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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

70+ LGBTQ, Civil Rights, Access to Health Care, and Reproductive Freedom Organizations Urge State Legislature to Pass Legislation to Safeguard Gender-Affirming Health Care Coverage for New Yorkers

(NEW YORK, NY) - More than 70 LGBTQ, civil rights, access to health care, and reproductive freedom organizations across New York State signed onto a [letter](#) in support of [legislation](#) to safeguard access to gender-affirming health care coverage for New Yorkers amid ongoing efforts by the federal administration to undermine funding and protections for the critically needed care.

The legislation seeks to codify and clarify that insurers are required to continue covering medically necessary gender-affirming health care regardless of changes to federal policy or attempts at federal interference.

The letter states:

“The Trump administration is waging an attack on New York State’s health care system with a target on the health care of transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) people. The attacks include a day one attempt to erase the existence of TGNC people with illegal executive orders, the rescission of Biden- era guidance clarifying that the Affordable Care Act’s section 1557 prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity, and a current proposed rule that would eliminate federal funding for Medicaid coverage for the treatment of gender dysphoria for people under age 19.

“To ensure continuity of care for TGNC New Yorkers in the face of the federal administration’s ongoing attempts to undermine state protections, New York must codify and clarify that insurers must continue to provide coverage of medically necessary gender affirming health care.”

The letter urges New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to advance the bill this legislative session to ensure vulnerable New Yorkers are not denied access to the lifesaving health care they need and deserve.

If enacted, the legislation would:

- Amend the Social Services Law to explicitly require continued Medicaid coverage of all medically necessary gender-affirming care regardless of whether any federal funds are available for such coverage;
- Amend Insurance Law to codify regulatory prohibitions on the denial of coverage for the treatment of gender dysphoria where coverage for the same services is provided for other diagnoses;
- And amend the Human Rights Law’s to clarify that it includes providers of health insurance coverage.

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