

## NEW TARGETS, OLD TACTICS:

### How Attacks on Gender-Affirming Care Are Repurposing the Anti-Abortion Playbook

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Bans on health care for transgender people have surged all over the country—and their proponents are using familiar strategies. They have modeled their attacks on this basic medical care, often referred to as gender-affirming care, after tactics finetuned over decades by the anti-abortion movement. The National Women's Law Center report explores how the anti-trans movement has repurposed anti-abortion narratives, policies, and strategies to promote bans on gender-affirming care.

#### **Read our full report [here](#).**

Here are some of the anti-abortion tactics that are being used to deny trans people health care:

**Vilifying health providers:** Bans are often based on the false narrative that vulnerable patients are being pressured and lied to by predatory doctors—and that those doctors need to be punished as a result.

**Weaponizing the specter of regret:** Even though the number of people who regret their care is miniscule, this remote possibility has been used to justify sweeping bans.

**Promoting misinformation:** Despite the robust evidence backing the safety, effectiveness, and benefits of access to care, opponents have cast doubt on the science and spread false claims.

**Targeting youth:** Bans have zeroed in on young people on the assumption that that is a politically convenient starting point for even wider attacks.

**Targeting Medicaid:** Opponents have seized on discriminatory stereotypes about Medicaid enrollees to make it harder for them to access the care they need.

**Sowing fear and confusion:** Proponents of bans have created deliberate uncertainty about their reach and used fear-based tactics against patients and providers—resulting in a chilling effect that makes the impact of these laws even broader.

**Reducing people to their reproductive capacity and promoting sex stereotypes:** Bans are designed to value people based on their reproductive potential and punish those who do not conform to stereotypes.

**Exploiting anti-abortion case law:** The anti-trans movement has used far-reaching and incorrect readings of anti-abortion court decisions to justify bans on gender-affirming care.

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**Read our full report [here](#) and contact Ma'ayan Anafi, Senior Counsel for Health Equity and Justice, for more information at [manafi@nwlc.org](mailto:manafi@nwlc.org).**