

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

January 6, 2026

AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Protecting Access to the Gender-Affirming Care for Young People Throughout Los Angeles County

All residents of Los Angeles County deserve access to health care services that enhance their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Such critical services include gender-affirming care, which the County’s Department of Health Services (DHS) provides to transgender, intersex, and gender-nonconforming patients. This essential care for people of all ages is supported by major medical associations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration has announced efforts to ban gender-affirming care for young people under 18 years of age throughout the country, including Los Angeles County.

On December 18, 2025, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator, Dr. Mehmet Oz, proposed two rules that would eliminate gender-affirming care for youth under 18. The first rule would prohibit receipt of Medicaid reimbursement for gender-affirming care provided to patients under age 18. The second rule would remove access to Medicaid and Medicare funding for any service for hospitals that provide pediatric gender-affirming care; virtually eliminating access to gender-affirming care for young

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Hahn	_____
Barger	_____
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people in all hospitals nationwide. The proposed rules would take effect in mid-March 2026, after a 60-day comment period and a 30-day waiting period, which initiated on Friday, December 19, 2025.

Additionally, on December 18, 2025, Secretary Kennedy Jr. signed a declaration finding that pediatric gender-affirming services do not meet professionally recognized standards of health care, and practitioners who provide these services would be deemed out of compliance. This declaration could impact the ability of medical professionals who provide gender-affirming services to children and adolescents to continue to practice medicine.

Under the Trump Administration's declaration and proposed rules, patients under age 18 receiving gender-affirming care will have their access to these critical health services disrupted, as it will be nearly impossible to access gender-affirming care. The Trump Administration's actions would also undo significant efforts the County has made to enhance access to important services for transgender, intersex, and gender-nonconforming patients of all ages.

To better serve County residents in need of gender-affirming care, in June 2021, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the first *Care with Pride* motion, which directed DHS and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to enhance healthcare models and assess protocols regarding gender-affirming care. Building on

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this initial effort, in June of 2022, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the second *Care with Pride* motion to create a Gender Health Program (GHP) within DHS, to standardize and strengthen LGBTQ+ services for DHS-empaneled patients, and to work with DCFS and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to ensure mental health and child welfare partners were contributors to this program. Since then, the Board of Supervisors has continued to enhance access to critical services, resources, and supports for LGBTQ+ residents, including transgender, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming individuals.

The provision of gender-affirming care is supported by leading medical associations and organizations throughout the Country. In a recent statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics, President Dr. Kressly stated that the Trump Administration's proposals "misconstrue the current medical consensus and fail to reflect the realities of pediatric care and the needs of children and families". Additionally, on December 23, a coalition of 19 states, including California, filed a lawsuit challenging Secretary Kennedy Jr.'s declaration, which changes previously established, evidence-based medical standards of care. The County must do what it can to protect access to ensure vulnerable residents and youth under its stewardship are provided the essential care and services they need.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel,

AGN. NO. _____

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in collaboration with the Department of Health Services, to file, join, and/or support litigation opposing the Trump Administration's declaration and proposed rules impacting access to gender-affirming care for young people, and to file public comment in opposition to the proposed rules.

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