



All Hoosiers devastated by court decision on Gender Affirming Care Ban

February 28, 2024 – All Hoosiers, but especially LGBTQIA+ folks and their allies, are devastated and appalled by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeal’s decision upholding Indiana's ban on gender affirming care for transgender Hoosiers. Even though this law directly targets trans youth, it is another clear attack on the rights of every Hoosier to make private medical decisions for their families.

This week’s decision by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and previously by the extremists in the Indiana Legislature, tramples on the rights and freedoms of Hoosier families, which is un-American. They wholly got it wrong and are on the wrong side of history, just like the U.S. Supreme Court was decidedly wrong in 2022 by overturning *Roe V. Wade*, which stripped away federal freedoms from American families to make decisions about reproductive freedoms and their bodily autonomy.

It is imperative that families, with support from medical professionals, who adhere to established safe standards of care, should be able to make decisions regarding their own healthcare for their loved ones. These medical decisions about one’s bodily autonomy are the pinnacle of an individual's freedoms and should never be trampled upon by any government entity or official. The State of Indiana should not be passing laws that restrict access to crucial medical care for anyone, because medical care restrictions strip individuals of their human dignity.

Equality Indiana is grateful for the thousands of parents, medical providers, transgender Hoosiers, allies, and families who showed up at the Capitol, sent emails, made phone calls to voice their opposition to the passing of this horrendous and harmful law. These thousands of messages sent to elected officials demanding they oppose this law prove that the elected officials who voted for this law are outside the norm of a majority of Hoosiers regarding private medical decisions.

During continuous years of unprecedented, coordinated national attacks on LGBTQIA+ rights, it is heartbreaking to see these unwarranted attacks succeed in Indiana. We know that Indiana is better than this, and that a majority of Hoosiers are standing with and in support of trans youth, the LGBTQIA+ community, and Equality Indiana. Together we are on the right side of history.

Additionally, Equality Indiana will make it its mission to let every elected official, who supported this harmful law, hear it loud and clear that they are 'FIRED' from elected office by Hoosiers in their districts in future elections.

Most importantly, to the transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary youth of Indiana: Equality Indiana sees you. We love you. And will never stop fighting for you.

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