

TRANSGENDER HEALTH CARE ACCESS ACT

H.R. 2487; S. 3206

THE PROBLEM

Gender affirming care is evidence-based, lifesaving, and supported by every major medical association in the country. These medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and American Academy of Pediatrics have deemed this type of health care crucial and safe. In 2023, University of Washington-Seattle researchers found that access to gender affirming care for youth aged 13 to 20 correlated with a 60% lower rate of depression and a 73% lower rate of self-harm or suicidal ideation when compared with peers lacking access to these medical options. More and more studies have proven how vital this health care is for transgender people's long-term mental and physical wellness.

Despite this, access to gender affirming care is under attack. More than half of U.S. states have some form of a gender affirming care ban, and in 2025, the Supreme Court issued a decision in *United States v. Skrametti* that found—in HRC's opinion, incorrectly—that state bans on transgender health care were not unconstitutional. Several bills have also been introduced in Congress to block access to gender affirming care, including ones that would send doctors to jail for providing medically necessary care. The Trump administration has issued executive orders and regulations attempting to block access to gender affirming care in every avenue that they can. Many health care providers across the country have stopped providing gender affirming care—not because of any change in medical recommendations, but purely because of the unending political and legal attacks against them.

Unfortunately, even in the states where gender affirming care does remain legal, transgender people struggle with enormous wait times to access care because there are not enough providers to meet demand.

WHAT IS THE TRANSGENDER HEALTH CARE ACCESS ACT?

The Transgender Health Care Access Act would make critical investments in the health care workforce to ensure more providers are trained and equipped to deliver evidence-based, gender affirming care. It would address a significant gap in medical education by funding the development and national dissemination of curricula that teach cultural competency and clinical best practices for treating transgender patients. Through grants

to academic institutions, residency programs, and licensing entities, the bill also seeks to expand provider capacity across disciplines—especially in primary care, behavioral health, and community-based settings.

In addition, the bill focuses on increasing access to care in underserved areas by supporting community health centers, rural clinics, and tribal health systems in building infrastructure and training staff to meet the needs of transgender patients. By investing in peer-to-peer provider education networks and emphasizing care in rural and low-access regions, the legislation aims to close health equity gaps that

have left transgender individuals—particularly in hostile policy environments—without safe or affirming care. If enacted, this bill would not only improve health outcomes for transgender people but also advance broader goals in public health equity, workforce development, and patient-centered care.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE BILL

The Transgender Health Care Access Act was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Becca Balint (D-VT) on March 31, 2025, and in the Senate by Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) on November 19, 2025.