

The Spread of Anti-Trans Laws

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Arkansas became the first US state to pass an anti-trans bill into law on Tuesday, April 6th (and though Mississippi and Tennessee have also passed anti-trans laws, Arkansas' passing of their bill was more publicized). This was after the governor had previously vetoed the passing of the bill on Monday, April 5th; his veto was overridden, which is why it got passed. The bill prohibits physicians from providing gender affirming care for trans youth (under the age of 18) and is planned to go fully into action around August 1st.

Gender affirming care is significant for not only trans people, but people whose current identity doesn't align with their biological sex, due to the fact that many of them experience gender dysphoria (the feeling of discomfort or distress that might occur in people whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth or sex-related physical characteristics), which can (and often do) lead to higher rates in depression, anxiety, and suicide.

Additionally, for the individuals that want it (since it likely also applies to anyone under the trans umbrella as well as those who may identify under the non-binary spectrum plus other gender identities), gender affirming care is vital to their transition process, physically and emotionally. Another issue with this bill is that though there was some sparse coverage as of April 12th, there is still a lack of coverage by almost all news websites and news channels in general, as well as the general level of awareness on this issue.

Additionally, around 33 (thirty-three) other states are planning to pass bills similar to Arkansas', with over 144 bills already introduced. From what can be seen from the scarce news that has been sent out, Florida has been one of the most recent ones to follow Arkansas, and specifically targets transgender women/girls that are athletes. The law is especially harmful/dangerous due to the fact that it could allow schools to require proof of a student's biological sex. To quote one of the references/resources included below, "The bill would also allow the school or another party to "dispute" a student's gender, which would then require the student to provide proof of biological sex from a health care provider through either a physical exam, a genetic test, or proof of testosterone levels."

It goes without saying that this law is blatantly a violation of human rights and personal safety, and is essentially state-sanctioned violence as well as child abuse / harassment. Similar to the last bill, though there is some news coverage, it still lacks some awareness from the general public.

Oklahoma has also just passed a bill that also targets transgender athletes; to quote another reference included below: "If [Oklahoma's bill] passes the Senate and is signed into law, the bill would become effective July 1."

It is imperative that we inform as many people as we can about these laws that continue to be passed. As a community, we need to support those that are transgender or need related care; they deserve to be able to live as the people they want to be, regardless of circumstance. This discrimination and violation of human rights cannot be allowed to continue.

Links for Action (curated by Miss Visperas):

<https://transgenderlawcenter.org/>

<https://www.ebobarton.com/workshops>

<https://jacbtobia.com/>

<https://jmaseiii.com/>

<https://www.teachingoutsidethebinary.com/>

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81284247> --> if you have Netflix

<https://srlp.org/>

<http://www.jeffreymarsh.com/>

https://www.etsy.com/market/protect_trans_kids --> merchandise purchase to boost solidarity!

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/hoodrat-to-headwrap-a-decolonized-podcast/id1279429651> --> also on Spotify and Soundcloud

List of Anti-Trans Legislations During 2021

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/15/politics/anti-transgender-legislation-2021/index.html>

Regarding Arkansas' Law:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/arkansas-passes-bill-ban-gender-affirming-care-trans-youth-n1262412>

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/why-arkansas-anti-trans-law-is-so-dangerous-for-lgbtqia-youth#New-legislation-ignores-advice-of-majority-of-health-experts>

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/06/politics/arkansas-transgender-health-care-veto-override/index.html>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56657625>

Regarding Florida's law:

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/florida-anti-trans-bill_n_6077da61e4b020e576c0ba14

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/politics/fl-ne-transgender-athlete-ban-bill-20210414-ymbkk44ppbaglpybvtjfyvv74-story.html>

<https://nowthisnews.com/news/florida-anti-trans-bill-could-require-genital-inspections-of-students>

Regarding Oklahoma's Law:

<https://www.koco.com/article/oklahoma-house-passes-bill-aimed-at-banning-transgender-girls-from-girls-sports-teams/36168257#>
