

L G B T Q +  
Faculty & Staff Caucus

---

The members of the LGBTQ+ Staff and Faculty Caucus at Louisiana State University stand in solidarity with the transgender community of Louisiana against the four anti-trans bills filed during the 2021 Louisiana legislature. These bills threaten to remove trans youths' right to privacy and their ability to live authentically.

Two bills target the ability of trans youth to access life-saving care. Senate Bill 104, sponsored by Sen. Mike Fesi, R-Houma, would restrict access to trans-affirming care - including mental health services - for children unable to receive written support from both parents, regardless of custody. House Bill 575, sponsored by Rep. Gabe Firment, R-Pollock, aims to block any therapy that helps align a transgender person's appearance with their gender identity for people under 18 years of age, regardless of parental/guardian consent. Such laws would make it significantly more difficult for trans youth to access the care they need.

These bills run counter to established medical practice. The American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) supports care for trans and gender nonconforming youth, recommending, "that youth who identify as TGD [transgender and gender diverse] have access to comprehensive, gender-affirming, and developmentally appropriate health care that is provided in a safe and inclusive clinical space."<sup>1</sup> Studies show that proper treatment of transgender youth reduces suicidal ideation and suicide.<sup>2</sup> These bills would cause unnecessary harm to an already vulnerable population.

Two other bills target the ability of trans youth to participate in school sports. House Bill 54, Sponsored by Rep. Beryl Amedée, R-Houma, and Senate Bill 156, sponsored by Sen. Beth Mizell, R-Franklinton, aim to restrict transgender youth from participating in sports in any school that receives state funding. According to these bills (either by design or by imprecise language) even the LSU University Recreation would be forced to discriminate against trans students. This legislative overreach is unacceptable. Furthermore, no evidence supports

---

<sup>1</sup> Rafferty, Jason, Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health, Committee On Adolescence, and Gay Section on Lesbian. "Ensuring Comprehensive Care and Support for Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children and Adolescents." *Pediatrics* 142, no. 4 (October 1, 2018). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-2162>.

<sup>2</sup> Johns, Michelle M. "Transgender Identity and Experiences of Violence Victimization, Substance Use, Suicide Risk, and Sexual Risk Behaviors Among High School Students — 19 States and Large Urban School Districts, 2017." *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 68 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6803a3>; Turban, Jack L., Dana King, Jeremi M. Carswell, and Alex S. Keuroghlian. "Pubertal Suppression for Transgender Youth and Risk of Suicidal Ideation." *Pediatrics* 145, no. 2 (February 1, 2020). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-1725>.



---

claims that trans youth participating in sports programs that align with their gender harm cis-gender children<sup>3</sup> National sporting organizations are openly opposing these bills for their discriminatory nature.<sup>4</sup> These bills are solutions in search of problems.

All four of these bills are part of a national effort to target the transgender community. Very similar bills are currently or already in the legislators of Texas, South Carolina, Arkansas, Tennessee, and other states. The bills are cruel, serve no local purpose, run contrary to evidence-based best practices, and distract from important work the Louisiana legislature could be doing. Members of the LGBTQ+ Staff and Faculty Caucus at Louisiana State University urge all members of the legislature to vote against these efforts to harm the youth in our community, and we call upon our members to contact their legislators to express their concerns.

This is a quickly-evolving issue and the LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus will continue to work with members to stay informed and actively support our transgender community.

#### **Additional Resources:**

Stop the Assault on Trans Youth Petition:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-assault-on-trans-youth>

Let Them Play, Louisiana: <https://letthemplayla.org/>

“Study: Blocking puberty in transgender teens linked to lower likelihood of suicidal thoughts”

<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/01/23/pubertysuppression012320>

“Ensuring Comprehensive Care and Support for Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children and Adolescents,” Policy Statement, American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/142/4/e20182162>

“NCAA: No more championships in places hostile to transgender people,”

<https://iailluminator.com/briefs/no-more-ncaa-championships-in-anti-transgender-locations/>

---

<sup>3</sup> Jack Turban, “Trans Girls Belong on Girls’ Sports Teams, *Scientific American*, 16 March 2021, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/trans-girls-belong-on-girls-sports-teams/>

<sup>4</sup> Andy Berg, NCAA Advocacy Group Condemns Anti-Transgender Bills, April 2021, [https://www.athleticbusiness.com/governing-bodies/ncaa-advocacy-group-condemns-anti-transgender-bills.html?oly\\_enc\\_id=6244E5827912B1Z](https://www.athleticbusiness.com/governing-bodies/ncaa-advocacy-group-condemns-anti-transgender-bills.html?oly_enc_id=6244E5827912B1Z)