



National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals dba Out to Innovate  
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outtoinnovate.org

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## **Out to Innovate stands in solidarity with trans people**

Published November 20, 2022

Today is the Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day in which our community honors the lives of members of the trans community lost to violence in the last year. And with Transgender Awareness Week just having passed, it is essential to highlight and condemn the recent slew of anti-trans bills being put forth by legislatures across the country.

Ohio HB454 is one such bill that seeks to ban gender affirming healthcare for minors, which would have devastating consequences for vulnerable queer and trans youth. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has established that, "(f)or transgender and nonbinary children and adolescents, early gender-affirming care is crucial to overall health and well-being as it allows the child or adolescent to focus on social transitions and can increase their confidence while navigating the healthcare system."<sup>1</sup> Moreover, recent studies have further supported gender-affirming care, including puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormones in adolescents and preadolescents, being associated with increased quality of life, and improvement of psychosocial outcomes (for example, reduction of depression, and anxiety), and prevention of suicides.<sup>2,3,4</sup> Likewise, the presence of an accepting and open community, both in schools and families, are associated with reduction in self-harm and suicide in LGBTQIA+ youth.<sup>5,6,7</sup>

We stand in solidarity with Queer Science Society of San Diego in recognizing the discriminatory nature and harmful potential of bills like OH HB454, similar anti-trans and broadly anti-LGBTQIA+ bills (PA HB972, AZ SB1046, MI HB5795, IA HF2416, PA SB1191, LA SB44, SC H4608, TX HB643), and laws (FL HB1557; "Don't Say Gay," passed March 28, 2022). These laws are not supported by scientific or clinical research and are consistently accompanied by hateful rhetoric that encourages violence targeting our community.

So long as any member in our community is attacked by unjust legislation, none of us are free. We, therefore, urge the scientific community to join us in calling upon our elected representatives at any level of local, state, and Federal government to



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act swiftly to protect trans and non-binary people—colleagues, children, colleagues, partners, and friends—present and future.

Signed,  
The Out to Innovate Board

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<sup>1</sup><https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/gender-affirming-care-young-people-march-2022.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Swan, J. et al. Mental health and quality of life outcomes of gender-affirming surgery: A systematic literature review.

J Gay Lesbian Ment Heal 1–44 (2022) doi:10.1080/19359705.2021.2016537.

<sup>3</sup> Tordoff, D. M. et al. Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care. *Jama Netw Open* 5, e220978 (2022). doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978

<sup>4</sup> Kelly, P. J. et al. The Relationship Between Gender-Affirming Procedures, Body Image Quality of Life, and Gender Affirmation. *Transgender Heal* (2022) doi:10.1089/trgh.2021.0081.

<sup>5</sup> Trevor Project. (2022). National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2022. Trevor Project. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/>

<sup>6</sup> Brown, C., et al. Family Relationships and the Health and Well-Being of Transgender and Gender-Diverse Youth: A Critical Review. *Lgbt Health* 7, 407–419 (2020). doi:10.1089/lgbt.2019.0200

<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health (retrieved on Nov 16, 2022) <https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth.htm>