



**Developmental  
Disabilities  
Planning Council**

*Easy Read Edition*

# **Barriers to Gender Affirming Health Care**

**Part 9: What other legal barriers  
make life hard for transgender  
people?**

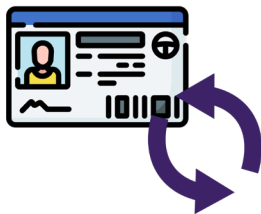
# What other legal barriers make life hard for transgender people?



Even in states where transgender and nonbinary people can get gender affirming care, there are laws that make other parts of transition harder.



Some states have laws that make it hard for transgender and nonbinary people to change their names.



Some states have laws that make it hard for transgender and nonbinary people to change their ID cards.

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These laws have rules about what a transgender or nonbinary person must do to “prove” they are their gender.



These laws say different things on how someone “proves” they are transgender or nonbinary.

Things a transgender or nonbinary person might have to do include:



- Getting a letter from a psychologist.



- Getting a diagnosis of gender dysphoria from a therapist



- Living as “their chosen gender” for a while before they can get gender affirming care.

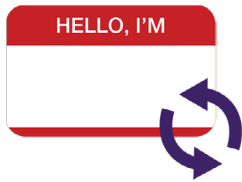
This can include things like:



- Dressing in clothes that men or women “should” wear.



- Using bathrooms of that gender.



- Changing their name to a “man” or “woman” name.



- Going to court to legally change their name.



- Putting an ad in a newspaper saying you are changing your name.



These laws make it harder for transgender and nonbinary people to be themselves.



These laws make it more dangerous for transgender and nonbinary people to be themselves.



There are different kinds of laws that focus on transgender and nonbinary children.

These laws do different things like:



- Stop transgender and nonbinary children from playing sports as their real gender.



For example, these laws often stop transgender girls from playing on girls' sports teams.



- Stop transgender and nonbinary children from using public bathrooms at school.



Sometimes these laws say that transgender and nonbinary children can only use bathrooms matching their assigned sex at birth.



Sometimes these laws say transgender and nonbinary children cannot use public bathrooms.



- Stop teachers and schools from using the right pronouns and names for transgender and nonbinary students.



- Force schools to tell parents if their child is transgender or nonbinary.



The schools have to do this even if the child does not want them to.



- Say students must have their naked bodies looked at by doctors before playing sports.



- Say that parents who support their transgender or nonbinary children hurt their children.



The state makes laws saying that so that they can take children away from their parents.





These laws make life harder for transgender and nonbinary children.

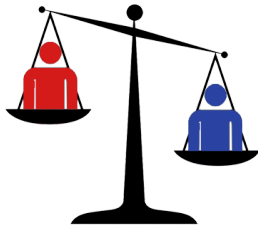


But these laws make it harder to be transgender or nonbinary.



These laws make being a transgender or nonbinary child dangerous.

## Where are these laws coming from?



These laws come from people trying to make discrimination legal.



Discrimination means treating a group of people badly for who they are.



There are different kinds of discrimination.

Some types of discrimination are:



- Racism.



Racism is treating people of color badly because they are not white.



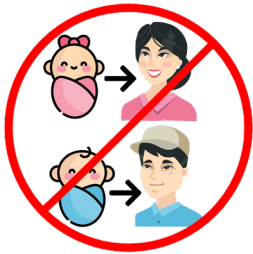
- Sexism.



Sexism is treating women badly because they are not men.



- Transphobia.



Transphobia is treating transgender and nonbinary people badly because they are not cisgender.



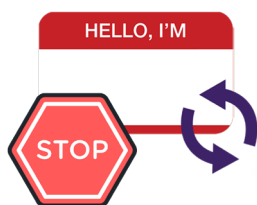
You can learn more about discrimination in our toolkit "[Fighting for Fairness.](#)"



Laws that ban transgender and nonbinary people from getting care are a kind of transphobia.



Other kinds of laws can also be transphobic.



For example, laws that stop transgender and nonbinary people from changing their names are also transphobic.



People come up with different lies to hide their transphobia.



Some people say science says transgender and nonbinary people are not real.



Some people say gender affirming care is more dangerous than other kinds of health care.



None of this is true.



Many different states are passing laws against transgender people and gender affirming care.



Many of these states are getting these bills from the same groups.



Bills are documents that a state or federal legislature can vote on to make them laws.



These groups write bills they want made into laws.



These groups send the bills they write to many state governments at a time.



These groups often will write bills that take away transgender and nonbinary people's rights.



These groups often work together to get as many states to pass their bills as possible.



For example:



Let's say there is a group called Think of The Children.



Think of The Children is a group that writes bills for state governments.



Think of The Children pretends their bills are about children's safety.



But Think of The Children really writes bills that target transgender and nonbinary people.



These bills make it harder for transgender and nonbinary people to get gender affirming care.



These bills make it harder for transgender and nonbinary people to be safe in public spaces.



When Think of The Children writes a bill, they send it to different state governments.



Think of The Children asks the different state governments to pass their bills into law.



Not all the states will pass Think of The Children's bills into law.



But some states will.



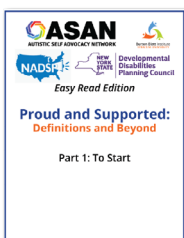
These groups often want to do more than stop nonbinary and transgender people from getting health care.



These groups often want to stop LGBTQ+ people from having rights at all.



LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and other sexual orientations and gender identities that are discriminated against.



(You can learn more about different sexual orientations and gender identities in our toolkit, [Definitions and Beyond](#).)



Trying to take away other people's rights is not fair.



These groups also try to take away the rights of other people.

These groups often write other bills that make life harder for:



- People of color.



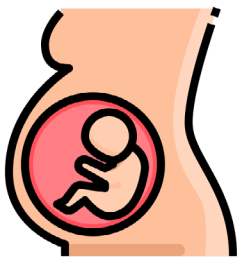
- People who do not have a lot of money.



- People who came to the United States from other countries.



- People with disabilities.



- People who can get pregnant.

Examples of bills these kind of groups try to get make into laws include:



- Voting laws that are more likely to stop people of color from voting.



- Voting laws that are more likely to stop immigrants from voting.



- Laws that say companies can pay people with disabilities less than everyone else.



- Laws that stop people from being able to get an abortion.



An abortion is when a pregnant person ends their pregnancy without giving birth.

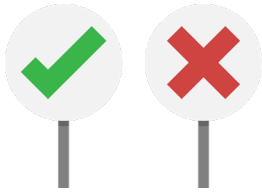


After an abortion, the person is not pregnant anymore.



(To learn more about laws around abortion, you can read [ASAN's toolkits about abortion law.](#))

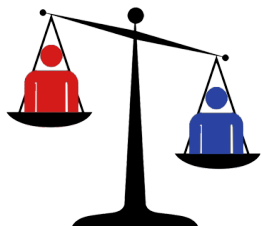




These groups try to make everyone else live by what they think is right or wrong.



These groups also think transgender and nonbinary people should not exist.



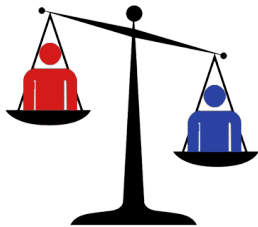
These groups practice discrimination.



There is no good reason for these laws.



These laws are not based on facts.

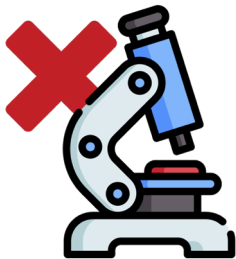


These laws are based on discrimination.

## Why are people so mad about gender affirming care?



People who do not want transgender and nonbinary people to get gender affirming care make up all kinds of reasons for their transphobia.



They might say that science says being transgender or nonbinary is wrong.



They might say that gender affirming care is more dangerous than other kinds of health care.



They might say that transgender and nonbinary people want to hurt children.



None of these things are true.



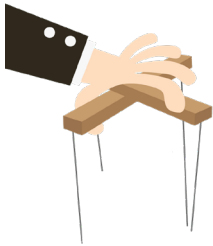
But people use them as excuses for transphobia.



People get upset about transgender and nonbinary people getting gender affirming care for many reasons.



Some people just want to hurt transgender and nonbinary people.



Some people just want to control transgender and nonbinary people.



These people think that transgender and nonbinary people should not have the same rights they do.



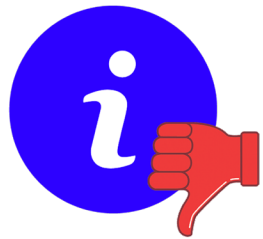
They think it is okay to hurt transgender and nonbinary people.



Some people think it is funny to spread bad information .



These people think it is funny to make up lies.



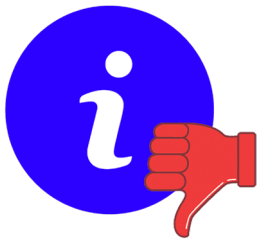
They make up bad information.



Often, they make money off the bad information they make up.



These people make up lies about different groups of people.



They spread bad information about different groups of people.



They sometimes spread bad information about transgender and nonbinary people.

For example:



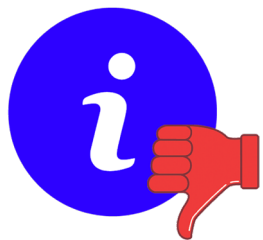
Lucy makes videos about different topics online.



When people watch Lucy's videos, she makes money.



Lucy makes more money if more people watch her videos.



Lucy sees other videos that spread bad information about transgender and nonbinary people.



Lucy sees that lots of people watch these videos.





Lucy wants to make more money off her videos.



So she makes up lies about transgender and nonbinary people.



She makes videos about these lies.



Lucy does not care if her videos hurt transgender and nonbinary people.



She just cares about making money from her videos.



Some people know that they can get attention by saying things other people agree with.



These people see that other people do not like transgender and nonbinary people.



So these people say lies about transgender and nonbinary people.

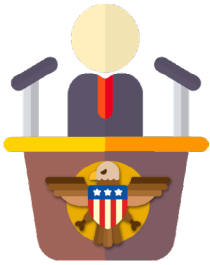


These people lie about transgender and nonbinary people to get attention.



This can happen with people who want to be part of the government.

For example:



Mr. Bigshot wants to be President of the United States.



Mr. Bigshot knows that people will agree with him if he says that transgender and nonbinary people hurt children.



Those people will vote for him for President.



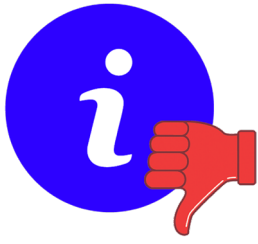
It does not matter whether Mr. Bigshot actually thinks transgender and nonbinary people hurt children.



Mr. Bigshot just wants votes for President.



He will say anything that gets people to vote for him.



Some people have gotten bad information about transgender and nonbinary people.



These people usually do not know any transgender or nonbinary people.



These people might believe information because it “sounds true.”



These people might stop believing bad information if they meet transgender and nonbinary people.

For example:



James spends a lot of time on social media.



He reads that transgender and nonbinary people want to hurt children.



James believes this.



He repeats this bad information.



Then James gets a job at a coffee shop.



Many of James' coworkers are transgender or nonbinary.



James sees that they are just people like he is.



James sees that his coworkers do not want to hurt children.



James stops believing the bad information he got about transgender and nonbinary people.