

STOP SEX HARASSMENT AND SUPPORT SURVIVORS

Sex harassment, which includes sexual assault, should never get in the way of anyone's ability to go to school, go to work, or receive healthcare. But unfortunately, almost a decade after #MeToo went viral, that's still not the case for millions of people across the country. In [K-12 schools](#) and [universities](#), harassment, including sexual assault, hurts students' ability to [succeed](#) in school and subjects survivors who come forward to costly forms of relation. In the workplace, [sex harassment is rampant](#) in every industry and level of employment and forces many women to avoid or leave their [field of study, profession, or industry altogether](#), thereby perpetuating the gender wage gap. [In healthcare settings](#), sex harassment creates long-lasting trauma and mental health harms and can prevent patients from seeking care in the future. Across all settings, [women](#) and [girls of color](#), [LGBTQIA+ people](#), [migrants](#), [disabled people](#), and [low-paid workers](#) are more likely to be targeted by sex harassment due to their marginalized status yet less likely to receive support due to discriminatory stereotypes that suggest they are less credible and less deserving of care.

Existing state and federal laws do not adequately require or incentivize schools, [employers](#), and healthcare providers to prevent and address sex harassment, leaving those most vulnerable to harassment without meaningful protections. These gaps in the law have been exacerbated by the Trump administration's rollbacks of protections against sex harassment and weaponization of federal civil rights laws to [attack diversity, equity, and inclusion programs](#) and [federal funding](#) for organizations that provide critical, lifesaving support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The Trump administration has steered the full weight of the federal government toward unjustifiably attacking immigrants and [banning transgender people from public spaces under the guise of preventing sexual violence](#). As a result, harassers and institutions are not held accountable. Meanwhile, survivors are afraid to come forward, and those who do are often ignored or face retaliation, including being disciplined by their school, harassed by their abuser and abusers' friends, or [sued for defamation by their abuser](#).

PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING POLICIES THAT ALLOW WOMEN, GIRLS, AND LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE TO LIVE, LEARN, AND WORK SAFELY AND WITH DIGNITY

Students, workers, and patients are organizing and demanding better of schools, employers, and health care providers so everyone can learn, work, and live in a safe, healthy, and respectful environment. These demands are popular: polling from April 2026 shows that a [majority of adults](#) want stronger protections to combat sex discrimination, including harassment. Our state policymakers must heed their call.

Policies that will work together to combat sex harassment and increase equality and opportunity for women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ people include:

- Stopping sex harassment in PK-12 schools & higher education
 - [Preventing sex harassment with comprehensive, intersectional, and non-punitive policies](#)
 - [Strengthening responses to sex harassment by closing gaps in federal education law](#)
- [Closing longstanding gaps in workplace anti-harassment laws](#)
 - [Increasing worker power and strengthening protections against retaliation for workers who report workplace harassment](#)
 - [Strengthening legal standards and increasing meaningful access to the legal system for harassment survivors](#)
 - [Improving accountability](#) by eliminating damage caps and banning contract mechanisms that constrain workers' speech or actions
- Ensuring patients are protected from sex discrimination, including sex harassment and assault
- [Protecting survivors from abusive lawsuits, including defamation lawsuits](#)
- [Strengthening state-based civil rights enforcement](#)
- Ensuring organizations that provide services and support to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors are sufficiently resourced to meet the needs of their communities