



SAIGE Anti-Trans HHS Report Statement

Approved by the SAIGE Board on 5/25/2025

On May 1st the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [report](#) about the treatment of pediatric gender dysphoria. While this report, [commissioned by the Trump administration in late January](#), is purported to be a comprehensive review of evidence-based care and best practices, it contradicts every [major American medical group/association's](#) support for gender affirming care for trans and gender expansive (TGE) youth. Though the report is said to be written by experts and peer-reviewed, none of the people involved is named in the report, which calls into question the legitimacy of those experts and their peers. Additionally, this report [mischaracterizes research and guidelines](#) from said medical groups as well as expert testimony to deny the need for gender affirming care. SAIGE shares the concerns of these aligned professional organizations and opposes this unscientific government overreach.

Chapter 14 of the HHS report is focused on psychotherapy. As a counseling organization, we are obligated to respond. The authors of the report imply that being trans is a phase (p. 245-246), that the presence of any diagnosis outside of gender dysphoria invalidates an individual's autonomy (p. 251-254, 258), and that transness is a new phenomenon (p. 245). The report uses the [debunked](#) social contagion [theory](#) and the partisan [detransition narrative](#) to invalidate TGE youth. The Dutch protocol is [mischaracterized](#) to support delaying medical intervention and the [controversial](#) Cass Report is cited throughout. The report troublingly attacks the evidence for gender affirming mental health care and counselors' scope of practice. Most alarmingly, the authors attempt to redefine conversion therapy to exclude [gender-exploratory therapy](#) which is in fact a form of [conversion therapy](#) that has been [demonstrated](#) to [cause harm](#).

Although this report clearly states on page 264 that it "is not intended to serve as a clinical practice guideline and does not aim to issue treatment recommendations" it is already being used in such a fashion. This report bolsters the efforts of recent executive orders regarding gender affirming care and funding. This contrived political theater heightens the existing environment of hate towards TGE populations, supports discrimination, sows distrust for legitimate medical professionals and protocols, and prevents access to life-saving medical intervention. If followed, this report will undoubtedly be responsible for immense harm up to and including the deaths of TGE children.

SAIGE has been an outspoken [advocate](#) for [gender affirming care](#) within the counseling profession since its inception and will continue to advocate for and alongside TGE people. As we have said before, it is unethical to deny TGE youth the gender affirming care that they need. This attempt to delegitimize and prevent evidence-based care for a population made vulnerable by a [misbegotten culture war](#) is nothing short of horrific. Our solidarity with and commitment to TGE youth, adults, counselors, and allies is unyielding.

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Resources

Organizational responses to HHS Report

- WPATH/USPATH: <https://wpath.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/WPATH-USPATH-Response-to-HHS-Report-02May2025-1.pdf>
- APA: <https://updates.apaservices.org/update-on-biological-sex-and-gender-diversity-related-eos>
- AAP: <https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2025/aap-statement-on-hhs-report-treatment-for-pediatric-gender-dysphoria/>
- GLAAD: <https://glaad.org/releases/glaad-statement-on-new-hhs-report-on-transgender-health-care/>
- Lambda Legal: https://lambdalegal.org/newsroom/us_20250501_1l-responds-to-trump-hhs-report-biased-effort-to-eradicate-medical-care-for-children-youth/
- ASAN: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/2025/05/asan-condemns-transphobic-hhs-report/>
- Trans Journalists Association: <https://www.transjournalists.org/2025-hhs-report/>
- Medical associations that have released statements in support for gender affirming care more broadly:
 - <https://transhealthproject.org/resources/medical-organization-statements/>
 - <https://glaad.org/medical-association-statements-supporting-trans-youth-healthcare-and-against-discriminatory/>

News Articles Addressing Issues with the HHS Report

- Fact Check: Trump's HHS Review On Trans Care Filled With Pseudoscience, Pushes Conversion Therapy: <https://www.erininthemorning.com/p/fact-check-trumps-hhs-review-on-trans>
- Trump HHS tiptoes around endorsing conversion therapy for transgender minors: <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/trump-hhs-transgender-gender-affirming-care-youths-report/746923/>
- Researchers slam HHS report on gender-affirming care for youth: <https://www.science.org/content/article/researchers-slam-hhs-report-gender-affirming-care-youth>
- Experts Condemn Trump Pseudoscientific Anti-Trans "Report": <https://www.erininthemorning.com/p/roundup-experts-condemn-trump-pseudoscientific>

Resources for Trans People

- Trans Community Resource Hub: <https://thhq-community-hub.glide.page/d1/d0a5f4>
- Trans Health Project: <https://transhealthproject.org/>
- TPATH: <https://tpathealth.org/>
- Trevor Project Resources: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/>

Advocacy Resources

2025 Trackers

- **Executive orders:** *Trump Administration – Executive Actions Tracker*, by Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1C4m_Gzy27HsemsR4bocDUAj136OumcYh9I1oPnw9pYg/edit?gid=2034954957#gid=2034954957
- Anti- and Pro-LGBTQ Legislation: *2025 Legislative Tracker*, by LegiAlerts.org:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NfY8VvrUNQKX77CXilx1E1pepRSGTMZ70LoyFwx6fbk/edit?gid=719771929#gid=719771929>
- Litigation Tracker: Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Actions:, by JustSecurity.org: <https://www.justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration/>

SAIGE

- Home page: <https://saigecounseling.org/>
- Public Policy Resource Drive:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17mCVWH4WVAiC2gkTc8PiuRcZuaeEL0NB?usp=sharing>
- Policy Committee webpage: <https://saigecounseling.org/public-policy-committee/>

ACA

- ACA statements: <https://www.counseling.org/about/values-statements>
- Share the Impact of Recent Executive Orders form:
 - <https://americancounseling.quorum.us/campaign/108607/>
 - <https://www.counseling.org/resources/topics/special-considerations/marginalized-communities/lgbtq>

LGBTQ News Sources

- Erin in the Morning: <https://www.erininthemorning.com/>
- The Advocate: <https://www.advocate.com/>
- New National Queer Media Collaborative: <https://newsisout.com/>
- Uncloseted Media: <https://www.unclosetedmedia.com/>
- Buckeye Flame: <https://thebuckeyeflame.com/>