2

In the U.S., individualized, age-appropriate care is provided to transgender people by licensed
medical professionals according to expert standards of clinical care that have been in place for
decades, such as those maintained by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health
(WPATH) and the Endocrine Society.
vi
 The WPATH Standards, which are in their eighth edition as
of September 2022, are based on dozens of independent systematic reviews and a consensus-based
expert review process involving more than 100 experts from around the world. These standards
ensure that decision-making about health care for transgender people is guided by a multi-disciplinary care team of medical and mental health professionals working together with patients
and, for minors, with their parents, to assess and meet the patient’s medical needs. This enables
health professionals to help transgender patients navigate safe and effective pathways to care that
maximizes their physical and psychological well-being. We stand firmly behind the robust evidence
base and expert clinical guidelines that demonstrate this care is safe, effective, and medically
necessary for transgender people to thrive.

Recently we have seen a surge of state and federal efforts to eliminate access to medically necessary
care for transgender people. Currently, twenty states have enacted legislation banning care for
adolescents; five of these bans enact felony penalties against health care professionals for following
their professional oath to provide ethical, evidence-based care.
vii
 Increasingly, state officials are also
seeking to restrict access to this care for transgender adults.
viii
 These efforts have now made their
way to Congress, where federal lawmakers are attempting to ban gender-affirming care through
legislative attacks that take many forms
ix—standalone bills, harmful amendments to legislation on an
array of unrelated topics, or threats to withhold funding from essential programs and services.

We strongly oppose these discriminatory state and federal efforts to ban best-practice, evidence-based care for transgender people. These efforts contradict long-standing expert clinical standards
and represent governmental intrusion into the practice of medicine, as well as the privacy and
sanctity of the relationship between medical professionals, patients, and parents. We call on
Congress to reject these harmful proposals and urge it to leverage its power to protect access to
medically necessary gender-affirming care for transgender people across the country.

Thank you for your consideration. If you need any more information, please do not hesitate to
contact Kellan Baker, Executive Director and Chief Learning Officer for Whitman-Walker Institute
at KBaker@Whitman-Walker.org or Caroline Medina, Director of Policy for Whitman-Walker
Institute at CMedina@Whitman-Walker.org.

Respectfully,

ABIM Foundation
American Academy of Physician Associates
American Board of Internal Medicine

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American College of Physicians
American Medical Student Association (AMSA)
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
Anchor Health
Apicha Community Health Center
Be BOLD Psychology and Consulting
Boston Medical Center
Bright Tree Therapy, PLLC
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
Charlotte Trans Health
CHMG Pediatric Specialists
Clear Sky Therapeutic Services, PLLC
Community Love Direct Primary Care, PLLC
Create the Pause Therapy
Create Your Calm PLLC
CrescentCare
The Eidos LGBTQ+ Health Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania
El Rio Community Health Center
Empowered Transitions
Endocrine Society
The Fenway Institute
FOLX Health
Gaia Therapy LLC

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i
 The Human Rights Campaign, “Get the Facts on Gender-Affirming Care,” available at
https://www.hrc.org/resources/get-the-facts-on-gender-affirming-care (last accessed July 7, 2023)
ii
 Tordoff, D. M., Wanta, J. W., Collin, A., Stepney, C. S., Inwards-Breland, D. J., & Ahrens, K. (2022). Mental Health