

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS HENRY SANTANA, JULIA M. MEJIA, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING BARRIERS TO ACCESSING GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTHCARE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, It is critical that the City of Boston remains resolutely committed to upholding the rights of transgender and gender-diverse communities, particularly in light of federal attacks against their autonomy, dignity, and existences; *and*

WHEREAS, Restrictions on these communities' access to healthcare have been at the core of attempts to deny their autonomy, causing barriers to access which exist within Boston's boundaries despite our City's commitments to their protection and sanctuary; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston is unique among major cities in states protected by shield laws in the absence of judicial efforts to use anti-discrimination law to restore care; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston declared itself a Sanctuary City for Transgender people and all members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community in March 2025, affirming that taxpayer-funded agencies shall not comply with federal efforts to strip resources that safeguard the rights of members of these communities, emphasizing the protection of transgender and gender-diverse people's access to healthcare, housing, education, and employment without fear or discrimination; *and*

WHEREAS, In October 2025, this Council passed a resolution affirming the necessity of gender-affirming healthcare and committing to working alongside local healthcare institutions to ensure continued access to gender-affirming healthcare for residents of all ages; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite these commitments, Boston residents continue to experience ongoing barriers, denials, and delays in accessing general medical care due to gender identity bias; *and*

WHEREAS, Federal attacks have placed access to gender-affirming care in jeopardy, especially for transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive individuals up to and including 19 years old; *and*

WHEREAS, A 2025 study conducted by UCLA found that over half of surveyed providers in states without laws restricting access to gender-affirming care reported increased demand for said care at their clinics due to recent legislation limiting access to care elsewhere, with 48% of providers reporting growing waitlists for youth and 38% for adults; *and*

WHEREAS, The influx in demand from out-of-state individuals and the increased demand from in-state individuals whose care has been discontinued by providers following federal threats may compound existing barriers to access to care as waitlists lengthen and providers are increasingly stretched thin; *and*

WHEREAS, Efforts by the Trump administration to restrict federal funding for gender affirming care— both for the procedures themselves and for the facilities or providers providing said care— have instilled retaliatory fear in clinics/hospitals, leading to the ending of gender-affirming care for youth and young adults by providers both across the country and here in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, On December 19, 2025, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Department of Health and Human Services proposed a rule which would prohibit Medicare and Medicaid certified hospitals from providing gender-affirming care to those under 19 years of age; if published, this would force providers to choose between providing gender-affirming care to youth and continuing to accept Medicaid and Medicare, plans in which 29.1% and 20% of the Massachusetts population are enrolled respectively; *and*

WHEREAS, The right to non-discriminatory medical care, including Gender-affirming care, and general medical care free of gender identity bias is an essential lifeline for many members of these communities; *and*

WHEREAS, Attempts to deny the medical needs of these individuals and undermine the ability of medical professionals to provide appropriate care is an impermissible attack on autonomy and human rights and systematizes anti-trans animus, enshrining a form of discrimination which has no place in the City of Boston or elsewhere;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine barriers to accessing gender-affirming healthcare in the City of Boston in light of these federal attacks. Representatives from the Mayor's Office of LGBTQIA2S+ Advancement and the Boston Public Health Commission, as well as community organizations serving transgender and gender-expansive populations will be invited, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.

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