

West Virginia Health Care Providers Oppose House Bill 5297

The West Virginia Legislature is attempting to ban gender-affirming hormone therapy for transgender adolescents at risk for self-harm or suicide. We, the undersigned West Virginia health care providers, oppose House Bill 5297 and any efforts to ban evidence-based and guideline-recommended medical care.

Up to two percent of adolescents in the United States identify as transgender, and in any given year a third of them may attempt suicide. Research has shown that transgender youth who access gender-affirming hormone therapy have 73 percent lower odds of considering suicide. Gender-affirming hormone therapy for transgender adolescents is evidence and guideline-based care recommended by every major medical organization. In many cases, this care can be life-saving.

We encourage West Virginia delegates and senators to support transgender youth and oppose House Bill 5297.

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