



SAIGE National Child Abuse Prevention Month 2025 Presidential Statement

We at SAIGE strongly oppose [recent statements](#) by the Trump Administration that mischaracterize gender-affirming care for transgender and gender-diverse youth as “child abuse” and “sexual mutilation.” These claims are not only false—they are dangerous. Gender-affirming care is not a political ideology. It is a well-established, evidence-based medical and psychological approach grounded in decades of clinical research and endorsed by major medical and mental health organizations in the United States, including the [American Psychological Association](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), and the [American Medical Association](#).

Let us be clear: what endangers children is not gender-affirming care, but the systemic rejection and pathologization of their identities. Affirming a child’s gender is not abuse—it is the opposite. It is a life-saving act of care, compassion, and respect for who they are. Research consistently shows that gender-affirming care significantly [reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide](#) among transgender and gender-diverse youth.

Additionally, we are deeply concerned by the inflammatory language used to describe transgender and gender-diverse children, their families, and the professionals who support them. Words such as “indoctrination,” “evil,” and “gender insanity” are not only dehumanizing, they also perpetuate stigma, incite violence, and place already vulnerable youth at greater risk for anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicide.

Mental health counselors are ethically bound to do no harm, to affirm the dignity and autonomy of our clients, and to respect the diverse expressions of identity that make up the human experience. Supporting a young person in exploring or affirming their gender identity is not abuse; it is a compassionate, developmentally appropriate, and clinically sound practice that saves lives. Attempts to ban, criminalize, or defund gender-affirming care are an attack on the rights of trans and gender-expansive youth, their families, and the clinicians who care for them. Resources are provided below as counselors continue to develop their knowledge, awareness, and advocacy around gender-affirming care with transgender and gender-diverse youth. Gender-affirming care saves lives.

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Resources:

Transgender Law Center - <https://transgenderlawcenter.org/trans-agenda-for-liberation/>

Trans Justice Funding Project - <https://www.transjusticefundingproject.org/about/>

Advocates For Trans Equality - <https://transequality.org/>

Trans Lifeline - <https://translifeline.org/>

National LGBTQIA+ Health Education - <https://www.lgbtqiahealtheducation.org/>

The Trevor Project - <https://trevorproject.org>

WPATH - <https://wpath.org/>

Trans Youth Equality Foundation - <https://www.transyouthequality.org/>

Sam & Devorah Foundation For Trans Youth - <https://www.samdevorah.org/>

Gender Spectrum - <https://www.genderspectrum.org/>

PFLAG - <https://pflag.org/>

Trans Student Educational Resources - <https://transstudent.org/>