

[HB25 1309](#)

Good afternoon Chair and members of the committee. My name is Candice Bailey and I am the Policy and Advocacy Manager at the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that works to ensure all Coloradans have equitable access to high quality, affordable health care.

I am here to express our support for HB 1309 and ask for your yes vote. This bill will continue Colorado's important work in protecting access to both medically necessary - and specifically gender affirming - health care in our state.

As of 2023, Colorado was the first state to codify medically necessary gender affirming care as an Essential Health Benefit for all individuals and small group state regulated health benefit plans. We are tremendously proud of this accomplishment, however, this measure continues to face opposition at both the state and, more pressingly, the federal level. The presence of this bill before us today indicates the pressing need to do more.

HB 1309 builds on previous legislation and regulatory processes to strengthen Colorado's commitment to providing access to gender affirming care by one, codifying gender affirming treatments in statute and two prohibiting health benefit plans from denying or limiting access to *medically necessary* gender affirming health care.

Transgender and gender diverse individuals face additional barriers to accessing care, and often report marginalization and/or discrimination in health care settings. Accessing gender affirming care can help transgender and gender diverse folks feel more comfortable in their bodies which in turn significantly improves mental health. Studies have also shown that receiving gender-affirming care dramatically reduces rates of suicide attempts, depression, and anxiety for this population. Access to high quality gender affirming health care can therefore be a life-saving service for many transgender and gender diverse folks. Covering these treatments through insurance comes at a very small cost to the system, but provides significant cost-savings to members using this care, eliminating a financial burden that can make or break access for low- and middle-income Coloradans.

Commented [1]: Estimates from DOI's modeling showed it would cost 0.04% more in premiums, \$2.52 per person per year: <https://www.treasuryandrisk.com/2021/10/13/colorado-adds-gender-affirming-care-to-essential-health-benefits-package-411-25840/?slreturn=20250402145959>

We believe that every person who seeks health care should be respected, understood, and able to use their health coverage towards medically necessary care. Colorado has already made great strides toward this future. This bill today is an opportunity to protect this important progress. I therefore respectfully ask for your support for HB25 1309 and appreciate your consideration of my testimony.

Helpful links:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bBh1sBzJQee-8E6qPDfs5cOAa-WLjz07/view>

Safer, J. D., Coleman, E., Feldman, J., Garofalo, R., Hembree, W., Radix, A., & Sevelius, J. (2016). Barriers to healthcare for transgender individuals. *Current opinion in endocrinology, diabetes, and obesity*, 23(2), 168–171.
<https://doi.org/10.1097/MED.0000000000000272>

<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-03/transgender-coverage-issue-brief.pdf>

CO HB25-1309 Testimony

Hello,

I am Dr. Jerrica Kirkley, my pronouns are she/her and I am testifying in support of CO HB25-1309.

I first want to applaud the bill sponsors for introducing this important piece of legislation to help ensure healthcare access for all Coloradans.

I am a family physician, founder and chief medical officer of Plume Health, a healthcare company dedicated to the transgender and nonbinary community and I have provided healthcare to the trans community for over 10 years. I have personally cared for over a 1000 trans and nonbinary individuals myself and I have overseen the care of over 40,000 trans folks in the last 5 years, more than probably anybody else in the world. I am an author on multiple research papers assessing the health of the transgender and nonbinary community. I have studied and taught on the guidelines for transgender health widely over the past 10 years. I am one of the world's leading experts on transgender health. I can confidently tell you that gender affirming care is lifesaving. It has been shown by numerous studies to improve mental health, well-being, and quality of life. There have been more than 70,000 studies looking at the health of transgender people and every major medical association supports gender affirming care. Every single day I have patients tell me how having access to gender affirming care saved their life. By having access to essential healthcare, they were able to get a job, go back to school and complete their degree, have the confidence to join a gym and get exercise for the first time in their life, among many other things that lead to a healthful fulfilling life.

This bill also would remove testosterone from the prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) of Colorado which is an important step to destigmatizing testosterone prescriptions for transgender people and many others who benefit from testosterone for essential healthcare including hypogonadism (abnormally low testosterone), cancer, and HIV, among others. The PDMP was created to track the prescribing of highly dangerous schedule II medications like opioids that kill thousands of people every year because of misuse and abuse. Testosterone does not fall in that class and the DEA itself has literature stating that testosterone is used recreationally by a small group of people (mainly cisgender body builders) and that they are most often acquiring it illicitly from overseas - not through prescriptions from doctors.

I am also a transgender woman myself and have lived in Colorado for the past 13 years, and I have faced my own challenges in trying to access healthcare and get it covered by health insurance. I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309 so that Coloradans like me - physicians, mothers, sisters, daughters and all - can have health insurance coverage of essential and lifesaving care and help remove stigma and bias from folks who are already heavily stigmatized.

Thank you,
Dr. Jerrica Kirkley

Good afternoon Mr. Chair, Members of the committee,

My name is Rev. Leta Behrens and I am an ordained pastor in the ELCA and I am representing The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado. Thank you so much for taking the time to read my thoughts in support of HB25-1309 Protect Access to Gender-Affirming Care.

I am in support of this bill for a couple reasons. First, it is a bill that will offer protection for the individual in making their own healthcare choices and decisions along with their medical professionals. It is not the job of the government to decide what healthcare is needed for each person, it is the job of the government to make sure all people have equity and access to making decisions about their own lives and this includes healthcare. Gender affirming care is a personal choice that is rooted in many intersecting factors such as gender, class, and race. This bill protects individuals and it also protects medical professionals and systems and keeps them from discriminating against those in vulnerable positions.

Additionally, this bill protects religious freed, a basic tenant of our constitution and democracy. It is the right of the individual to consult their family, faith tradition, and personal beliefs when making decisions about healthcare. Gender affirming care should not be in the hands of or from the perspective on one religious identity. By supporting this bill, health and well being are protected and religious freedom is protected so that all can make their own choice. As a faith leader, I highly value the ability to counsel, lead, and spiritually direct people with the freedom of our values and faith practices intact. One of the key verses of our faith comes from the book of Galatians found in the New Testament- "There is neither Jew nor Greek, nor male or female, nor slave or free, you are all one," which to us means that all are to be honored and seen as a part of the human family.

It is essential as a community that we protect, affirm, and support dignity, health equity, and access for all of our community members in accordance with their faith and values free from interference or threat. It is with this in mind that I ask for a yes vote.

Thank you,

Rev. Leta Behrens

Thank you members of the House Health and Human Affairs Committee. My name is Maggie Gómez, and I am the CO State Director with the State Innovation Exchange Action. SiX is a national resource and strategy center that collaborates with state legislators and community organizations to improve people's lives through transformative public policy. I am writing in support of HB25-1309, Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care because all Coloradans deserve safe, equitable access to the care they need.

Patients and providers across the country continue to navigate the fear and confusion that comes from the attacks from hostile federal government and state intrusions, and HB25-1309 marks the next important phase in furthering these protections. Across the country, Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care is inconsistent causing confusion and delays in access to care. 25 states and the District of Columbia explicitly cover gender-affirming care under Medicaid. 18 states have unclear policies, creating inconsistent access to care, and 7 states explicitly prohibit Medicaid coverage for this healthcare coverage. Many large insurers provide gender-affirming care, but coverage varies based on state laws and employer policies. From a national perspective, this bill represents a bold commitment to safeguarding the rights of individuals and healthcare access in Colorado.

All Americans should have the freedom to live their private lives and get the healthcare they need, without politicians interfering in private, personal, medical matters. In Colorado, our personal freedoms and the ability to make decisions about our own bodies, and healthcare is paramount, and HB25-1309 is an important opportunity for Colorado to continue this precedent. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I respectfully ask for your aye vote on HB25-1309, Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.



April 2, 2025

RE: Support for HB25-1309 Protect Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care

Chairperson Brown and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our strong support for HB25-1309. The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado promotes justice, religious liberty, and interfaith understanding through building relationships in order to educate, advocate, and catalyze social change. We are an interfaith public policy and advocacy organization with over 400 congregations in our statewide network, representing over two dozen faith traditions.

Interfaith Alliance of Colorado believes in faith for healthy, thriving communities. When individuals are protected from discrimination and can access the care they need, they are able to live their lives truthfully and flourish. HB25-1309 will protect the ability of transgender and nonbinary Coloradans to access critical health care services by placing health coverage requirements in state law.

Our shared values of justice, compassion, and human dignity inform our steadfast solidarity with our transgender and nonbinary siblings. HB25-1309 affirms those values by eliminating harmful barriers to care, removing stigma, and prohibiting discrimination in health care services.

Protecting the dignity, health, and well-being of our transgender and nonbinary siblings is absolutely necessary to the larger goal of providing every Coloradan with the safety, stability, and support they need to thrive. Voting Yes on HB25-1309 is an opportunity to join us in commitment to that goal. It is also an opportunity to reject the stigmatization of our LGBTQ+ neighbors and support them in living authentic, self-directed lives.

It is in that spirit that we encourage a Yes vote on HB25-1309. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shara Smith, Chief Executive Officer
Interfaith Alliance of Colorado

TO: HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RE: HB25-1309 – Protect Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care

DATE: 4/02/2025 HCR-0112.

SPONSOR: Rep Kyle Brown, Rep. Brianna Titone, Senator Lisa Cutter and Senator Julie Gonzales

Thank you for this opportunity to support this bill.

My name is Jody Nickerson from Jefferson County, and I represent myself.

The verbiage in this bill is alarming and overreaching in our taxpayers dollars. The fiscal note is very dishonest and not transparent. Proof is the statement in the bill as follows:

Private Insurance Under the Affordable Care Act, any mandated benefit created in state law beyond what is considered an essential health benefit is subject to state defrayal, meaning the state is required to pay for the additional costs incurred by insurers to provide the benefit.

Not only are we allowing out of state individuals swarming in this state without residency requirements to receive such services, but there is also nothing that separates the generalization to distinguish an age requirement on this bill which I feel is very important when having these discussions. Doing this would make the topic more palatable.

Having such an open-ended generalized age causes a division among those that require it at an appropriate age. Maybe that's why insurance companies are having to be the ones setting guidelines because you legislators are not being transparent and setting boundaries. The many bills you have already passed are causing such court cases and costs to the state because you are not helping those that really need it and leaving children vulnerable to be coerced. If you don't agree with this statement, then put it in writing.

Put the age requirement in so that parents feel they are part of the discussion, and you are protecting their rights.

Protecting access doesn't eliminate all risks for providers. Despite shield laws, those treating out-of-state patients might face lawsuits or professional censure in ban states, creating a chilling effect. Denver Health's 2025 decision to limit new out-of-state patients

under 19, even after resuming care post-Trump executive order challenges, suggests ongoing uncertainty about legal protections, potentially deterring providers from offering services.

Trump is not trying to eliminate the already transgender of age situations, just those that are under the age of 18. Too many transgender individuals are being told misinformation and causing you legislators to scramble. This is not effective or responsible legislative representation.

Please vote no and rewrite if necessary but stop cramming these bills in when our house and senate are overloaded with more important issues.

House Health & Human Services

04/02/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1309 Protect Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Lee Frank-DePue For themselves	<p>Madam Chair and Committee Members,</p> <p>I write in support of HB25-1309. As a citizen of Colorado, I am incredibly grateful to have abundant access to Trans medical care; however, the burden of making career and life decisions based on insurance coverage of this care is deeply unfair. HB25-1309 would ensure that I have the same protected access to procedures and medication as my fellow non-transgender citizens; additionally, it would afford me dignity and privacy when using testosterone as prescribed by my doctor. I have nearly been refused my own prescription at a local pharmacy because of my prescription's regulated tracking status and my own trans appearance; this bill would be a step towards fairer access and would protect the private medical data of many citizens.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Shandra Knight For themselves	<p>Healthcare is a human right. By securing gender-affirming care (GAC) in Colorado law, HB25-1309 ensures that every Coloradan can access the healthcare they need to thrive. Colorado must continue to be a national leader in protecting LGBTQIA rights, and this bill builds on that leadership by ensuring essential, life-saving care remains protected and accessible. The disruption and fear that resulted from recent Executives Orders banning care for youth highlights the need to protect ALL healthcare in Colorado. As the proud and supportive parent of a transgender youth, I live in fear of what would happen if my healthy, happy teen was denied care.</p> <p>The sanctity of the provider-patient-family relationship should be free of politics, free of bigotry. Denying care based on bias simply violates the Hippocratic oath and endangers our society as a whole. We</p>

	<p>should make it easier to access care, not harder. We should follow best practices and evidence-based guidelines.</p> <p>When our most vulnerable suffer, we all suffer. When our most vulnerable are targeted and we stand by and let it happen, we become complicit in the cruelty. It damages our communities and our institutions.</p> <p>Thank you for supporting this life-saving bill.</p> <p>Shandra Lee Knight</p>
<p>Ezra Toledo For themselves</p>	<p>In order to assure the health and safety of all people protection for transgender Healthcare. As a transgender person I rely on Colorado's progressive attitude to allow me to live my life as a productive member of society.</p>
<p>Scott Fassett For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,</p> <p>My name is Scott Fassett, I use he/him pronouns, and I live in Broomfield 80023. I'm a parent of a trans child, and I'm writing to express my strong support for HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.</p> <p>I know firsthand how important gender-affirming care is because my transgender child has been benefiting from it for 6 years. My child is currently happy and healthy as a result of gender-affirming care. They participate more in school, get better grades, and overall have more of a sense of confidence in who they are.</p> <p>When Children's Hospital Colorado decided to stop gender-affirming care after threats of loss of federal funding after the Executive Order, I feared the worse for my child. Devastation and anxiety disrupted my family's lives during the weeks before they reinstated care. Now, there is a constant state of anxiety knowing it could be ripped away again at any moment. And it's not just my own child - many children in neighboring states rely on Colorado's protections and care to continue living their lives.</p>

	<p>Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and removes harmful barriers like the tracking of testosterone in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which has been misused to target trans patients and violate privacy.</p> <p>Everyone deserves access to the health care they need, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have to fight for care simply because of who they are.</p> <p>I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309. This bill is about protecting essential, medically necessary care. It’s about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado.</p> <p>Sincerely, Scott Fassett he/him 80023 Parent of a trans child</p>
<p>Cindy Grubenhoff For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,</p> <p>My name is Cindy Grubenhoff, I use she/her pronouns, and I live in Aurora 80016. I’m a parent of a trans and nonbinary young adult, and I’m writing to express my strong support for HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.</p> <p>I know firsthand how important gender-affirming care is because my kiddo (they/them pronouns) identifies as trans and nonbinary and they began receiving gender-affirming care a few years ago. Now they are 19, attending college, and able to access care that hasn’t YET</p>

been threatened, but I believe they would not have survived high-school if the care they needed had been unavailable. I don't say that as a colloquialism - my child was suicidal and had a plan to end their life. But finding support from me, their therapist, and their doctors was the hope they needed to survive.

My child is now thriving as a result of gender-affirming care. They recently attended a family wedding and felt confident in their body for the first time. I know, without ANY doubt, that supporting their transition was the best thing for their mental and physical health. We also know that gender affirming care is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Can you imagine if politicians decided doctors should stop providing chemo to kids with cancer? That would be outrageous - just as blocking gender-affirming care is.

Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and removes harmful barriers like the tracking of testosterone in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which has been misused to target trans patients and violate privacy.

Everyone deserves access to the health care they need, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have to fight for care simply because of who they are.

I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309. This bill is about protecting essential, medically necessary care. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities.

Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,
Cindy Grubenhoff
she/her
80016

	Parent of a trans individual
<p>Briana Johnson For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the House Health & Human Services committee,</p> <p>My name is Briana Johnson, I use she/her pronouns and I live in Denver, Colorado. I'm licensed professional counselor and licensed addictions counselor specializing in queer and trans trauma therapy, and I'm writing to express my strong support for HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.</p> <p>My trans and non-binary clients are many things: medical professionals, engineers, attorneys, IT experts, parents, children, siblings. They want what many cisgender people never have to think about: access to bathrooms that align with their bodies and genders, co-workers using the right name for them and referring to them correctly when they're not around, medical care that allows them to feel that their body and appearance aligns with how they see themselves, so others can see that as well. Many just want to get on with their lives as who they are, so they can focus on their work, their families, and building a good life. Gender-affirming care allows people to start at the same baseline that cisgender people do every day. Lack of access to care causes significant anxiety, panic, depression. In my office, we often celebrate living in Colorado and the protections this state offers to people. This bill would further cement these protections so that clients could worry less about the prevailing sociopolitical climate and the possibility that their medical care could suddenly be taken away at any time. Removing testosterone from the PDMP also offers significant privacy protection for clients who have to worry that accessing a basic medication makes them vulnerable to surveillance by the government and potential targeting.</p> <p>We should all care about having freedom to access medical care that we need. Right now, trans people are facing discrimination and unfair targeting, but it won't stop there. We need to protect trans people now and set a precedent that all people deserve safety and freedom.</p> <p>I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309. This bill is about protecting essential, medically necessary care. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with</p>

	<p>dignity and fairness for all communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Briana Johnson</p> <p>She/her</p> <p>Denver, Colorado</p> <p>LGBTQIA Trauma Therapist</p>
<p>Suzanne McNamara Pollard For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB25-1309. I write to you today as a mother of a trans man, a grandmother and a retired educator. My son and his husband both transitioned many years ago, and are happily married, living in Colorado and successfully pursuing their careers. They are thriving. The healthcare that has been afforded them through their transition, and their ongoing healthcare, is key to their success and happiness. Without it, their very existence would be at risk. I have been witness to how essential gender affirming healthcare is in allowing a person to thrive. I think we can all agree that the role of government is to enable its citizenry to thrive, and at the very least, it should protect the rights of the individual. The patient-doctor relationship is sacrosanct, in which medical decisions are made without the interference of the state. The privacy of this relationship, and the integrity of our trans citizenry, is under assault at the national level. It's incumbent on Colorado to maintain safety for our citizens. This bill would solidify healthcare protections for our transgender citizenry. I strongly request that you support HB25-1309. It is critical in guarding the freedom of transgender constituents to control their own families, bodies, and lives, which are the same inalienable rights we want for all Americans. Please vote YES, and thank you.</p>
<p>MuHua Hsia For themselves</p>	<p>I am a transgender immigrant Coloradan and I'm proud to call this place my home. I would love for my home to support me and people like me by systemizing community support for transgender children and individuals. I wish that there were laws codifying protections for my gender identity during my childhood and want trans children today to know they are wanted and loved. Thank you for supporting these ways to show trans people we can live.</p>
<p>Claire Gray For</p>	<p>To the Esteemed Members of the Colorado Legislature,</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>I am writing today in full support of the Kelly Loving Act. This bill is not about politics. It is not about ideology. It is about something far simpler and more fundamental—human rights. Trans rights are human rights. And if we claim to stand for justice, fairness, and the dignity of all people, then we must ensure that those rights extend to everyone, without exception.</p> <p>I firmly believe that rights are only meaningful if they apply to all of us, not just those we understand or feel comfortable with. “All of us or none of us” is not just a slogan—it is the foundation of any society that values true equality. If we allow exceptions, if we make excuses for discrimination under the guise of discomfort or unfamiliarity, then we are choosing to erode the very concept of rights themselves.</p> <p>We are living in unprecedented times, with an increasingly overreaching administration inserting itself into private lives, family decisions, and personal freedoms. It is imperative, now more than ever, that we push back against this intrusion and reaffirm that decisions about a child’s well-being belong where they always have—with their parents and families. If you do not understand what it means to be transgender, that is fine. You do not have to understand in order to respect someone’s right to exist, to be safe, and to live authentically. What you can do is set aside personal biases, put away the “weird feelings” that may arise from something unfamiliar, and recognize that none of this—none—affects you or your family.</p> <p>This bill ensures that families can make the best decisions for their children without fear of government overreach. It upholds dignity in schools, in courtrooms, and in everyday life. Most importantly, it prevents harm. There is no valid argument against these protections that does not stem from misunderstanding, misinformation, or outright cruelty.</p> <p>I implore you to support this act. Stand on the side of rights, fairness, and human dignity. Stand against unnecessary government interference in the most personal aspects of family life.</p> <p>With Gratitude, Claire</p>
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<p>Charlotte Rex For themselves</p>	<p>Gender Affirming care is life saving care that helped me so much with my anxiety and depression. I feel more like me every day, please don't take that away from me.</p>
<p>Erin Skyles For themselves</p>	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I have been a CO resident for 26 years and am a mental health practitioner that currently works with teenagers in a public high school in our state. I implore you to PLEASE do ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING in your capacity to protect the rights of trans youth and to vote FOR HB 25-1312. As we watch safety measures and protections for our most vulnerable populations be eradicated by the federal government, it is imperative for state and local communities to afford their residents safety and security. HB 25-1312 will not only protect your constituents who belong to one of the most marginalized communities in our state (and beyond), it will literally SAVE LIVES. Research shows that gender affirming care significantly decreases the risk of suicide for people who are trans and drastically increases their mental health outcomes.</p> <p>Today and in the days to come, I want you to think about this: if you have the capacity to save hundreds or even thousands of lives of youth in Colorado, would you? Because that is what is at stake. Please vote yes on HB 25-1312.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time.</p> <p>Erin Skyles, MSW, LSW, Licensed School Social Worker Durango, Colorado</p>
<p>Adam Ruberg For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Colorado House and Senate,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong support for 25-1309, which ensures access to gender-affirming health care for those who need it. As a lifelong cisgender male, I rarely gave much thought to the healthcare challenges of transgender people. That changed in 2014 when my wife and I welcomed twins—one boy and one girl—into the world. Like all parents, we set out to nurture and support our children, providing them with the resources to grow into whoever they were meant to be.</p> <p>As they grew, their personalities developed in ways that didn't always align with traditional gender stereotypes. There was no interest in monster trucks or football, but plenty of enthusiasm for princesses and dresses. One child wanted short hair one year and long hair the next—just as the other did the opposite. In the process, we learned that rigid expectations don't work for children. What does work is</p>

	<p>creating an environment where they feel safe, supported, and free to explore who they are.</p> <p>We've been fortunate to live in a community that embraces all kinds of children. That support—from healthcare providers, family, and other parents—has made all the difference. But as our children approach adolescence, we know their needs will continue to evolve. The next decade will shape them emotionally, educationally, and biologically, and we as parents must be able to support them in every way possible.</p> <p>For some families, this may include gender-affirming health care. It is crucial that these options remain available so constituents and medical professionals—not politicians—can make the best decisions for each person's health and well-being. Leading medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, recognize gender-affirming care as a vital part of healthcare that can be life-saving for transgender youth. Ensuring access to this care isn't about forcing decisions on anyone—it's about protecting the rights of families to make informed choices based on their individual needs.</p> <p>I understand that many people may never need to consider the legalities of gender-affirming care for their own families. But I ask that those who are not directly impacted trust the families and adults who are and allow them to make these deeply personal decisions responsibly.</p> <p>I urge you to support 25-1309 to ensure that all families, including mine, have access to the care they may need now and in the future.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Adam Ruberg</p>
<p>Bo Parrish For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the House Health & Human Services,</p> <p>My name is Bo Parrish, I use e/er/ers, and I live in Aurora, CO. I'm a nonbinary person, and I'm writing to express my strong support for HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.</p>

	<p>Why This Bill Matters to Me:</p> <p>Our community needs this bill because I personally know many people in the trans community, to include my own spouse who would like to transition around retirement age. I also have close friends who have already transitioned. For the friend who detransitioned, I imagine that there were just too many barriers at the time to receive proper gender-affirming health care.</p> <p>What’s at Stake:</p> <p>Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and removes harmful barriers like the tracking of testosterone in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which has been misused to target trans patients and violate privacy.</p> <p>Everyone deserves access to the health care they need, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have to fight for care simply because of who they are.</p> <p>What I’m Asking You To Do:</p> <p>I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309. This bill is about protecting essential, medically necessary care. It’s about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado.</p> <p>Sincerely, Bo Parrish e/er/ers Aurora, CO 80011</p>
<p>Dylan Sabb For themself</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,</p> <p>My name is Dr Dylan Sabb (he/him), and I live in Boulder. I’m a primary care physician, and I’m writing to express my strong support for HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.</p> <p>Why This Bill Matters to Me:</p>

	<p>I have experienced firsthand the profound benefit access to gender-affirming care gives to Colorado individuals. I have the privilege of caring for patients of all ages from all walks of life, and including gender-affirming care directly alongside prevention & screening care and chronic disease management is one of the highlights of my job. Rarely in medicine are patients as grateful, well-read & motivated, or as quickly helped than when I am collaborating with folks along their gender journey.</p> <p>Gender-affirming is founded in research, effective, and reliably lowers rates of depression and suicide. It also yields vastly lower rates of medical regret (1%) when compared to common interventions like knee replacements (20%, Nat'l Lib Medicine), and clinicians do not refuse to perform knee replacements fearing a 1 in 5 likelihood of regret</p> <p>What's at Stake:</p> <p>Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and removes harmful barriers like the tracking of testosterone in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which has been misused to target trans patients and violate privacy, and which I currently have to review be for each and every refill</p> <p>Everyone deserves access to the health care they need, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have to fight for care simply because of who they are.</p> <p>My Ask:</p> <p>I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309. This bill is about protecting essential, life-saving, medically necessary care. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to my patients and the people of the state of Colorado</p>
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	<p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Dylan M. Sabb, MD, MPH (he/him)</p> <p>Boulder, Colorado</p> <p>Board Certified Family Medicine Physician</p>
<p>Crystal Pennington For themselves</p>	<p>I am a person who works regularly with a large number of children. Over the years, I have met a fair number of children come under my care who are transgender. I have met parents who have fled other states in fear that their parental rights will be removed for following what SCIENCE dictates is the best treatment for gender dysphoria. I have known children to be beaten by their conservative parents for being trans. I have known parents to withhold legal documents from their trans children as a means of control. I have seen the Colorado GOP board members threaten teachers who support trans children and their families' rights to make decisions about their trans children's healthcare while screeching about the imaginary loss of parental rights in other areas.</p> <p>I have also seen first-hand what it does for a trans child to be called the name that they feel more comfortable with. I have seen how families agonize about the correct plan of treatment for their children.</p> <p>The Colorado GOP is openly taking action against trans kids and all people who support them. We immediately need to put protective measures into our laws that keep such zealots from inserting themselves into the lives of people who don't want them there. Please pass this bill and protect the safety and mental health of trans kids and their families.</p>
<p>August Tousignant-Stanton For Affirming Psychotherapy LLC</p>	<p>Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services committee,</p> <p>My name is August Tousignant(Tooz-na)-Stanton. I use they/them pronouns, and I live and work in Denver. I'm a agender person, parent to three children, and a LCSW and LMFT in my private practice Affirming Psychotherapy LLC. I'm writing to express my very strong support for HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.</p>

	<p>Why This Bill Matters to Me:</p> <p>I am an agender person, and I work primary with queer and trans folks, particularly youth. I know both personally and professionally the life-saving nature of gender affirming medical care. Access to this care is essential to the well-being of trans and gender expansive people because the rate of suicide attempts for trans and gender diverse people is a staggering 40-50%. That is not just suicide ideation, it is attempts; 40 to 50% of transgender and gender diverse people have tried to take their own life. Gender affirming care can be life-saving in many, many cases. I've sat with clients as they discuss suicide attempts they have made, or they have witnessed their youth experience. Individuals and families across the country are even uprooting their entire lives to move to Colorado and get access to this care.</p> <p>We talk about suicide quite a bit--as we should, given the high rate of suicide attempts. But gender-affirming medical care is not just to keep people alive. It is to help them thrive. Why wouldn't we want to help people access this care, and live fully as themselves? I wish I could really describe what it is like to talk to someone after they have started hormones, or after they have received gender-affirming surgery. They describe a lightness and a relief; I can hear it in their voice and see it in their face. I've felt it myself. Restricting gender affirming care is denying transgender and gender-diverse people basic human dignity.</p> <p>I played an active role in creating Denver Family Institute's Queer Youth Program, a program to train clinicians to work with queer youth, and I've created a brand-new model of family therapy that validates the queer experience called the Queer Adjusted Systemic Lens. I know how essential this bill is personally and professionally.</p> <p>What's at Stake:</p> <p>Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and removes harmful barriers like the tracking of testosterone in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which has been misused to target trans patients and violate privacy. Everyone deserves access to the health care they need, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one</p>
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	<p>should have to fight for care simply because of who they are.</p> <p>What I'm Asking You To Do:</p> <p>I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309. This bill is about protecting essential, medically necessary care. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities. Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>August Tousignant-Stanton, LCSW, LMFT</p> <p>They/them</p> <p>Denver, CO</p> <p>Therapist/Owner of Affirming Psychotherapy, LLC</p> <p>Project Lead of Denver Family Institute's Queer Youth Program</p>
<p>Jane Hemiona</p> <p>Amend</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>I am a primary care physician, and I provide life-saving, life-improving, and risk-reducing care to my patients in countless ways. It is appalling that this bill is needed, but it certainly is needed. The idea that any well-established life-saving and suffering-reducing treatment would not be covered is an affront to human dignity and human rights. Insurance carriers absolutely should cover all appropriate medical care, be it surgery for gallstones, a cast for a broken arm, therapy and meds for depression, or speech therapy after a stroke. Gender affirming medical care is no different.</p> <p>But sadly, I have seen too many patients whose access to mainstream, standard-of-care treatment is precluded due to insurance non-coverage or excessive barriers. And with the expected loss of federal protections, I worry many many more people will lose access to life-saving care. It would be unacceptable to any of us for insurers to fail to cover treatment for depressions, because they see depression as a moral failing rather than a medical problem. No one would find that acceptable. And yet that is the hazard we face for treating our trans patients.</p> <p>Please vote yes on this bill.</p> <p>I would also ask to amend line 1(I)(A) from 'hormone therapy' to 'hormone therapy and other endocrine treatments,' since many medications we use act on the hormone/endocrine system, but do not technically qualify as 'hormone therapy.' - for example,</p>

	spironolactone and dutasteride both act on hormone receptors, but are not themselves hormones.
Lena Grout For themselves	Nothing makes more sense than giving folks access to live saving, gender affirming care. Taking that away will end lives.
Laura MacWaters For themselves	<p>To the Chair and Members of the Committee.</p> <p>Please support HB25-1309, Protecting Access to Gender Affirming Care. As a Transgender woman since the early 1970's I have found for most of my life that Gender Affirming Care has been at first illegal, and then uniformly and specifically excluded from all insurance coverage. This made almost all such care unaffordable and inaccessible for me despite having a good job with insurance. It is only in the last decade that I have found Gender Affirming Care covered by insurance and thus actually available and accessible here in Colorado. The Transgender community has a much higher rate of unemployment, underemployment, and poverty than the overall rates in Colorado, often by twice as much. Without ensuring that Gender Affirming Care is covered by all health insurance plans it will be simply out of reach and unavailable to most Transgender people.</p> <p>Please vote for HB25-1309 and help ensure gender affirming care is accessible and not just an empty promise that few can afford.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Laura MacWaters</p>
Jess Smith For themselves	Please accept this as encouragement to pass this bill. In a country where minorities feel less and less protected, this is one way that we can help to encourage this protection. Countless transgender individuals have a lack of access to gender affirming care, and I would like to see that change.
Jeany Rush Against themselves	<p>TO: HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE</p> <p>RE: HB25-1390 PROTECT ACCESS TO GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE 4-1-25</p>

	<p>SPONSORS: BROWN, TITONE, CUTTER, GONZALES</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. CONSTITUENT</p> <p>VOTE: NO</p> <p>This body has already passed bills to FORCE / MANDATE medical providers to perform procedures, or not allow them to apply a conscientious right to deny any trans/procedures or chemical provisions. THE OPERATIVE WORD IS FORCE/MANDATE.</p> <p>This body already pushed bills to force insurance to cover trans surgeries, and giving chemical protocols against even their will.</p> <p>This also has compromised everyone’s insurance rates, accessibility, to coverage. Further, it throws us into the Single Payer World where insurance and coverage has turned to mush.</p> <p>Add to these violations of rights and economics, the you are creating another conduit to FORCE and MANDATE what should be an option, at best.</p> <p>“The bill codifies gender-affirming health care treatments in statute and prohibits a health benefit plan from denying or limiting medically necessary gender-affirming health care, as determined and prescribed by a physical or behavioral health-care provider (health-care provider). ”</p> <p>You are basically making a law that takes a voluntary procedure, and voluntary medicines, and makes the rest of the community pay for those personal choices for either parents, or children who have been literally brainwashed by sick and unscientific ideology, and actually crimes against humanity.</p> <p>You are FORCING the rest of us to pay for your choices. Just like you want all of us to pay for the killing of a fully born baby, you have overstepped your boundaries, your rights over the people, and your false agenda to literally steal and mutilate our children in plain site. You will never have our approval! You will never be in the right lane on this! Everyone must stand up for the harms being done to perfectly healthy innocent children and adults being manipulated by a very sad and mentally ill UNSCIENTIFIC MAYHEM. The FORCE/MANDATE PORTION of this turns this state and this body into a GULAG!</p> <p>It is known that the medical interventions are irreversible, bodily damaging, and most sterilizing and forcing innocent children into a lifetime of harm and financial nightmares. No matter how many are paid to show up and protest and claim euphoric results, the science and truth is out there, and all of this will become not only a Crime against Humanity, it will become procedures to be prosecuted, and</p>
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	<p>punished. NO CHILD CAN GIVE INFORMED CONSENT, NO MATTER HOW MANY BRAINWASHED PEOPLE SAY DIFFERENT.</p> <p>PARENTS MUST STAND UP TOGETHER TO PROTECT HUMANITY.</p> <p>You cannot trans into another gender, and reproduce. A man cannot be a woman, only a manipulated and mutilated version of a former man, attempting to feed a mentally delusionary state. My heart breaks for the lies and damage done to innocent victims of the ideological genocide promoted in this day!</p>
<p>Josh Lowmon For themselves</p>	<p>I urge you to support HB25-1309 to protect access to gender-affirming health care in Colorado. Gender-affirming care is crucial medical treatment for those experiencing gender dysphoria. This bill codifies these treatments into law and prohibits health insurance plans from denying or limiting medically necessary gender-affirming care prescribed by health providers. It also rightly exempts testosterone prescriptions from monitoring requirements that can create barriers to access. Protecting the right to this vital care is essential for the health and wellbeing of transgender and gender-diverse Coloradans. I ask that you vote in favor of this important legislation.</p>
<p>Andrew Joslin For themselves</p>	<p>Medically necessary gender affirming care is essential healthcare for minors. Multiple studies indicate that it lowers the rates of suicide and suicidal ideology among trans and nonbinary youth (1). Regret rates for gender affirming surgery are estimated to be about 1% (2), and for gender affirming care in general they are even lower: this makes gender affirming care empirically one of the most beneficial with regards to patient well-being, and least-regretted, types of medical care available today. In contrast, knee surgery has a regret rate of about 7.3% excluding cases with complications, or 10% including complications (3).</p> <p>Pass this legislation, to ensure that parents and doctors in our state have safe and effective tools to improve and save the lives of our trans children.</p> <p>1) "Association of Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy With Depression, Thoughts of Suicide, and Attempted Suicide Among Transgender and Nonbinary Youth", Green et al, 2022</p> <p>2) "Regret after Gender-affirmation Surgery: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Prevalence", Bustos et al, 2021</p>

	<p>3) "Are 20% of Patients Actually Dissatisfied Following Total Knee Arthroplasty? A Systematic Review of the Literature" DeFrance et al, 2023</p>
<p>Kelsie Seigh For themselves</p>	<p>I am a transwoman in Colorado who greatly relies on my health insurance to cover my medicine and other transition related expenses. Thank you for your time on this matter.</p>
<p>Jenna Candreia For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Jenna Candreia, and I use she/her pronouns. I live in Boulder County and am a parent of a transgender young adult, an advocate for the transgender community, a voter, and a leader in suicide prevention. I am here today to express my strong support for HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.</p> <p>I know firsthand how crucial gender-affirming care is, as it saved my daughter's life and continues to be lifesaving for her. She began her gender journey at the age of 9. Initially, she transitioned socially by using her correct pronouns, name, and dressing in a way that aligned with her gender identity. When puberty started, her doctors monitored her development and determined the right time to allow her to use hormone blockers. These blockers prevented her from developing body parts that did not align with her gender, helping her feel comfortable in her body. Hormone blockers are 100% reversible and can save young lives.</p> <p>Our family has faced many barriers to treatment throughout Jude's journey. When she first began transitioning, we needed mental health support for her and for our family. Unfortunately, our insurance did not cover mental health care, forcing us to pay out of pocket for therapy sessions. Each session cost \$270, and with weekly sessions, that amounted to \$14,040 a year. I faced additional barriers when she first needed her hormone blockers. Our insurance did not cover the medication, requiring us to pay \$3,200 every quarter, totaling \$12,800 a year, not including the monthly health insurance premium. This financial burden stretched our family's finances thin. If insurance companies are not required to cover gender-affirming care; I will face thousands of dollars in annual costs, which could lead me into debt.</p> <p>I am incredibly grateful to live in a state that takes proactive steps to legislate protections for our transgender citizens. Colorado has made significant progress in safeguarding LGBTQ+ rights, but many of</p>

	<p>these protections still depend on administrative rules. Without action, this progress could be reversed with a single stroke of a pen. Supporting this bill ensures that these protections are secured and removes harmful barriers. Every human being deserves access to the health care they need, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have to fight for care simply because of who they are.</p> <p>I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309. This bill is about protecting essential, medically necessary care. It's about stability and safety, ensuring that Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Amelia Bahr For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Amelia Bahr and I am transgender. I support this bill because gender affirming care is life-saving care and as such, should be protected. I know it to be live-saving because it saved mine. I spent the first 2 decades of my life living in a haze. I didn't have any real interests, or ambitions, or even basic motivation to participate in life. I spent each waking hour counting down the clock until I could retire to my bed and fall asleep. Because while I was sleeping I couldn't feel. I couldn't feel my hatred for how I looked, shame for my existence, or the overwhelming confusion for why I felt miserable all the time.</p> <p>This all started to change 5 years ago when I began hormone replacement therapy. For the first time in my life I could feel optimism for the future. As a teenager, people would ask me questions like "what do you want to do when you grow up" or "what do you want to be doing in 5 years?" I could never answer them. If I couldn't see a future for myself 6 months from now, how could I possibly imagine 5 years from now? Fast-forward a few years and I'm still not sure what I want to be doing 5 years from now, but I know one thing for certain: the excitement of learning who I become in 5 years feels me with a joy unlike anything else. Every year is an opportunity to learn something new about myself. An opportunity to explore a hobby that brings me joy. Or perhaps most importantly, a new year where I can once again feel like I can smile.</p>

	<p>I support this bill because I know gender affirming care to be life-saving. Without transitioning, I would not be alive to write this testimony today. Everyone deserves the right to feel happiness.</p>
<p>Tonya Allen For themselves</p>	<p>I am here to express my support for HB25-1309, which ensures access to gender affirming care for families like mine with transgender children.</p> <p>My son struggled for years with mental health. We sought treatment in various types of therapy, psychiatry, functional and traditional medicine. When all of that failed, at 14, my son had a failed suicide attempt and went into a mental hospital. A few months later he identified as transgender. As parents, we did research and brought in a team of medical professionals to help, eventually at 16 putting our son on puberty blockers and later HRT. Thank God we were able to get him this care, as he is now thriving and healthy.</p> <p>One shot of puberty blockers cost \$14K when insurance wouldn't cover it despite months of appeals. Most families in Colorado can't afford this care without insurance. Getting our kids health care they need should not put us in debt.</p> <p>Gender-affirming care is lifesaving. It is supported by every major medical and mental health organization, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Denying or limiting this care causes significant harm to Colorado individuals and families like mine.</p> <p>By codifying protections for gender-affirming healthcare, this bill ensures that care decisions remain between patients, parents, and their providers and prevents discriminatory denials of treatment.</p> <p>Also, the bill's provision regarding testosterone prescription tracking is crucial for protecting privacy and removing care barriers. My son should not be on anyone's watchlist, he's under supervision of medical professionals.</p> <p>I urge you to vote yes on HB25-1309 as a critical step to support the well-being of transgender Coloradans and their families.</p>
<p>Summer Laws For Boulder County</p>	<p>Dear members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,</p> <p>Boulder County strongly supports HB25-1309 Protect Access to Gender Affirming Care and appreciates Representative Brown's and Titone's leadership on this important bill .</p>

	<p>Access to health care and gender affirming care is a basic human right. Boulder County believes that everyone has the right to make decisions about their own body, denying access to care is a violation of an individual’s right to health and autonomy.</p> <p>As you will hear today, access to gender affirming care is not only essential for physical health, access to care is proven to be critical to supporting mental health. A 2022 study reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association reported 60% lower odds of moderate or severe depression and 73% lower odds of suicidality among transgender and non-binary youths ages 13 to 20 years of age. who received gender-affirming care, such as puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormones.</p> <p>Lack of access to gender-affirming care can also lead some individuals to seek unsafe or unregulated treatments, putting their lives and health at risk. Providing safe, informed, and supportive care helps prevent these harmful outcomes and ensures that individuals can transition in a medically supervised and safe manner.</p> <p>Studies show that gender affirming care has the added effect of supporting inclusion, belonging, and social connection in our communities, which has significant and positive health impacts on the whole community. Social attacks on the transgender community result in negatively life-altering outcomes on mental, physical, and emotional health, including life expectancy. This bill removes the barriers placed on the transgender community, allowing for an improved and just quality of life; in return cementing Colorado's unwavering support to all people no matter their gender identity.</p> <p>For the sake of the health and well-being of all Coloradans, Boulder County and Boulder County Public Health are in full support of this bill and respectfully requests your support of HB25-1309 today.</p>
<p>Ellie Wagley For themselves</p>	<p>I firmly support the protection of gender affirming care. As the partner of a trans person and the parent of a trans child, I constantly have to hold my family close as they sit in fear of their medical care being taken away. Do the right thing. Enshrine this right into law.</p>
<p>Reaca Pearl For</p>	<p>Thank you for allowing my testimony.</p>

Healing Through Connection	<p>I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice in the state of Colorado. I specialize in working with complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as well as providing competent, evidence-based gender affirming mental health care for transgender and non-binary adults.</p>
	<p>I am writing to express my unwavering support for HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.</p>
	<p>The transgender community in the US is under direct attack right now. Daily, I hear personal stories of prescriptions being denied, insurance companies withdrawing formerly granted authorizations for gender affirming surgeries within days of the scheduled surgery, passports being returned with incorrect gender markers, young adults being stripped of the medicine they've been on for years with no warning, good people being criminalized in their home towns simply for existing, and people who are understandably terrified that the PDMP will be used to identify and target them for eradication or imprisonment by a federal government who insists - despite all evidence to the contrary - that transgender people are criminals and child abusers.</p>
	<p>As a state we must do everything in our power to make sure any citizens' access to care is not decided by unqualified bigots, but rather the patients, doctors and mental health professionals themselves. HB25-1309 further makes sure best practices care is not beholden to who is or isn't in public office. And further that access to care doesn't include unnecessary tracking of private health information which increases mental distress and safety concerns for my clients.</p>
	<p>One small thing that I know will help alleviate some of the distress of the current mental health crisis caused by the violent transphobic rhetoric is by passing this bill to make sure Colorado is not complicit in violating our citizens' civil rights by strengthening the legal protections that already exist. Might I remind the committee that despite the current state-level legal protections, hundreds of Coloradoans lost care in late January / early February for weeks or more when institutions pre-emptively complied - against professional responsibilities - with unlawful orders from the federal government. This caused a ripple of trauma throughout our community that</p>

	<p>continues to have direct negative impact on our community's mental health. I beg you to stop this from happening in our state ever again.</p> <p>The passage of this bill gets us one more important step closer to ensuring that Colorado remains a free state where all of our people - my clients, myself and family included - maintain our civil rights, autonomy and access to appropriate medical and mental health care, regardless of whether or not their neighbor understands them.</p> <p>No person's access to healthcare should be dependent upon whether or not their medical and behavioral health needs are understood or validated by non-professionals.</p> <p>The WPATH Standards of Care for Transgender and Gender Diverse people, version 8 is an international, multidisciplinary collaboration that is based on extensive research. The section on mental health makes clear:</p> <p>"transgender identity is not a mental illness, and these elevated rates (of depression, anxiety, and suicidality) have been linked to complex trauma, societal stigma, violence, and discrimination."</p> <p>"In addition, psychiatric symptoms lessen with appropriate gender-affirming medical and surgical care and with interventions that lessen discrimination and minority stress."</p> <p>-pS171, WPATH https://wpath.org/publications/soc8/</p> <p>As a mental health professional who specializes in this population as well as complex trauma, I know what is best clinical practice for transgender people. That is continuous, uninterrupted access to the healthcare they need and a society where their existence is not stigmatized and illogically criminalized.</p> <p>The current fear-based, unwarranted attacks on transgender people are acutely responsible for an increase in suicidality, insomnia, and resurgence of PTSD symptoms in my office as well as all over the country.</p> <p>This bill provides essential, legal protections for transgender Coloradoans to continue to access evidence-based, and best clinical</p>
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	<p>practices care safely and confidentially and further protect against politically motivated attacks.</p> <p>I know that you will do what the actual professionals and those with lived experience are asking of you today and forward this bill on because one thing we can all agree on in Colorado is when one of us loses rights, all of us lose rights.</p>
<p>Dirk Dieters For themselves</p>	<p>It is unfortunate that we even have to do this. The law should never be used as a cudgel to make other people's decisions for them, especially medical decisions. Medical decisions belong solely to the patient, their family, and their medical team.</p> <p>There should never be barriers between people in need of care and the best possible fact and research backed medical care. And that's what gender affirming care is. The required care to potentially save a person's life. If you claim to support the right to life, you should vote in support of this bill.</p>
<p>Shannon Villatoro For themselves</p>	<p>I strongly support bill H25-1309 for the greater good of Colorado, my loved ones, and both the youth and adults alike of this state.</p> <p>I have lived in Colorado for over 30 years and am proud of our state and the safety it provides for the LGBT community across the country.</p> <p>Watching loved ones jump through hoops to receive the medical care that brings them to their true selves was frustrating, but to imagine this being taken away...this is the equivalent of a cis-man being unable to cut his growing hair or a cis-woman being unable to wear makeup or wear the clothes that make her feel feminine and beautiful.</p> <p>Trans rights are human rights.</p> <p>Please be the Colorado that we can be proud of. Protect our future and the lives of people who want to live an authentic life just like everyone else.</p>
<p>Cassidy Blurton-Poulsen For themselves</p>	<p>Gender affirming care saves lives. Protecting transfolks' access to their healthcare is paramount right now, given how tumultuous our country's political landscape has become. Denver and Colorado have and will continue to be a safe-landing place for transfolks from across the country, so let's extend those protections to our healthcare. We</p>

	<p>deserve the same access to life-saving medical care as every other person living within the United States. And our siblings who use testosterone deserve privacy, not to be compiled in a list simply for the medical care they receive.</p>
<p>Emily Nepomuceno For themselves</p>	<p>Re: Testimony in Support of HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Care</p> <p>Dear Chair and Members of the Public Health Care & Human Services Committee,</p> <p>I am writing today as a family medicine primary care physician in strong support of HB25-1309, a critical bill that protects access to gender-affirming care in Colorado. As a physician who provides gender-affirming care as part of my primary care practice, I have seen firsthand the profound impact that access to this care has on my patients’ well-being, mental health, and overall quality of life.</p> <p>Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and supported by major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Endocrine Society. Research consistently shows that gender-affirming care significantly reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among transgender and nonbinary individuals. Denying or restricting access to this care is not only medically unsound—it is harmful and life-threatening.</p> <p>In my practice, I have cared for patients who have struggled for years with gender dysphoria, experiencing immense distress, anxiety, and social stigma. For these individuals, access to gender-affirming care is not a matter of preference; it is a matter of survival. Many of my patients have expressed deep fear about the increasing legal and political attacks on their right to receive the care they need. They fear losing access to their medications, their providers, and, ultimately, their ability to live as their authentic selves.</p> <p>I have had patients move to Colorado specifically to access gender-affirming care, fleeing states where their rights and access to necessary healthcare were restricted. My patients and I have been deeply grateful for the support that the Colorado legislature has provided in protecting these fundamental rights. The continued commitment of this state to ensuring safe, affirming, and accessible</p>

	<p>healthcare is a testament to Colorado’s values of dignity and inclusion.</p> <p>HB25-1309 is a necessary step to ensure that transgender and nonbinary Coloradans continue to receive the care they need without fear of discrimination, political interference, or legal uncertainty. As a physician, my duty is to provide compassionate, evidence-based care to all my patients. This bill allows me to continue fulfilling that duty without undue restrictions or threats to my ability to practice medicine ethically and responsibly.</p> <p>I urge you to support HB25-1309 to protect the health and rights of transgender and nonbinary individuals in Colorado. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Emily Nepomuceno, MD Family Medicine Resident Physician</p>
<p>Riley Mortimer For themself</p>	<p>Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,</p> <p>I am a physician in Colorado who has the privilege of being able to provide gender affirming hormone therapy, which is truly the greatest honor of my life. Given these uncertain times, I am providing written testimony (rather than being there in person) to voice my strong support of HB25-1309. I do this out of fear of being identified and compromising this life-saving healthcare for my patients. This bill helps to protect the fundamental freedom to make personal healthcare decisions without government interference. Any legislation that protects bodily autonomy is a bill that protects all Coloradans.</p> <p>Over the last few years, I have seen hundreds of patients flourish as they transitioned, and as they trusted the process with the safeguards we have in Colorado to protect their access to care. I have been proud to practice medicine here for my entire career because Colorado has been such a leader with respect to patient rights and protections. One example has been that our Division of Insurance has included coverage for gender affirming care in our benchmark insurance plan. However, this is unfortunately now under constant threat since it was accomplished through the rule-making process and is not in statute. This bill would ensure that with changes in</p>

administration, Coloradans will continue to have access to care and don't have to fear month to month that they suddenly will be denied coverage/access. Tragically, I have seen the immediate impacts of lack of access to care in Colorado recently. This year, care was paused for transgender youth at two major institutions after an Executive Order, leaving families frantically searching for new providers. I met several adolescents during this time who ended up in the Emergency Department with suicidal ideations after the temporary closures. When I met these families and was able to promise that care would continue, their relief was palpable. Thinking about these families still brings tears to my eyes - with gratitude that I am currently still able to provide this care, with fear that I won't be able to one day, and with a deep sadness that politicians continue to threaten this medically necessary care.

Another protection in this bill is the removal of testosterone from our Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), the online reporting system for controlled substances. Although this is a necessary system for patient safety and identifying abuse as a response to the opioid epidemic, the inclusion of testosterone contributes nothing to these purposes. Instead, it can inappropriately "out" patients to providers that may not be safe to the transgender community, and opens the doors for discrimination and violations to privacy. The potential for privacy violations from out-of-state actors is perhaps the most concerning for patients and providers. I use the PDMP daily to make sure I am prescribing opioids, stimulants, and benzodiazepines appropriately and safely, but it has never been useful in the prescribing of testosterone to cis and trans people alike.

When the federal government restricts or threatens access to medically necessary healthcare for transgender individuals, a dangerous precedent is made that puts everyone at risk. I ask for this committee's support of HB25-1309 to instead continue to set the precedent here in Colorado that we are committed to the dignity of transgender individuals, and the right for all Coloradans to make their own healthcare decisions. With this bill, we can make the clear statement that everyone should be able to access healthcare freely and without fear of discrimination, and that we value justice and autonomy for all.

I want to thank all of the sponsors for bringing forth this bill, and I thank the committee for your time, service, and commitment to Coloradans.

	<p>Sincerely, Riley Mortimer, MD</p>
<p>Logan Holtz For themselves</p>	<p>I am a trans man who started receiving gender affirming care in December of 2023. While I had identified as trans since 2017, and socially transitioned over the years between, going on testosterone was life changing. I finally recognized myself in the mirror and felt present and confident in my life for the first time. Using prescription HRT has allowed me to live a fuller and happier life. I do not have insurance, however, and can speak for the difficulties that entails - paying out of pocket for checkups is something I have to plan well in advance, and I rely on general prescription discounts like GoodRX to make my medication affordable. I have more than one friend who simply cannot access their HRT medicines consistently due to financial barriers and have seen the strain this causes across their day to day life. Gender-affirming care has been shown to be effective and, for many, necessary to living the full life we all deserve - therefore it is imperative that for those who do have insurance, that said insurance covers the costs of this care and cannot refuse based on any manner of discrimination.</p>
<p>Stephanie Vitale Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am the mom of a child who desisted from a trans identity after 5 years. Since I am a mom, and my love knows no bounds, I furiously researched everything there was to know about trans identities, the history of the research, the current state of medicalization and politics (and how special interests have infiltrated the field of medicine). I needed to make sure I was doing the absolute best for my child and ensure I was following the most evidence-based course of action to help support them.</p> <p>I was horrified by what I discovered.</p> <p>In our normal human response to want to be compassionate and help those around us who are suffering, we have forgotten the basic tenants of practicing good medicine and of how to actually help those in need. Those who are struggling do not need judgement, but they do need actual evidence-based support. "Gender affirming care" is nothing more than a euphemism designed to hide the horror of unethical and unevidenced based psychological and medical interventions that OBJECTIVELY HARM THE HUMAN BODY AND</p>

	<p>CAUSE DISTRESS IN THE HUMAN MIND. Therefore, it cannot accurately and honestly be called medicine. The purpose of medicine is to heal, restore and optimize function of the body, including our mind when needed. "Gender affirming care" objectively does not do this and in all cases, objectively harms the body.</p> <p>I know proponents of this care are deeply invested in believing it is true. They will report that it 'saved their lives" or made them feel happier. I have to use a brutally honest comparison, but drug addicts will report the same thing after using their drug of choice. If we are told something will work, we are emotionally invested in believing it to be true. Humans are masters at convincing themselves of things and this is especially true for those are suffering and who are desperate for help. "Gender affirming care" as currently practiced does NOT get to the root of the problems(s) in these individuals and instead just provides a distraction from the real sources of pain. A distraction at too high of a cost for most in the end.</p> <p>This bill will ensure that CO leads the way in unproven, harmful and objectively unevidenced based practices for those who need our help the most. This is not about hating on trans identified people. In all actuality my opposition to this bill is in recognizing those who need help have been sorely misled by ideologues and have not been actually getting the evidence-based help they need.</p> <p>For this reason, I urge a no vote and I urge that this legislature take seriously the CASS review and hundreds of actual evidence based studies NOT put out by activist groups. You will be complicit in objectively harming thousands of more children and adults if this passes. Please understand, I know you feel you are doing the right thing, but if you care about everyone's well-being, sometimes, you have to take a long hard look at the evidence, and do the hard, but right thing, by telling people this isn't actually medicine and recognize it for what it is and move toward a more evidence based approach.</p> <p>My daughter is sure glad I did.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
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	Stephanie Vitale
<p>Jennifer Tipton For themselves</p>	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to hear testimony from all of us on this important effort. I am writing in support of HB25-1309 because it provides for essential care for all and prevents gender-based discrimination (which is currently rampant, unethical, unkind and shortsighted). I have personally seen the positive, life-saving and life-affirming impact of the gambit of gender affirming healthcare in: my own immediate family, close friends, colleagues, my children's friends, and many more. Please pass this bill to protect gender-affirming healthcare for all who desire it and to prevent further discrimination and cruelty. Thank you, Jennifer Tipton</p>
<p>Larz Yerian For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for HB25-1309, Protect Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.</p> <p>As a transgender man who began hormone therapy 15 years ago, I have personally experienced the immense challenges of accessing gender-affirming healthcare without insurance coverage. My journey to live authentically was filled with financial and emotional burdens that no one should have to endure simply to receive medically necessary care.</p> <p>When I first sought gender-affirming treatment, health insurance did not cover the costs. I was forced to pay out of pocket for my doctor's visits, hormone therapy, and surgery. This was not only financially draining but also placed significant strain on my well-being. I know firsthand how critical gender-affirming care is—not only for physical health but also for mental health and overall quality of life. No one should have to choose between financial stability and essential medical treatment.</p> <p>HB25-1309 ensures that transgender individuals will not face unnecessary barriers to the care they need. By codifying gender-affirming treatments into law and prohibiting health benefit plans from denying or limiting coverage, this bill upholds the dignity and rights of transgender Coloradans.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, exempting testosterone prescriptions from burdensome tracking requirements recognizes the importance of access to treatment without undue scrutiny or stigma.</p> <p>Gender-affirming care is lifesaving. Research consistently shows that access to such care reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among transgender individuals. By passing HB25-1309, Colorado will reaffirm its commitment to equity, medical autonomy, and human dignity.</p> <p>I urge you to vote in favor of this bill to protect and expand access to vital health care for transgender individuals across our state.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Kaia Lindsey For themselves</p>	<p>Research demonstrates that gender-affirming care—a medical and psychosocial health care designed to affirm individuals' gender identities—greatly improves the mental health and overall well-being of gender diverse, transgender, and nonbinary children and adolescents.</p> <p>It is well documented that TGNB adolescents and young adults experience anxiety and depression, as well as suicidal ideation, at a much higher rate than their cisgender peers. According to The Trevor Project's 2020 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, 54 percent of young people who identified as transgender or nonbinary reported having seriously considered suicide in the last year, and 29 percent have made an attempt to end their lives. In contrast, numerous research studies have found that gender-affirming care leads to improved mental health among TGNB youth.</p> <p>Please continue to protect care to save lives.</p>
<p>Mia Lynch For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. My name is Mia Lynch (she/her), and I am a licensed and board-certified family medicine physician who has been practicing in Colorado for the past 6 years. I serve as the primary care physician to a large panel of gender-diverse children and adults. I write on behalf of myself in strong support of HB25-1309.</p>

	<p>Gender-affirming care saves lives. In the Trevor Project’s 2024 National Survey on LGBTQ+ Youth Mental Health, 46% of the transgender respondents reported seriously considering suicide in the past year, with over 14% having attempted suicide in the past year. Those individuals who reported living in a very supportive community carried half the suicide risk compared to those who lived in an unaccepting community. In addition, 71% of the transgender and non-binary respondents experienced anxiety, and 59% experienced depression. These mental health risks are not inherent to gender identity or dysphoria, but rather a result of discrimination and stigmatization by their communities. Reliable access to gender-affirming care has been shown to improve mental health, prevent adverse outcomes, and improve quality of life in gender-diverse individuals.</p> <p>In my own practice, I see patients throughout the lifespan with gender dysphoria. Many wait over 6 months for their first appointment with me, and many others travel up to 3 hours from their homes. I not only provide their gender-affirming care, but also serve as their primary care physician, providing preventative medicine and management of chronic health conditions. I have seen first-hand the miraculous improvement in mental health and quality of life in numerous patients when they have access to gender-affirming care. Many of these patients reported not seeing a primary care physician in years due to limited access. Protecting access to gender-affirming care also means protecting these patients’ access to primary care and preventative medicine. Without access to an affirming environment, they would not feel safe to see their doctor.</p> <p>I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309 to preserve this lifesaving and medically-necessary care. Thank you again for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mia Lynch, MD She/Her 80111 Physician</p>
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<p>Jemma Little For themselves</p>	<p>Gender affirming care did more than save my life; it transformed it. Prior, I was merely seeking relief from pain, rather than living life. Gender affirming care helped me fit into society; make friends, help my community, get a real job in professional healthcare and respirology, the study of how we breathe. I've saved dozens of patients lives, patients who tell me I've changed their lives for the better, changed as drastically as mine did. We need this bill for us all to stand firm, as one people. If we leave the companies to freedom to do what they "feel right," it will turn into a United Healthcare situation; heartless cruel denials to fuel a bottom line.</p>
<p>Jaina Krider For themselves</p>	<p>Gender affirming care saved my life. Some of my first memories, 5 or 6 years old, are going to bed at night praying that I'd wake up as a girl. I didn't understand why, I didn't know what sex was, or even what the difference biologically between males and females was. That was nearly 25 years ago. I lived in pain, anxiety, and dysphoria for 24 years of my life before I gained the courage to shed what I had known and pursue happiness. I began working with a therapist, an endocrinologist, and a suite of professionals to outline a treatment plan that I've stuck to for 5 years. I'm mostly on the other side at this point, and I couldn't be happier. I can focus on my life again. I can sleep. I can smile and plan for the future. I'm a productive member of society and loved friend, daughter, and girlfriend. Transitioning gave me the ability to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. It should be available and protected for all who wish to go on the same journey I have.</p> <p>In 2018, I interned for the legislature. I had the opportunity to meet so many amazing people, learn so many things, and experience what it was like to watch the world change around me. 7 years later I'm terrified at the state of the country but proud to see my state and the institution I interned with work to protect people like me. Thank you, Representatives Titone, Brown, Cutter, and Gonzales for representing your constituents and showing the country what makes Colorado the greatest state in the union.</p> <p>Jaina.</p>
<p>William Flannagan For themselves</p>	<p>I want to submit a written testimony in the event I am not able to make it to the state house prior to the end of oral testimony.</p> <p>I want to begin by thanking the sponsors of this bill. There are trans people who can afford to pay out of pocket for healthcare costs, but</p>

	<p>trans identity is not limited to one income bracket. Someone working in a lower paying job should not be prevented from accessing life saving healthcare, especially if they have insurance (given that we don't have socialized medicine).</p> <p>I personally know trans men who had chest surgery over a decade ago. These surgeries cost upwards of 10k and often required out of state travel. That money might've been better suited in 2012 for a down payment on a house. But my friends would probably not be alive to live in that house today without surgery.</p> <p>But beyond other uses for the money, I want to ensure that Colorado avoids the horrors of the medical system detailed in the documentary Southern Comfort, which tracked the final months of Robert Eads life. He died of ovarian cancer because the law did not require insurance to help pay for his treatment. Because the healthcare he was seeking didn't "match" what his paperwork said.</p> <p>If we allow insurance carriers to refuse to cover trans related healthcare, they absolutely will. And people will die from this. People already die across this country because they're too poor to see medical care. Any one in opposition to this bill is okay with trans people dying.</p> <p>Please support this bill.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p>Emily Lowmon For themselves</p>	<p>The idea of taking away anybody's ability to feel comfortable in their own skin is akin to murder. I know that sounds dramatic but by taking away the ability for kids to access this care means killing who they truly are. We are not talking about kids getting irreversible surgeries or medications so stop making that a point to aide your hatred. We are talking about kids getting health care to make them feel whole. I know many people who are against this bill will not listen to reason and understand that the health care of children (or anyone really) not their business in the slightest. They have no right to dictate what healthcare someone gets as they are not that persons doctor and have no knowledge of the intricacies of medical care. People need to</p>

	<p>get off their high horses and realize that their hatred is not in the right place. We have already ruined the lives of so many children by voting for bills and electing politicians who do not care about the health and wellbeing of our children, why pretend like you care now? Please pass this bill and save the lives of kids who deserve to live as who they truly are and not who you want them to be. Thank you.</p>
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Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

Hello my name is Erik Kluzek and my pronouns are he/him/his. I'm a parent of a young adult transgender woman, and I'm writing to express my strong support of HB25-1309 which will help ensure my daughter has continued access to the vitally needed and medically necessary gender-affirming care that she relies on. As well as the many transgender loved ones that I have in my life.

I come from a conservative background but have a transgender daughter:

I grew up as a conservative Lutheran in even more conservative Utah. My conservative LDS (Mormon) wife and I, who have been married for, moved from Utah to Colorado just before our youngest child was born. My work is in what I used to call "crazy liberal Boulder", so we found a more conservative town in Longmont. From our background neither my wife nor I knew anything about transgender people. In the news at the time was a story about parents of a kindergartner who was transgender and needed access to the appropriate restrooms. My wife and I were convinced that someone that young was coerced to be transgender by her parents — because they wanted the opposite gender child. But, shortly after that, we were proved that was wrong. Our oldest is a girl, and second was a boy. Our third child, we thought was a boy, until just before she was 16 she told us she's really a girl. From our conservative perspective this was impossible. Conservative sources also didn't provide ways of helping her. So we used our medical experts and the medical research that showed that supporting her in her gender transition was critically important for us to do. And now I can unequivocally state that her gender treatment is a medically necessary part of her life.

Why this is important now:

My daughter and us as her family have been terrified with President Trump administration's illegally discriminatory treatment of transgender people. Even though those executive orders are illegally discriminatory they put into question my daughters care and her humanity. It is a horrible, hurtful thing to do to transgender people in the US. As such regardless of how that plays out we need to establish that in Colorado this care is needed for transgender people in Colorado.

Please vote Yes on HB25-1309::

I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309. This bill is about protecting essential, medically necessary care. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities. It's critically important for my daughters' care, as well as transgender Coloradans that deserve the medical treatment that's necessary for them.

Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Erik Kluzek
 he/him/his
 2213 Jewel Street
 Longmont CO 80501
 Board Member of PFLAG Fort-Collins

Dear Members of the committee. My name is Shan Lagard, my pronouns are they/them, and I live in Denver. I am writing in support of HB25-1309: Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care on behalf of Soul 2 Soul Sisters as the Black Civic Engagement and Policy Coordinator.

Soul 2 Soul Sisters is a racial justice organization that centers the experiences of Black women, femmes, and gender-expansive beloveds. We are grounded in a reproductive justice framework, focused on ending anti-Black racism in Colorado and beyond..

HB1309 is needed for our community because gender-affirming care is not just healthcare, but a life-saver. As surrounding states continue to introduce and pass anti-transgender legislation, access to gender-affirming care remains uncertain. This bill ensures that all transgender and nonbinary people have access to the care they need. These protections are especially needed for Black transgender and nonbinary people as they disproportionately experience discrimination from health care providers due to existing at the intersections of racism and transphobia/homophobia. A survey conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality in 2020 found that 34 percent of Black transgender people had been discriminated against by a healthcare provider.

This discrimination perpetuates a cycle of inaccessibility to care for Black transgender and nonbinary people because it instills fear of being further marginalized when attempting to seek care. The Center for American Progress disseminated a survey in 2016 and they reported that 40 percent of transgender people do not seek medical care for fear of discrimination. This statistic rises to 54 percent for Black transgender and nonbinary people.

With HB 1309, Colorado has an opportunity to protect access to this life-saving treatment. As these protections are taken away in other states, it means that an already vulnerable population will be fleeing those states to come to states like Colorado to receive the care they need. Please vote yes on HB1309 so that all transgender and nonbinary people but especially

Black transgender and nonbinary people can continue to have access to the healthcare they require in order to flourish and thrive in this state.
Thank you.

Support HB25-1309 - *Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Care*

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to express my strong support of HB25-1309, *Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Care*.

I am writing anonymously in an effort to protect myself and the patients I care for. I use she/her pronouns and live in Denver, Colorado, and write to you today as an ally to the LGBTQ+ community in Colorado. I seek to represent myself and One Colorado, who is supporting this bill. I am a healthcare provider practicing in Colorado for the past nine years, including 4 years of residency training at the University of Colorado. My current practice includes a large number of gender-diverse people.

I am writing to share my strong support for this bill. Research widely shows that access to gender-affirming care significantly enhances the mental health and overall well-being of gender-diverse individuals. As a provider of gender-affirming medical care in Colorado, particularly in the wake of many recent threats to access and provision of this care, I know firsthand how important it is to protect it for our trans and non-binary patients.

Colorado has made great strides in safeguarding LGBTQ+ rights, but many of these protections are still based on regulatory policies. Without further action, our trans and non-binary patients still risk losing access to life-saving services, like hormone therapy, gender-affirming surgery, and affirming mental health care. This bill ensures those protections are secured and eliminates harmful barriers like the tracking of testosterone in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which has been used to target trans patients and invade their privacy.

Many of my patients have shared stories of isolation, rejection, and alienation as it relates to their gender identity, as well as years of challenges navigating complex healthcare systems to access needed care leading up to their arrival in my office. They often express deep gratitude for encountering a provider who understands the nuances of gender-affirming care (including a trauma-informed approach that is sensitive to dysphoria) but also sees them as a whole person, with medical needs just like any other. I have said that testosterone, in many ways, is akin to insulin –both medications are lifesaving, demonstrably safe when taken under medical supervision and with appropriate lab monitoring, but neither should be restricted or withheld from patients. Some might argue that insulin actually poses much higher risk of morbidity; all this is to say that removing testosterone from the PDMP is overdue and appropriate.

The decision to proceed with all aspects of gender-affirming care, including medical or surgical interventions, is made on a case-by-case basis, involving careful consideration by the patient and their healthcare providers. Everyone deserves to access this type of medical care without facing shame, stigma, or fear.

HB25-1309 will help preserve the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship and our ability as trained medical providers—guided by the burden of scientific evidence and the support of experts in this field—to provide essential, medically necessary care. It's about ensuring stability, safety, and that Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your dedication to the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen and provider of gender-affirming medical care

Denver, CO

Dear Members of the House Health & Human Services,

My name is Jami Fassett, I use she/her, and I live in Broomfield 80023. I'm a parent, and I'm writing to express my strong support for HB25-1309 – Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care.

I know firsthand how important gender-affirming care is because my transgender child has been benefiting from it for 6 years. My child is currently happy and healthy as a result of gender-affirming care. When Children's Hospital Colorado decided to stop gender-affirming care after threats of loss of federal funding after the Executive Order, I feared I would lose my child to suicide as a result. Devastation and anxiety disrupted my family's lives during the weeks before they reinstated care. Now, there is a constant state of anxiety knowing it could be ripped away again at any moment.

Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and removes harmful barriers like the tracking of testosterone in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which has been misused to target trans patients and violate privacy.

Everyone deserves access to the health care they need, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have to fight for care simply because of who they are.

I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1309. This bill is about protecting essential, medically necessary care. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities.

Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,
Jami Fassett
she/her
80023
Parent of a trans child