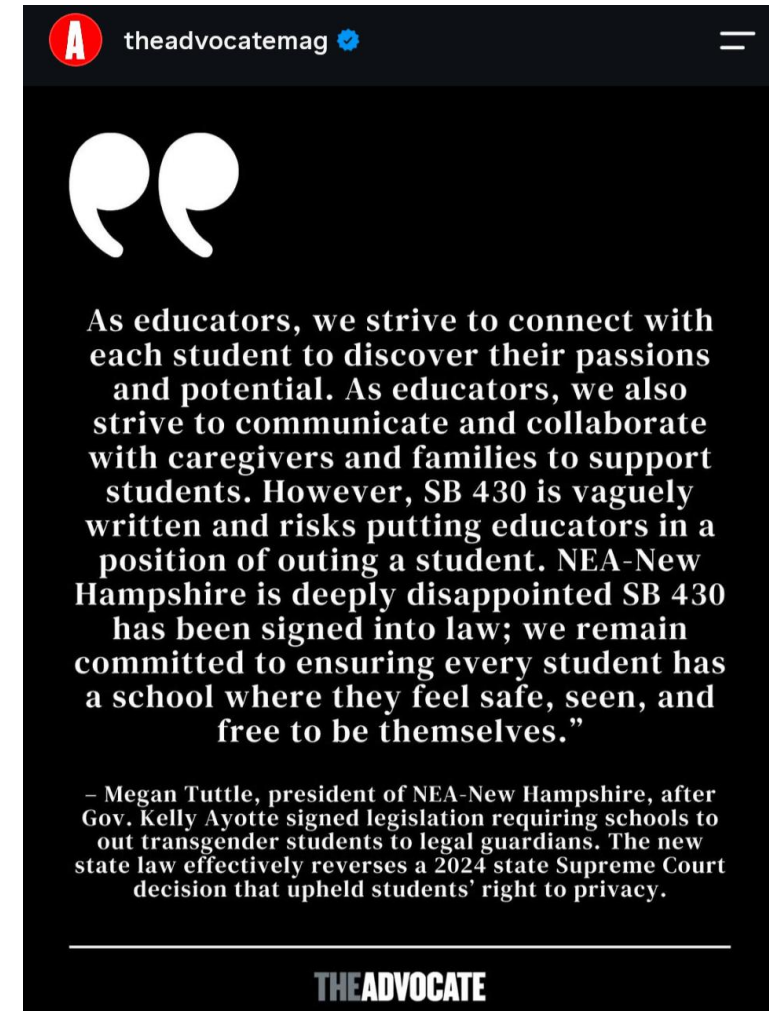
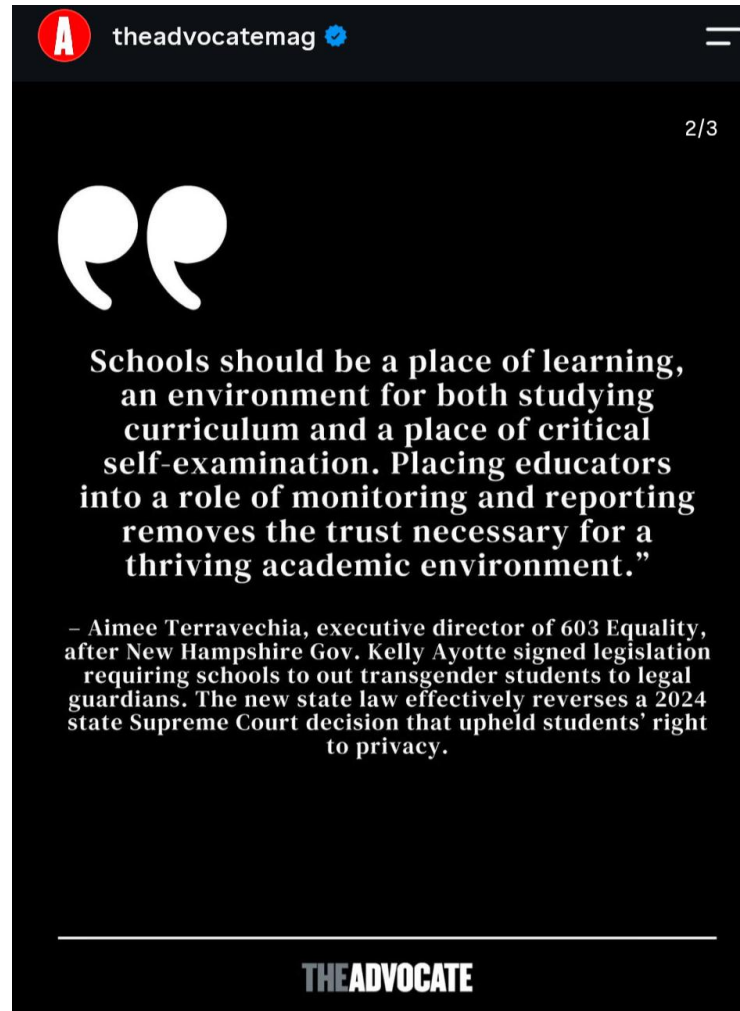


IMPACTS OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT ON GENDER AFFIRMING CARE



Ro Yoon
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King County Board of Health
Community Stakeholder





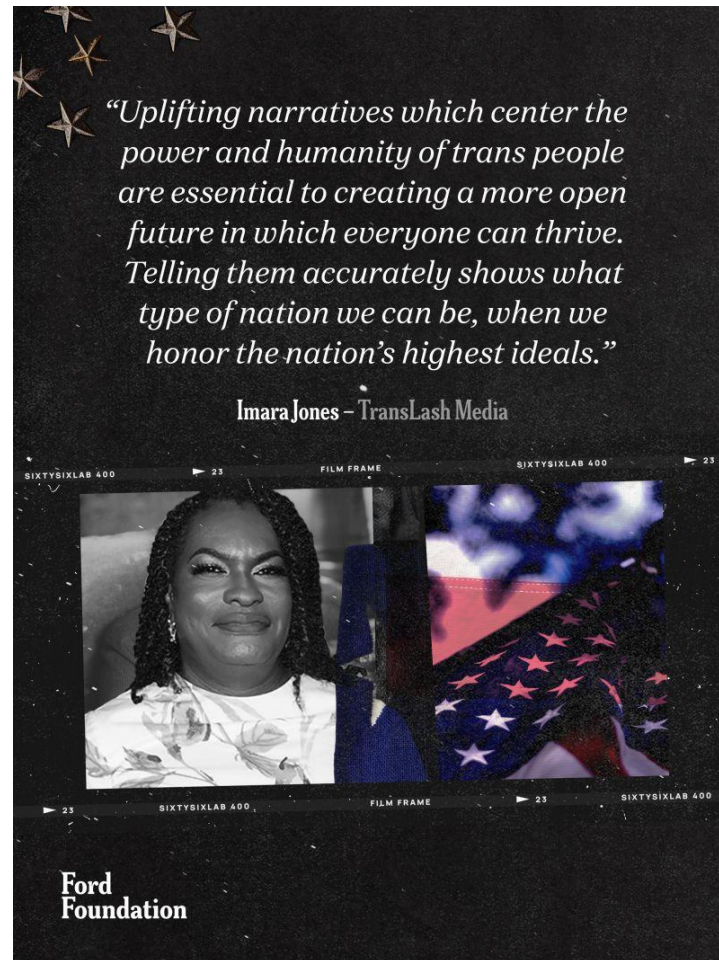
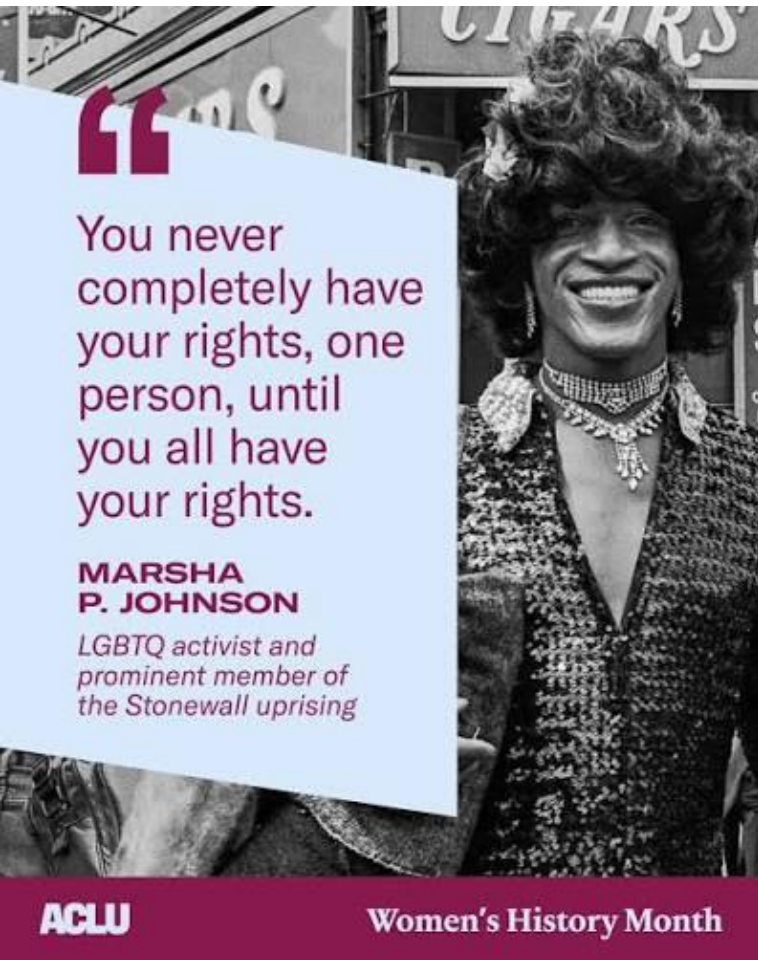
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**THE RIOTS
BECAME PROTESTS
THE PROTESTS
BECAME A MOVEMENT
THE MOVEMENT
ULTIMATELY BECAME
AN INTEGRAL PART OF
AMERICA**

- President Obama,
*announcing the Stonewall
National Monument*



TRANSGENDER LEADERS



Marsha P Johnson | Sylvia Rivera | Imara Jones | Janet Mock | Laverne Cox | Gavin Grimm | Ro Yoon | Oliver Snow | Sarah McBride | Jacob Tobia | Celia Daniels | Frances Thompson | Alan Hart | Caroline Cossey | We’wha | Lucy Hicks Anderson | Michael Dillon | Renee Richards | Christina Jorgensen | Coccinelle | Raquel Willis | Mila Hellfyre | Reverend Debra J Hopkins | Toni-Michelle | Taylor Alxndr | Olivia Hill | Murray Hill | Jackie Shane | Lou Sullivan | Chaz Bono | Jaelynn Scott



Ro Yoon

Community
Engagement

Fred Hutch
Vaccines
Trial
Unit

CURRENT POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AFFECTING GENDER AFFIRMING CARE



TRANSGENDER POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES

- Approx. 2.8 million Americans 13+yo identify as transgender, representing 1% of U.S. population
- 2.1 million adults (18+) and 724,000 youth (13-17)

HEALTHCARE DISCRIMINATION

- 19% denied care due to gender identity
- 28% experienced harassment in healthcare settings
- 50% reported educating providers about transgender care
(Injustice at Every Turn, 2011)

NATIONAL POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Wide variation in state laws restricting or protecting care
- Ongoing federal and state court challenges
- Legislative activity increasing focus on youth care restrictions
- Policy uncertainty affecting long-term care planning and practice

(UCLA Williams Institute, 2025)

Gender Affirming Care

Gender Care for the Primary Care Pediatrician

Child Developmental Framework:

Gender identity formation is part of normal child development. Pediatricians should ask **all kids** at developmental nodal points about their gender as part of anticipatory guidance & screening.

Using Affirming Language:

Start by asking any patient how they identify. Their terms, identifications, & descriptions should guide the language providers use. Use of chosen name in more contexts (ie home) is protective against depression.

Modalities of Gender Affirmation

Legal

Can include updating

- Birth certificate
- Social Security Card
- Medical record
- Driver's license/ state or city ID

Social

Can include changing

- Pronouns
- Name
- Clothing/style
- Gender expression

Medical

Commonly used:

- GnRH agonists
- Estradiol
- Testosterone
- Finasteride
- Spironolactone
- Birth control

Surgical

Can include

- Chest/breast reconstruction, augmentation, removal
- Hysterectomy, orchiectomy
- Vaginoplasty, Phalloplasty
- Facial feminization

Remember: all different kinds of affirmation are completely up to the patient, & providers should support patients in making the changes they want to without making any assumptions. Gender affirmation should be **Patient-Centered Consent-Based Care**.

Take home
points

Gender care is
primary care!

Trauma informed
care is essential.

Kids who are safe &
loved at home do well.

References:

1. Raymond-Kolker R, Forcier M, Chiu C, Berk J. "Gender Affirming Care: Gender Care for the Primary Care Pediatrician." The Cribsiders Pediatric Podcast. <https://www.thecribsiders.com/> April 2021.

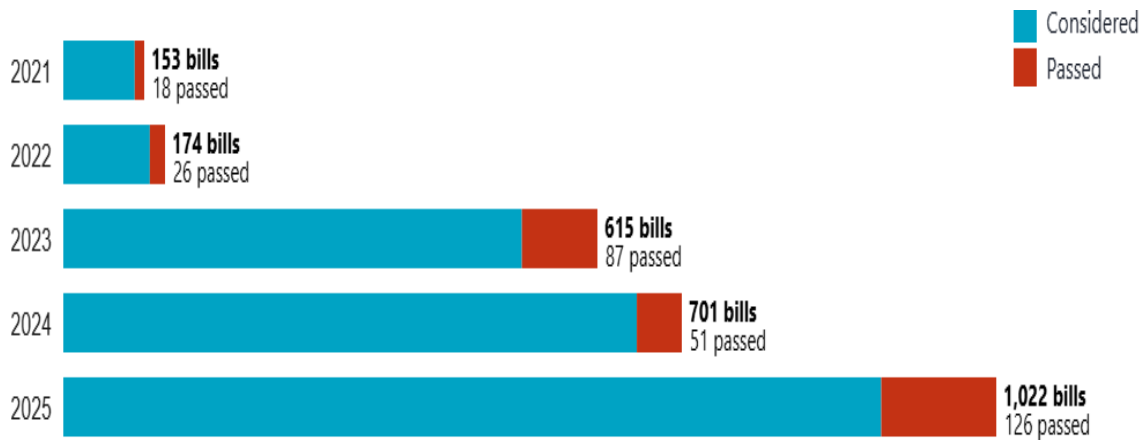
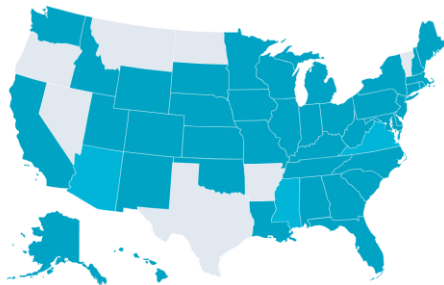
Gender Affirming Care Pearls

- Gender care is primary care!
- Gender describes an internal sense of self and who a person is. Gender is part of normal development and gender diversity is normal and expected.
- Pediatricians should be asking **all kids** at developmental nodal points about their gender as part of anticipatory guidance and screening.
- Gender affirmation may consist of some combination of legal, social, medical, and/or surgical affirmation.
- Patient-Centered Consent-Based Care helps us offer care that meets patients' goals safely.
- Supportive families are protective. Kids who are safe and loved at home do well.

2026 anti-trans bills tracker

In 2026, anti-trans bills continue to be introduced across the country. We track legislation that seeks to block trans people from receiving basic healthcare, education, legal recognition, and the right to publicly exist.

804 bills 43 states
63 passed 267 active 474 failed



Anti-trans bills under consideration and passed, 2021-2025



IMPACTS on Patients, Providers and Systems

- Access delays and care interruptions in restrictive states
- Cross-state travel increasing demand in access states like WA
- Provider workforce strain and legal risk considerations
- Health equity concerns and mental health implications



Gender-Affirming Care Barriers

- Youth: parental consent barriers, limited specialized providers
 - Adults: cost, insurance exclusions, provider bias
- (UCLA Williams Institute, 2025)



Credit: ACLU / Jordana Bermudez

WASHINGTON STATE

- WA maintains legal protections for gender-affirming care access
- Shield laws limit out-of-state legal interference
- Insurance coverage mandates support access to care Gender Affirming Treatment Act
- Regional demand increasing as patients travel from restrictive states

QUESTIONS?

Please contact KCBOHAdmin@kingcounty.gov

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