

Testimonial in support of HB25-1309

Testimonial for the Colorado Senate – HB25-1309

Good afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Julia Murphy and I'm a Family Doctor who practices in Denver and Aurora and a proud Coloradan. Today I am submitting testimony on behalf of myself and the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians, an organization representing more than 2,500 physicians, residents, and students across the state. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB25-1309 and continuing insurance coverage for gender-affirming care in our state.

As someone who is and interacts with the next generation of primary care physicians, I've seen firsthand how critical access to gender-affirming care is—not only for the health and dignity of our transgender and gender-diverse patients—but also for recruiting and retaining high-quality medical trainees to Colorado.

Primary care residents today are not just looking for strong clinical training. They are drawn to programs and states that are aligned with their values—places where they can practice evidence-based, affirming, and inclusive care. Colorado has become a destination for exactly that kind of training. Our commitment to health equity and comprehensive care—including gender-affirming services—sends a powerful message to young physicians: you belong here, and so do your patients.

Providing gender-affirming care is one of the most meaningful and joyful parts of my work as a primary care physician. I was first introduced to this care in medical school, where I saw how transformative it could be—not just in improving health outcomes, but in affirming identity and restoring dignity. That experience deeply shaped my path, and it became a priority for me when choosing a residency program. I came to Colorado specifically because of its reputation for inclusive, equity-driven training and the opportunity to care for diverse patient communities. Being able to offer gender-affirming care is not just a clinical skill—it's a privilege that brings profound connection, purpose, and fulfillment to my work every day.

Removing insurance coverage for gender-affirming care would not only endanger the well-being of our patients but also jeopardize the pipeline of primary care doctors entering our state's workforce. In a time when we face critical shortages in rural and underserved areas, we cannot afford to send the message that inclusive care is at risk.

Maintaining insurance coverage for gender-affirming care isn't just good policy—it's essential for training, recruitment, and the future of equitable healthcare in Colorado. I urge you to vote yes of HB25-1309. Thank you.

1 May 2025

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and Committee Members!

My name is Mandy M. Oaks and I am the Director of Research for Gays Against Groomers. I come before you today as a concerned American. I care, as you do, about children and the access that is available to them. Growing up, I didn't have access to healthcare and what we could afford was subpar at best.

Knowing that you wish to help children gain access to healthcare is fantastic!

However, HB25-1309 (Protect Access to Gender-Affirming Health Care) does not help children or adults with healthcare; rather, it allows doctors to continue mutilating, abusing, and harming patients without repercussions. This is medical negligence.

Questions about data have come up on previous bills. The data wasn't there, because doctors hid records and evidence. Tavistock was one such institution that didn't even record some records, causing the "Tavistock Scandal."^{1&2} By implementing this bill, you are doing the very thing that prevents doctors, parents, lawmakers, Senators, etc. from making informed decisions. You are allowing medical negligence to go unchecked.

Many countries have reviewed the evidence that is available, such as the CASS report³, and have stopped. Argentina, Alberta, and Brazil have strict restrictions for minors and other countries, such as Iraq, have banned "gender affirming care" altogether.⁴ Denmark, once the leading country in transgenderism, also restricted youth from receiving "gender affirming care."⁵

Today, Department of Health and Human Services of the United States Health released a report called "Treatment for Pediatric Gender Dysphoria Review of Evidence and Best Practices."⁶

This important report states, "All these ["gender affirming"] interventions are associated with significant risks, and most cause irreversible physical or physiological effects (for example, when the medical pathway is initiated)."⁷

When a patient, especially a child, is sent down the medical path, including social transitioning, the Department of Health and Human Services found that it causes irreversible damage. Irreversible.

Every person in the US should be allowed access to medical care when needed; however, "Gender Affirming Care" is not care, it is medical negligence at best, cruelty at worst.

I urge you to vote, "No" on this harmful bill that goes against medical advice from both the UK and US studies.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mandy M. Oaks

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- ¹ Society for Evidence Based Gender Medicine. *What Went Wrong at the Tavistock Clinic for Trans Teenagers?* July 1, 2022.
<https://segm.org/GIDS-puberty-blockers-minors-the-times-special-report>
- ² Slater + Gordon Lawyers. *What is the Tavistock Clinic Scandal?*
<https://www.slatergordon.co.uk/medical-negligence/negligence-claims/what-is-the-tavistock-clinic-scandal/>
- ³ Cass Report. *The CASS review: Independent review of gender identity services for children and young people.* April 2024.
https://cass.independent-review.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/CassReview_Final.pdf
- ⁴ Equaldex. Gender Affirming Care.
<https://www.equaldex.com/issue/gender-affirming-care>
- ⁵ Society for Evidence Based Gender Medicine. “Denmark Joins the List of Countries That Have Sharply Restricted Youth Gender Transitions.” *The journal of the Danish Medical Association "Ugeskrift for Læger" confirms the change has occurred quietly but resolutely.* August 17, 2023.
<https://segm.org/Denmark-sharply-restricts-youth-gender-transitions>
- ⁶ Department of Health and Human Services. *Treatment for Pediatric Gender Dysphoria Review of Evidence and Best Practices.* May 1, 2025.
<https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/gender-dysphoria-report.pdf>
- ⁷ Department of Health and Human Services. (Page 19.)*Treatment for Pediatric Gender Dysphoria Review of Evidence and Best Practices.* May 1, 2025.
<https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/gender-dysphoria-report.pdf>

Thank you members of the Senate 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 health care they need.

Patients and providers across the country continue to navigate the fear and confusion that comes from the attacks from a hostile federal government and state intrusions on health care access, and HB25-1309 marks the next important phase in furthering these protections and locks in protections to ensure transgender Coloradans don't lose access to life-saving care with a change in administration or political climate. 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 deserve the freedom to live their private lives and get the health care they need, without politicians interfering in private, personal, medical matters. The American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American Osteopathic Association and American Psychiatric Association representing nearly 600,000 physicians and medical students all agree that, "Politics should not get in the way of evidence-based care and a strong patient-physician relationship. We... will continue to advocate for access to the full spectrum of evidence-based health care and medical education." While Colorado has been a leader in protecting LGBTQ+ rights, we can't take progress for granted. If these protections remain only in administrative rule, they can be overturned with the stroke of a pen. In Colorado, our personal freedoms and the ability to make decisions about our own bodies, and health care is paramount, and HB25-1309 is an important opportunity for Colorado to cement this precedent.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I respectfully ask for an aye vote on HB25-1309, Protecting Access to Gender-Arming Health Care, to protect access to essential care, eliminate barriers like PDMP tracking, and ensure Colorado continues to lead in health equity for all.



INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

OF COLORADO
ACHIEVING DEMOCRACY TOGETHER

May 1, 2025

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

Chairperson Mullica and members of the Senate 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 healthcare services by placing health coverage requirements in state law.

Justice, compassion, and human dignity are important values across faith traditions, and those values inform the support for LGBTQ+ people among people of faith and conscience across our state. HB25-1309 affirms those values by eliminating harmful barriers to care, removing stigma, and prohibiting discrimination in health care services.

Another important value is self-determination. All people, including our transgender and nonbinary siblings, have a right to self-determination and to be guided by their individual needs, faith, and values in their healthcare decision-making, and HB25-1309 helps ensure that they can access the healthcare that is right for them.

Protecting the dignity, health, and well-being of our transgender and nonbinary siblings is absolutely necessary to the goal of providing every Coloradan with the safety, stability, and support they need to thrive. 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



May 1, 2025

My name is Vanessa Martinez, and I am representing the Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights. COLOR is a Reproductive Justice organization who works alongside and empowers Latines across the state to speak out on the issues that impact their daily lives. Today, I am here to urge a 'YES' vote on House Bill 1309.

We all have the right to agency over our own lives. This bill ensures that right by locking in protections and access to health care that is already legally protected in our state. Gender affirming healthcare is medically necessary and often lifesaving.

Further, barriers to gender-affirming care disproportionately harm individuals who already face additional barriers to health care and are struggling to make ends meet, including rural community members, young people, people with different abilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and communities of color.

This bill addresses existing inequities and stigma in our healthcare system by strengthening protections to ensure transgender Coloradans do not lose access to life-saving care with a change in administration or political climate, and ending harmful surveillance of trans health care via prescription monitoring.

Decisions about gender affirming care are deeply personal, shaped by a person's identity, background, faith, and circumstances. However, we must recognize that while faith may influence one's personal decision, it should never dictate what is accessible to others.

Every person has a right to care for their body, and affirm their identity. I urge a YES vote on House Bill 1309.

**TESTIMONY ON HB25-1309,
PROTECT ACCESS TO GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE**

Mister Chair, Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to advocate for our children and youth. My name is Dawn Fritz. I am Colorado PTA's Director of Legislative Engagement, and I am proud to represent our nation's oldest and largest child advocacy association. Our mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for **all** children.

Colorado PTA supports House Bill 1309.

A founding purposes of PTA is to support the wellbeing and safety of all children and youth. Protecting access to necessary gender affirming care— including mental and behavioral health care— is crucial to their wellbeing and safety.

One of Colorado PTA's highest priorities is to support laws and policies that specifically recognize and protect our LGBTQ+ students, families, and staff from discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. We believe that our laws should not only ensure equitable access to education and safe school environments — but also ensure equitable access to affirming health care.

Requiring insurance to cover gender-affirming care allows parents, families, and doctors to make decisions about necessary care together. Colorado PTA supports this bill because it protects Colorado's transgender community members from discrimination and provides access to care that is necessary for their well-being.

Thank you for your consideration of PTA's position.
