



April 12, 2021

Dear Governor Kelly:

As medical and mental health professionals in the state of Kansas, we have an obligation to advocate for the health and wellbeing of all our patients and oppose discrimination. That is why we strongly oppose legislation that targets transgender young people for discrimination.

Please veto Senate Bill 55. This bill runs counter to the growing consensus in the medical and mental health community that nondiscrimination and improving access to gender-affirming care and spaces are central means of improving health and mental health outcomes for transgender people. Major medical associations, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Medicine, along with mental health organizations such as the American Psychological Association, The National Association for Social Workers and many others, recognize that supporting transgender youth is critical to their health and well-being.

Transgender youth face discrimination and bullying at much higher rates than their peers. Many credible studies show that inclusion and acceptance significantly reduced rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide attempts. Data makes it clear that reducing discrimination and offering gender-affirming care saves lives and allows trans young people to thrive.

We believe that all Kansans, including transgender people, should be treated with dignity and respect. Anti-transgender bills would not only violate the rights and freedoms of transgender young people, but contribute to a more hostile climate for transgender children.

For all of these reasons, we unite in opposition to anti-transgender legislation and in support of inclusion and gender-affirming care for transgender youth. We ask you to reject the discriminatory, pro-bullying bill, SB 55.

The undersigned members of Kansas medical and mental health providers:

Lori Haas, LCMFT - Wichita
Gleason Chiropractic, PA - Goodland
Tori Gleason, DC, DACBSP - Goodland
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Emily Rhamy, LMSW - Lawrence
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