

WISCONSIN PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

*Assure safe and healthy people by monitoring progress on the state health plan
and on the readiness for public health emergencies.*



July 3, 2023

Resolution Requesting Governor Evers Veto Anti-Trans Provisions in Wisconsin Budget

Whereas, the Wisconsin Public Health Council is a statutorily created body of Wisconsin residents charged with advising the Department of Health Services, the Governor, the Legislature and the public on progress in implementing the state's health plan as well as response to public health emergencies; and

Whereas, the Public Health Council is comprised of representatives from health care consumers, health care providers, health profession educators, local health departments and boards, American Indian Tribes and public safety agencies; and

Whereas, the Public Health Council has reviewed Wisconsin 2023-2025 Biennial Budget provisions related to health access and affordability; and

Whereas, the Public Health Council is aware the Wisconsin Legislature has included a provision prohibiting Medicaid from providing payment for puberty-blocking drugs used for the treatment of gender dysphoria or gender transition as well as prohibiting gender reassignment surgery; and

Whereas; an estimated 300,000 high-school aged transgender youth are living in the United States today, with an estimated 5,000 in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, in 2018, a federal judge ruled that the denial of Medicaid coverage for treatment of gender dysphoria violated the Affordable Care Act and equal protection rights under the US Constitution; and

Whereas, denying the coverage of gender affirming care to trans individuals furthers discrimination, transphobia and stigma; and

Whereas, the intersection of public health and gender affirming care are clear and LGBTQ youth face higher rates of:

- Suicide attempts
- Smoking, alcohol, and other drug use
- Sexual activity at a younger age putting them at risk for HIV, STIs and unplanned pregnancy

that put the health and well-being of not only LGBTQ individuals, but others as well, at-risk for harm; therefore

Be it resolved, the Public Health Council acting in its statutorily defined role as an advisory body to the Governor, respectfully requests that the provisions of the Wisconsin 2023-25 Biennial Budget related to the denial of gender affirming care be vetoed; and

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Therefore be it further resolved, the Public Health Council acting in its statutorily defined role as an advisory body to the Department of Health Services, the Governor and the Legislature encourages state law and policy makers and administrators to enter into meaningful conversations with the Public Health Council and key public health stakeholders to explore meaningful, inclusive and impactful solutions to enhancing the health and wellbeing of all Wisconsin residents; and

Lastly, be it resolved that copies of this resolution are shared with the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, the Governor, and representatives of:

- the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
- the Wisconsin Public Health Association
- leaders of Wisconsin's Federally-recognized American Indian Tribes and Bands
- leaders of Wisconsin's and national LGBTQ community-based organizations
- Division of Public Health Medical Leadership Team
- Wisconsin Medical Society