

## For Immediate Release

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### **LGBTQ Civil Rights and Health Groups Respond to Supreme Court Argument in *U.S. v Skremetti***

Following Wednesday's Supreme Court argument in *U.S. v. Skremetti*, LGBTQ+ civil rights and health organizations expressed encouragement that the Court will be receptive to the U.S. and Plaintiff families' position that Tennessee's law banning health care for transgender adolescents discriminates based on sex and must therefore be held to a higher level of scrutiny.

#### **National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR):**

"The plaintiffs today made a strong case that this law discriminates by barring medications based solely on a person's birth sex," said **Shannon Minter, Vice President of Legal at the National Center for Lesbian Rights**. "The State of Tennessee had no effective response to that obvious fact, which several Justices made clear. Based on today's argument, we are hopeful the Court will rule that Tennessee's law discriminates based on sex and must therefore be subject to the same high standard of review applied to all other sex-based laws. That would be a huge victory and would provide clear guidance for the lower courts about how to evaluate these laws."

#### **GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law):**

"Today's argument powerfully showed how these bans unfairly target transgender adolescents and deny them medications that all other adolescents can obtain when medically indicated. You don't have to know about health care to know that these bans are not about medicine – they are about discrimination," said **Jennifer Levi, Senior Director of Transgender and Queer Rights at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law)**. "They insert politicians between families and medical providers and block parents from getting their transgender children the health care that allows them to be healthy and thrive. The stigma and discrimination baked into these laws is intentional, clear, and devastating."

#### **The Movement Advancement Project:**

"The arguments at the Supreme Court made it unequivocally clear: banning medically necessary care for transgender youth is unlawful discrimination that puts their health and well-being at risk," said **Naomi Goldberg, Executive Director of the Movement Advancement Project**. "Tennessee is one of 24 states that have taken away families' freedom to obtain essential

health care for their transgender child. These are decisions that rightfully rest with doctors, families, and patients—and based on the case laid out in yesterday’s arguments, we’re hopeful that the Court will see these bans for the discriminatory laws they are.”

### **Trevor Project**

"I am encouraged by the arguments before the Court, as the justices had the opportunity to directly engage with the real-world harms that discriminatory laws have on the health and well-being of transgender young people and their families," said **Casey Pick, Director of Law and Policy at The Trevor Project**. "The Trevor Project regularly hears from young people across the U.S. about the life-saving nature of the medical care at risk in this case. For any parent, it is unimaginable to think of the government telling you that you can't give your child the medicine they need to stay healthy. But that is exactly what Tennessee's law says to parents with transgender children."

### **Whitman-Walker Institute:**

“The plaintiffs’ arguments on Wednesday made a powerful case for ensuring that transgender youth can receive the medical care they need,” said **Dr. Kellan Baker, executive director of Whitman-Walker Institute, an LGBT health-focused research organization**. “Solicitor General Prelogar shared the story of Ryan Roe, whose gender dysphoria was so severe that he was throwing up daily and almost became mute because of the intense distress he experienced at the sound of his own voice. When Ryan’s parents were able to get him the care he needed, he started thriving—but then Tennessee took that care away. Though this care is supported by every major medical expert organization, transgender youth and their families in two dozen states are facing the same cruel denial of care that Ryan experienced. We hope the Supreme Court will issue a ruling addressing the discrimination inherent in these dangerous bans.”

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*Through strategic litigation, public policy advocacy, and education, **GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law)** works in New England and nationally to create a just society free of discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status, and sexual orientation.*

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

*The **Movement Advancement Project’s (MAP)** mission is to provide independent and rigorous research, insight and communications that help speed equality and opportunity for all. MAP works to ensure that all people have a fair chance to pursue health and happiness, earn a living, take care of the ones they love, be safe in their communities, and participate in civic life.*

[www.mapresearch.org](http://www.mapresearch.org)

***The Trevor Project** is the leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ+ young people. Trevor offers 24/7 crisis services, connecting highly trained counselors with LGBTQ+ young people whenever they need support. To drive prevention efforts, The Trevor Project also operates robust research, advocacy, education, and peer support programs. The Trevor Project envisions a world where all LGBTQ+ young people feel safe, seen, and accepted exactly as they are. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>*

***The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)** is a national legal organization committed to advancing the human and civil rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community through litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education. Since its founding, NCLR has maintained a longstanding commitment to racial and economic justice and the LGBTQ community's most vulnerable. [www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org)*

***Whitman-Walker Institute** is a Washington, D.C. based organization that leverages cutting-edge research, policy, and education to advance health equity at the federal level and in states across the country. The Institute is home to nationally recognized experts in areas of policy such as LGBTQI+ health equity, care for transgender people, insurance reform, social determinants of health, HIV prevention and treatment, and sexual orientation and gender identity data collection. More information can be found at: <https://www.whitman-walker.org/institute/>*

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