

November 30, 2017

Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly,

As healthcare professionals, we are dedicated to Healthy People 2020's vision of "the attainment of a high quality of health for all people." It's our job to help the community members we serve live full and healthy lives. We know first-hand the importance of removing the barriers that prevent those in our community from accessing care, and we believe that the proposed House Bill 1933 is one of those barriers. As written, HB 1933 will preclude transgender Pennsylvanians from accessing medically-appropriate and necessary health services.

We urge you to reject any and all efforts to deny healthcare coverage in CHIP and medical assistance programs to Transgender Pennsylvanians based only on who they are.

We ask you to trust us -- as clinicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, counselors -- to know what care our patients need.

Nearly every major medical organization in the United States unequivocally supports medically-necessary healthcare for transgender individuals. The American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the American College of Nurse Midwives, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Public Health Association, and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care are among the entities that have issued policy statements that support healthcare for transgender patients.

As healthcare professionals who provide care for transgender community members, we know firsthand what will happen should HB 1933 become law, we know that it will lead to worsened health outcomes and exacerbated health disparities for an already vulnerable population.

In the spirit of public and community health, we urge you to reject this mean-spirited legislation and support a healthcare system which provides the coverage for all in our communities to live healthy lives.

Signed,