



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Protecting Access to Gender Affirming Care

A.6046B (Bronson)/S.2475B (Hoylman-Sigal)

June 7, 2023

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) strongly supports A.6046B (Bronson)/S.2475B (Hoylman-Sigal) which would protect access to gender affirming care in New York.

CHCANYS is the statewide association of New York's 70+ federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), also known as community health centers (CHCs). Community health centers operate in low-income and medically underserved communities, providing a full range of primary and preventive health care and enabling services for more than 2.3 million patients at over 800 sites, regardless of insurance, immigration status, or ability to pay. Among our patients, 89% are low income, 68% are Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and other people of color, 13% are uninsured, and 59% are enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

Access to gender affirming care is essential to the mental health and overall well-being of young people. Gender affirming care can increase positive outcomes for transgender and nonbinary children and adolescents and includes medical, mental health, and supportive services. It is also critically needed as studies have shown that prohibiting or denying gender affirming care contributes to depression, eating disorders, isolation, and self-harm. The Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health found that 45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.¹

A6046A/S.2475A protects access to gender affirming care by:

- Protecting out-of-state patients and their families seeking gender affirming care in New York from the reach of other states.
- Protecting providers' licensure and prevent medical malpractice insurers from taking adverse action because a provider delivered gender affirming care to a patient who traveled to New York from out of state.
- Preventing New York law enforcement from cooperating with another state's investigation into gender affirming care lawfully provided in New York by preventing New York from arresting or extraditing someone because they provided, aided in, or received lawful gender affirming care in New York.
- Prohibiting New York courts from issuing subpoenas in connection with a hostile state's proceeding related to gender affirming care lawfully provided in New York.
- Prohibiting New York courts from applying any law in its that considers supporting one's child to obtain gender affirming care as child abuse.

CHCANYS supports this legislation to ensure that all young people have access to the healthcare and supports they need to thrive and urges the New York State Legislature to pass A6046B/S.2475B.

For more information, please contact Marie Mongeon, Vice President of Policy, at mmongeon@chcanys.org.

¹ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/>