

**From:** Jessa Barnard  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 3:02 PM  
**To:** Martin LaLonde  
**Subject:** Guidelines for Gender Affirming Care

<https://www.kff.org/other/issue-brief/youth-access-to-gender-affirming-care-the-federal-and-state-policy-landscape/>

## What do major medical societies say about gender affirming services?

Most major U.S. medical associations, including those in the fields of pediatrics, endocrinology, psychiatry, and psychology, have issued statements recognizing the medical necessity and appropriateness of gender affirming care for youth, typically noting harmful effects of denying access to these services. These include statements from the [American Medical Association](#), [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), the [Endocrine Society](#), [American Psychological Association](#), [American Psychiatric Association](#), and the [World Professional Association for Transgender Health](#), among [others](#), which in some cases were specifically issued in response to the Arkansas legislation and Texas directive. Further, 23 medical associations or societies, including those named above, together filed an [amicus brief](#) in the case filed against Texas Gov. Abbott opposing the state directive. The brief states that denying gender affirming treatment to adolescents who need them would irreparably harm their health and that enforcing the directive would irreparably harm providers who are forced to choose between potentially facing civil and criminal penalties or endangering their patients. A [similar amicus brief](#) was filed in the Arkansas case.

Additionally, the Endocrine Society supports gender affirming care for young people in their [clinical practice guidelines](#), as does the World Professional Association for Transgender Health's [standards of care](#). Together these guidelines form the standard of care for treatment of gender dysphoria.

Jessa Barnard  
Vermont Medical Society

Executive Director