

#ProtectTransHealth



Hospitals and insurance companies: it's NOT OKAY to deny transgender people care.

Gutting Section 1557 of the ACA hurts everyone

Dear Network members,

By now you've probably heard the news - the Trump administration released it's final rule this afternoon rolling back nondiscrimination protections in the Affordable Care Act. We have come so far in expanding protections in law and in the courts, and this rule is a cruel and callous attempt to encourage discrimination by the health care industry. The timing of this rule - released during a pandemic that disproportionately impacts LGBTQ people and people of color, during Pride month, and on the anniversary of the Pulse nightclub tragedy - is especially inhumane.

Today, as we discussed the rule as a team, it became even more clear what the Trump administration is attempting to do: they want to confuse us, they want to keep trans folks from seeking health care in the first place. My colleague Dannie shared, "The first thought that ran through my mind when I read about the repeal of Section 1557 was '**How will this affect me? Have I lost my protection to receive adequate health care services?**' Then I noticed my trans siblings on social media were having the same knee jerk reaction that I was."

We must be clear: health care discrimination is illegal in California.

California law, including the Insurance Gender Nondiscrimination Act, prohibits health plans denying care on the basis of a patient's actual or perceived gender identity. To our trans siblings, you have every right to access health care here in California - and any assertion to the contrary is plain wrong.

LGBTQ people have historically faced tremendous barriers to accessing health care: from pre-existing conditions rules that blocked transgender people and people living with HIV from obtaining health insurance, to denials of routine care, to a shortage of culturally-competent health care providers. We have made tremendous strides over the past decade - both nationally and here in

California - to expand access to care for transgender people. This rule sends a dangerous message to trans people that we are going backward, or that their health care rights have been revoked.

You can read more about California's health care protections in our blog post, [Here's what Californians Need to Know](#) and get even more detail on transgender health in California from the [Transgender Law Center](#).

In solidarity,

Amanda McAllister-Wallner



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