

Protecting LGBTQ+ People in NH

LGBTQ+ people are under attack by 30+ bills introduced this legislative session. We must protect these Granite Staters, who deserve to be treated fairly and equally in our state.

Allowing Discrimination in Public Spaces ¹

New Hampshire state nondiscrimination law explicitly protects transgender people in employment, housing, public spaces (including restrooms), and public schools. **Transgender people are our friends, neighbors, family and co-workers. They work hard, attend school, serve in the military, and pay taxes.** When they walk into a school, library, or business open to the public, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

Censorship in Schools ²

Limiting a school's ability to have materials about or referencing gender identity or sexual orientation **violates a basic trust that all students, including LGBTQ+ students, can learn and thrive in a safe environment.** It controls what students can and cannot read, what they can and cannot learn, and — most troublingly — who they can and cannot be.

Bans on Participation in Sports for Transgender Youth ³

Sports and athletics are an important part of childhood, offering opportunities to build a sense of belonging and learn important life skills like teamwork, leadership, confidence, and self-discipline. **No child should be denied the opportunity to participate in sports simply because of their gender identity.** The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't play at elite levels; they just want to participate with their peers.

Bans on Medically Necessary Care for Transgender Youth ⁴

Transgender youth, like all youth, have the best chance to thrive when they can get the doctor-prescribed medical care they need when they need it. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based and supported by medical authorities like the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association. **Medical decisions should rest solely with doctors, parents, and the patient - not politicians.**

Current Legislation:

HB 396 & SB 562: gives any public or private person or organization the ability to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people by designating which restrooms, locker rooms or sports teams they can use or participate on.

- **HB 396:** Passed House, 192-184; In Senate Committee
- **SB 562:** Defeated in Senate

Current Legislation:

- **SB 341** requires teachers to "out" students to their parents when requested (Defeated in House, 185-172).
- **SB 523** requires school boards to create policies for banning books and materials, granting principals the power to unilaterally ban such materials (Defeated).

Current Legislation:

- **HB 1205:** Bans transgender girls from playing school sports (passed House, 189-182; in Senate Committee).
- **SB 375:** Bans transgender girls from playing school sports in school and college (Defeated in House, 200-154).
- **SB 524:** Bans transgender girls from playing sports in school and college (Defeated in Senate).

Current Legislation:

- **HB 619:** Bans surgery for transgender youth (passed House, 188-175; in Senate Committee).
- **HB 1011:** Criminalizes medically necessary care for transgender youth (Defeated in House).
- **HB 1660:** Bans Medicaid insurance plans from covering gender-affirming surgeries (passed House, 193-169; in Senate Committee).

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THE HARM OF DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION

Legislation and discrimination negatively impact the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth. LGBTQ+ people often experience anxiety, depression, and thoughts of suicide – these are NOT inextricably linked to their sexuality or gender identity but rather occur **due to stigma, discrimination, and lack of access to affirming spaces and health care.**^{5,6} Alternatively, when LGBTQ+ youth feel support, acceptance, and open representation within their homes, schools and communities, they have much better mental health, educational and social outcomes.⁶

41%

41% of LGBTQ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.⁶

56%

56% of LGBTQ young people who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it.⁶

86%

86% of transgender and nonbinary youth say recent debates around anti-trans bills have negatively impacted their mental health.⁷

THE BOTTOM LINE

Legislation that discriminates against LGBTQ+ Granite Staters has no place in New Hampshire. **We need to build an inclusive New Hampshire – one where our children can navigate their daily lives as kids,** participating in sports, using restrooms, reading books, and NOT experiencing discrimination due to their gender identity or sexual orientation. We must protect LGBTQ+ people in our state.

TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT LGBTQ+ GRANITE STATERS



Share your experience and how you or a loved one are impacted by this attack on LGBTQ+ people



Email lawmakers to urge them to oppose these harmful bills



Virtually sign in on public hearings to oppose these harmful bills



Spread the word on social media or write a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper

REFERENCES:

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3. Movement Advancement Project. April 2021. "Talking About Transgender Youth Participation in Sports." MAP's Talking About LGBT Issues Series. <https://www.lgbtmap.org/talking-about-transgender-youth-participation-in-sports>
4. Movement Advancement Project. "Talking About Trans Youth Medical Care Bans." MAP's Talking About LGBT Issues Series. <https://www.lgbtmap.org/talking-about-transgender-youth-participation-in-sports>
5. Mental Health By the Numbers, NAMI. <https://www.nami.org/mhstats>
6. 2023 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People, The Trevor Project. https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2023/assets/static/05_TREVOR05_2023survey.pdf
7. Sylvester, E. (2023, January 19). New Poll Emphasizes Negative Impacts of Anti-LGBTQ Policies on LGBTQ Youth. The Trevor Project. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/new-poll-emphasizes-negative-impacts-of-anti-lgbtq-policies-on-lgbtq-youth/>