

**Legislation SB0119
Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment**

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Position: Support

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate the opportunity to share my experience. As a private citizen and an educator, I wholeheartedly support legislation that protects gender-affirming care. I have witnessed firsthand how challenging it can be for my friends and students to navigate gender affirmation, and I can only imagine how much harder an already-vulnerable position becomes when proper care and necessary medications are inaccessible.

Recently, I had the privilege of supporting a student who was very open with me about their transition. Over two semesters and across two English composition courses, I witnessed this student bloom. Originally, quiet and withdrawn, they seemed to rediscover themselves with the help of gender-affirming care. Even as an outsider to my student's lived experience, I could tell a burden was lifted. They found a more confident voice, they embraced new opportunities at the college, they took on multiple leadership roles—all these fantastic outcomes can be tied to the support my student received throughout the various stages of their gender-affirming care.

Of course, this is only one example, but the story I have shared is not uncommon. Beyond the college, beyond the city, and beyond our state there are countless individuals in need of care. My hope is this legislation will serve them in their times of need. The definition of "legally protected health care" should indeed include gender-affirming treatment.