROUND

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**The LGBTQ+ community—particularly transgender and non-binary people—is under attack. For the past several years, politicians at the state and federal level have introduced and passed laws and policies to limit the ability of LGBTQ+ people to live their authentic lives, and in some cases, put them in danger, all for their own perceived political gain.**

**The legislative attacks on the community have crossed every area of life—from banning books that erase LGBTQ+ youth in schools, to purging transgender people from the military, to granting licenses to discriminate against same-sex couples. They have restricted access to health care, targeted transgender people wherever possible, eliminated suicide prevention services for LGBTQ+ youth, cut funding for HIV care and prevention, and rolled back protections in employment, housing, and immigration. Anti-LGBTQ+ lawmakers are leaving no stone unturned in their quest to assault the rights of LGBTQ+ people.**

**This influx of political attacks is the product of a years-long misinformation effort by several organizations whose mission is to prevent any legal or social progress toward equality for the LGBTQ+ community. These are the same organizations that advanced predator-based narratives of fictitious harm to children if same-sex couples were allowed to marry, if LGBTQ+ people were allowed to be teachers or scout leaders, and if LGBTQ+ people serve in the military. These efforts are simply their latest attack, and transgender people have become their new scapegoat.**

**The so-called “problems” these policies claim to solve simply do not exist—but the harm they inflict on LGBTQ+ people is painfully real. Across nearly half the country, transgender youth are now denied access to best-practice, medically necessary care recommended by their doctors and supported by their parents.**

**And the consequences are devastating. FBI hate crimes data show that in states where anti-LGBTQ+ laws are on the books, hate crimes against LGBTQ+ students have quadrupled. Even when these bills fail, the damage is already done: 86% of transgender and non-binary youth report that the mere debates around these laws have harmed their**

**mental health. These relentless attacks feed stigma, fuel violence, and strip young people of hope.**

**The truth is clear: there is no evidence that LGBTQ+ people are a threat to society. What is proven—over and over again—is that discriminatory laws create tangible harm. They rob families of medical freedom, deny young people the chance to thrive, and place already vulnerable communities in greater danger. These attacks are not about solving real problems—they are about manufacturing fear. And unless we stop them, the human cost will only grow.**

## **KEY POINTS**

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- **LGBTQ+ people are just trying to live their lives. They deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.**
- **Extremist politicians have chosen transgender people as their latest scapegoat to attack for their own perceived political gain. These attacks are a disingenuous attempt by opponents of equality to use transgender people—particularly transgender kids—as a political wedge.**
- **While these “problems” are manufactured, the harm to kids and families caught in the crossfire is very real.**
- **Even when bills aren’t successful, hearing the same elected officials who are supposed to be representing the community instead spread fear and misinformation about what it means to be transgender is a terrifying thing for LGBTQ+ adults, LGBTQ+ youth, and the people who love them.**
- **Misunderstandings about transgender kids and adults mean that many still don’t get the support they deserve, and the consequences can be tragic.**
- **The harm that transgender people are facing from the actions of the Trump administration are very real. Trans service members have had their careers ripped away from them, young people in states across the country have had their health care providers shut down, and schools are being forced to discriminate against their students.**
- **These attacks have very real impacts on families. Families with trans kids have had to move across the country to live in a state where they can access age appropriate, medically necessary care, only to have those providers shut down under threat from the Trump administration. Some are even leaving the country to escape the instability and fear they have been forced to endure here.**
- **Deliberately sowing fear and misinformation about transgender kids in order to advance one’s own political standing is truly cruel, cowardly, and disgraceful.**