

May 15, 2026

Assemblymember Carl E. Heastie  
New York Assembly Speaker  
188 State Street  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
New York State Senate Majority Leader  
188 State Street  
Legislative Office Building, Room 907  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Assembly Speaker Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins:

On behalf of the undersigned LGBTQ, civil rights, access to health care, and reproductive freedom organizations, we urge you to advance **A6596-C (Rosenthal)/S9275-A (Rivera)**, which supports continuity of health care coverage for transgender New Yorkers and complements the Gender-Affirming Care Access Program.

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. The proposal includes a prohibition on federal funding for puberty-pausing medications and hormone therapy, which are well-established transition-related pediatric health care.[1]

Currently, New York State insurance regulations and guidance prohibit discriminatory policies in private insurance; a court order and resulting regulations require State Medicaid coverage for treatment of gender dysphoria regardless of age; and a strong Human Rights Law prohibits discrimination in public accommodations, including hospitals and clinics, and employment, including employer-sponsored insurance programs, on the basis of gender identity or expression. This patchwork of protections reflects New York's evolving efforts to be a place where TGNC New Yorkers can feel safe and thrive.

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.

New York must enact **A6596-C/S9275-A** which 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.
- Amend the Human Rights Law's to clarify that it includes providers of health insurance coverage.

In an era of federal capriciousness and political interference in the practice of medicine, we must codify these protections for TGNC New Yorkers to bolster against federal interference and to fulfil our state's promise that New York will be a beacon where TGNC people are welcome and supported to be themselves and to live with dignity and health. For these reasons, we urge you to advance **A6596-C/S9275-A** this year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Advocates for Trans Equality (A4TE)

Albany Damien Center

Alexis Bleich Consulting

Ali Forney Center

All\* Above All

Amida Care

Bend the Arc

BKForge: Brooklyn for Reproductive & Gender Equity

Blue Canary Therapy

Brooklyn North Creative Arts Therapy

Cabezas Therapy LCSW PLLC

Callen-Lorde Community Health Center

Campaign for New York Health

Center For Black Feminist Psychoanalysis

Center For Elder Law & Justice

Children's Defense Fund-New York

Chosen Family Law Center

Destination Tomorrow

Dulcinea Pitagora, PLLC

Elizabeth Smith Creative Arts Therapy, PLLC

Empire Justice Center

EngageWell IPA

FLX Beacon

Free to Be Youth Project-UJC

Girls for Gender Equity

GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality

GLYS WNY & the Pride Center of WNY

GMHC

Golden Psychology

Harlem United

Hetrick-Martin Institute

Housing Works, Inc.

If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

Jason Holloway PsyD PLLC

Kennedy Psychotherapy	Q'Lective Therapy
Lawyers for Good Government	Queer Budget Center
Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund	Queer Therapy NYC
Make the Road New York	Rockland County Pride Center
Medicaid Matters New York	Safe Summit Psychotherapy
National Queer Theater	SAGE - Advocacy and Services for LGBTQ+ Elders
New Alternatives for Homeless LGBT Youth	Society for Humanistic Judaism
NEW Pride Agenda	Southern Tier AIDS Program
New York Civil Liberties Union	Suffolk Progressives
New York State Academy of Family Physicians	Sylvia Rivera Law Project
New York Transgender Advocacy Group	The Legal Aid Society
NRCIL	The Trevor Project
NYCD16/15-Indivisible	Trans Equity Consulting
NYLAG LGBTQ Law Unit	Trans formative Schools
Physicians for Reproductive Health	Transcending Leadership Center
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts	Transgender Law Center
PowHerNY Network	Valued Directions Psychological Services
Pride Center of Staten Island	VNS Health
Prism Counseling & Advocacy	WAVE Women Inc.

CC. Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly.

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[1] Gender affirming care is health care. It supports people to live as their authentic selves and can be lifesaving. Study after study shows that transgender individuals who are affirmed in their gender feel safer in their communities, establish healthier relationships, and are better equipped to plan for their futures. *E.g. 2022 U.S. Trans Survey*, U.S. TRANS SURVEY, <https://ustranssurvey.org/> (last visited Feb. 11, 2026). In contrast, denying this support increases their risk for substance use, worsens symptoms of depression and anxiety, and gravely increases their risk for suicide. *Resolution: Removing Financial Barriers to Care for Transgender Patients*, AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 2008, <http://www.imatyfa.org/assets/ama122.pdf>; see *Removing Barriers to Care for Transgender Patients: AMA Resolution Supporting Health Insurance Coverage for Treatment of GID*, GLAD Answers for the LGBTQ Community, Jan. 2017, <https://www.glad.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/ama-resolution-fact-sheet.pdf>. Nothing in the AMA's recent statements to the press change this position statement. See Theresa Gaffney, *Did the AMA change its position on surgery for minors?*, STAT, Feb. 10, 2026, <https://www.statnews.com/2026/02/10/medical-societies-trans-care-minors-ama-asps/>. For these reasons, gender-affirming care is endorsed for appropriate individuals by every major American medical and psychological organization, including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology, the Endocrine Society, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the United States Professional Association for Transgender Health.