

One Colorado's  
**LGBTQIA+ Equality  
Legislative Report**

2025



## STATE OF THE NATION

In 2025, the attack on LGBTQ+ rights has intensified across the country, with over 900 anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced in state legislatures—the highest number ever recorded in a single year. These bills attempt to criminalize gender-affirming care, restrict students' rights to privacy and self-expression, censor books and curriculum, and erase the legal existence of transgender people. The scale of these efforts is vast and unrelenting. And yet, our movement has repeatedly proven that resistance is not only possible, it is powerful.

At the federal level, the Trump administration has issued a flurry of executive orders designed to roll back LGBTQ+ rights under the guise of protecting children, women, and religious liberty. These actions target gender-affirming care, ban trans participation in sports, eliminate funding for DEI initiatives, strip away the ability to change gender markers on identification documents, and threaten providers with criminal charges. But courts across the country have stepped in to block some of the most dangerous aspects of these policies.

Thanks to rapid legal mobilization, four of the most harmful executive orders are currently under preliminary injunction, meaning they cannot be enforced while legal challenges proceed. Lambda Legal, GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), the National Center for LGBTQ+ Rights (NCLR), the ACLU, and PFLAG National have played leading roles in challenging these actions, winning injunctions that are protecting families in real time.

In PFLAG v. Trump, a federal judge ordered that hospitals must continue to receive federal funds for providing gender-affirming care to youth, directly blocking the administration's attempt to cut off access to medically necessary treatment. In another case, Doe v. Bondi, a temporary restraining order forced the federal Bureau of Prisons to return transgender women to appropriate housing, pushing back on the administration's attempt to erase their rights and dignity. Additional lawsuits, including Jones v. Trump and Schlacter v. U.S. Department of State, have successfully obtained preliminary rulings that preserve access to accurate passports, care continuity, and equal treatment under the law.

These victories underscore a critical truth: while federal agencies may move quickly to impose cruelty, our legal system, driven by the collective work of community outrage, public interest lawyers, and brave plaintiffs, can and does slow them down. Many of these cases are ongoing, but for now, they are holding the line. They are the reason a young person can still access their hormones at their pharmacy, a parent can still update a passport for their child, and a trans person behind bars can still be seen and treated as who they are.

Even in this era of political escalation, courts have signaled that targeting transgender people may still violate the Constitution. And every ruling in our favor reaffirms that our lives and rights are worth defending. This moment is a reminder of what our movement has always known: progress is never inevitable, but it is always possible when we organize, when we resist, and when we fight back. As legal battles continue to unfold across the country, the LGBTQ+ movement is once again proving that when our rights are under attack, we don't stand alone, we stand together.

## Writers & Contributors

### Writers

Jax Gonzalez, PhD | Political Director

### Design & Editing

Aspen Rawson | Trans Capacity Building Intern

Cal Solverson, MA | Development & Communications Manager

## STATE OF THE STATE

Amidst an increasingly hostile national climate, Colorado remains a place where LGBTQ+ people can live with dignity, safety, and self-determination. But our role as a sanctuary for our community is not static. It must be actively maintained. In 2025, One Colorado led and supported a range of legislative efforts to advance equality, expand access to care, and defend our community from coordinated political attacks.

Throughout the session, One Colorado's team provided testimony 38 times across various committees and prepped over two dozen community members and organizational partners to speak directly to lawmakers. Together, we engaged with dozens of bills. Some were proactive, others defensive, but all were critical to protecting LGBTQ+ lives. One of the most significant victories came with the passage of HB25-1309, a landmark law that requires private insurance to cover gender-affirming care in Colorado. This bill not only strengthens insurance coverage but also removes testosterone from the state's prescription drug monitoring program, a step forward in protecting trans people from unnecessary surveillance.

While we celebrated progress, we also stood on the front lines to defeat a coordinated wave of harmful legislation. From bills that sought to criminalize providers of gender-affirming care to attempts to roll back reproductive freedom, our coalition pushed back with clarity and collective force. Many of these bills mirrored national attacks, repackaged with local language but rooted in the same ideology of control and erasure.

Our organizing extended beyond the legislature. In collaboration with Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable, we co-founded the Colorado Legislative Network, a space for real-time information sharing among advocacy groups across the state during legislative session. We also launched early efforts to counter the threat of two anti-trans 2026 ballot initiatives. These initiatives aim to keep transgender youth from accessing gender affirming surgeries and ban trans girls from school sports. They are cruel by design and part of a larger strategy to isolate trans youth and drive division in our communities.

Through every hearing, vote, and organizing meeting, one truth remained clear. The fight to protect LGBTQ+ Coloradans is not theoretical. It is unfolding right now, and it demands all of us to show up and fight back against these escalating legislative attacks. In 2025, we demonstrated again that when our communities are threatened, we rise, we mobilize, and we win.



2025 One Colorado LGBTQIA+ Lobby Day participants at the Colorado State Capitol.

## WHAT'S NEXT? THE ROAD AHEAD FOR LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS



Lobby Day attendees talk with Senator Simpson's (R-6) Aid.

Our fight for LGBTQ+ liberation has always been shaped by those who stood at the crossroads of injustice and still chose to rise. Black lesbian feminists in the Combahee River Collective taught us that none of us are free unless all of us are free. This wisdom grounds our movements in the reality that racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia are deeply intertwined. Long before "intersectionality" was coined, their organizing made that truth undeniable.

Leslie Feinberg, transgender rights activist and author, carried that vision forward, showing us that the struggle for trans liberation is inseparable from the fight for workers' rights, racial justice, and economic dignity. These were not abstract ideals; they were survival strategies forged by people whose very existence challenged the systems trying to erase them.

From Compton Cafe to Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), from ACT UP to today's youth-led organizing, we come from a rich lineage of people who refused to be silent, who believed in each other's worth, and who understood that solidarity is how we win. We are carrying forward a legacy of defiance and collective imagination, of people who dared to fight for a world where all of us can live and thrive, not in spite of who we are, but because of it.

We are witnessing one of the most coordinated efforts in recent history to erase the rights of LGBTQIA+ people, especially transgender youth. But we are not powerless. In Colorado and across the country, our communities are fighting back with renewed clarity and commitment.

## Defending Transgender Equality

With an increase in anti-trans legislation nationwide, One Colorado is focused on ensuring that Colorado remains a beacon of equality and freedom, protecting personal liberties and offering refuge to those facing adversity elsewhere.

In 2026, One Colorado will continue to meet this moment with strength and purpose. Our work will focus on:

- Defeating anti-trans ballot initiatives through coalition organizing, strategic opposition, and public education
- Protecting LGBTQ+ rights in health care, schools, and public life through policy change and legal defense
- Mobilizing Coloradans into action through storytelling, leadership development, and civic engagement
- Expanding inclusive narratives about trans and nonbinary people through our TransForming the Narrative project
- Building cross-movement solidarity with partners in reproductive justice, immigrant rights, and racial justice

Together, we are transforming fear into action, isolation into community, and challenges into long-term power for LGBTQ+ Coloradans.

## BUILDING NARRATIVE POWER FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

### TransForming the Narrative

In 2025, One Colorado launched TransForming the Narrative, a statewide effort to shift public conversation around transgender people by amplifying trans voices, deepening public empathy, and investing in community leadership. At the heart of this project is the Transgender Changemaker Cohort, a group of trans Coloradans organizing across regions to tell their stories, lead local advocacy, and build durable support for transgender rights.

This work is foundational to achieving our goals in 2026. Anti-LGBTQ+ extremists are already laying the groundwork for ballot attacks targeting trans people and LGBTQ+ families. TransForming the Narrative equips our communities to respond—not only with legal and policy tools, but with powerful, values-based messages that change hearts and minds.

Through workshops, storytelling trainings, media partnerships, and community engagement, this project helps ensure that every legislative win is supported by a clear, compelling narrative rooted in dignity, freedom, and belonging. As we prepare for a high-stakes election year, TransForming the Narrative is building the infrastructure we need to protect our progress and expand what's possible in 2026 and beyond.



OC Changemaker Stephen leads a group of youth at Lobby Day 2025

# SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

## Pro-Equality Legislation



### COALITION PARTNERS

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, COLOR, Cobalt, Colorado Center for Law & Policy, Common Cause Colorado, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, New Era, Progress Now, League of Women Voters, Rocky Mountain Equality.

## HB25-1309 Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Healthcare

### SUMMARY

HB25-1309 strengthened insurance protections for transgender Coloradans by requiring all private health plans to cover gender-affirming care. It also removed testosterone from the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, protecting patient privacy and reducing stigma.

### IMPACT

By ensuring coverage for gender-affirming care and removing barriers to access, the bill promotes a more equitable and affirming healthcare system for transgender and nonbinary Coloradans. These protections help reduce discrimination in medical settings, improve mental and physical health outcomes, and affirm the right of all people to make decisions about their bodies and futures. HB25-1309 strengthens Colorado's leadership in advancing health equity and protecting the dignity and well-being of LGBTQ+ communities.

### SPONSORS

- Reps. Kyle Brown (D-12), Brianna Titone (D-27)
- Senators Lisa Cutter (D-20) and Julie Gonzales (D-34)

### VOTES

- House Health & Human Services Committee: Passed 6-3
- House: Passed 39-21
- Senate: Passed 23-12
- Senate Concurrence in the House: Passed 42-23

Signed by Governor Polis: May 23, 2025



## HB25-1312 Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

### SUMMARY

This bill expanded legal recognition and access for transgender and nonbinary Coloradans. It clarified anti-discrimination protections, extended shield law coverage to family court, required inclusive school policies, and simplified the process for updating identity documents and marriage records.

### IMPACT

By removing barriers to accurate documentation and affirming inclusive practices across public systems, the bill strengthens dignity, safety, and legal recognition for LGBTQ+ people in Colorado. It helps ensure that trans and nonbinary individuals are respected in schools, courts, workplaces, and everyday life—supporting their ability to live openly and access the protections they deserve.

### SPONSORS

- Reps. Lorena Garcia (D-35) and Rebekah Stewart (D-30)
- Senators Faith Winter (D-25) and Chris Kolker (D-16)

### VOTES

- House Judiciary: Passed 5-2
- House: Passed 38-20
- Senate: Passed 20-14
- Senate Concurrence in the House: Passed 39-24

Signed by Governor Polis: May 16, 2025



## HB25-1109 Gender Identity Certificate of Death

### SUMMARY

This bill required death certificates in Colorado to include a decedent's gender identity in addition to sex assigned at birth. It ensured that transgender individuals can be memorialized in alignment with their lived identity.

### IMPACT

By affirming a person's gender identity in death, the bill honors the dignity and authenticity of transgender people and provides grieving families and communities with a more respectful and accurate way to say goodbye. It helps prevent misgendering in official records and reinforces the principle that every person deserves to be recognized for who they are, in life and in legacy.

### SPONSORS

- Reps. Karen McCormick (D-11) and Kyle Brown (D-12)
- Senators Mike Weissman (D-28) and Katie Wallace (D-17)

### VOTES

- House Committee: Passed 3-2
- House: Passed 38-26
- Senate: Passed 22-12

Signed by Governor Polis: April 17, 2025





## SB25-298 Remove Term Homosexuality from Criminal Code

### SUMMARY

This bill updated Colorado's criminal code to remove the word "homosexuality" from the statutory definition of sexual conduct, eliminating outdated and stigmatizing language from state law.

### IMPACT

By removing the criminalization of homosexuality from the legal code, the bill helps dismantle the legacy of laws that have been used to justify discrimination. It sends a clear message that LGBTQ+ Coloradans deserve equal treatment under the law and are not defined by outdated or prejudicial language in state policy.

### SPONSORS

- Representatives Mandy Lindsay (D-42) and Meghan Lukens (D-26)
- Senator Lindsey Daugherty (D-19) and Paul Lundein (R-9)

### VOTES

- House Committee: Passed 11-0
- House: Passed 64-0
- Senate: Passed 35-0

Signed by Governor Polis: May 30, 2025



## SB25-014 Protecting the Freedom to Marry

### SUMMARY

This bill repealed outdated statutory language in Colorado law that defined marriage as valid only between one man and one woman. Although unenforceable since the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision, the provision remained in state statute until its removal through SB25-014.

### IMPACT

By removing discriminatory language from statute, the bill affirms Colorado's commitment to equality and protects LGBTQ+ families from potential future legal threats. It ensures that state law fully reflects the reality of marriage equality and upholds the dignity and freedom of all Coloradans to love and build their families without fear of reversal or exclusion.

### SPONSORS

- Senator Jessie Danielson (D-22)
- Reps. Brianna Titone (D-27) and Lorena Garcia (D-35)

### VOTES

- House Judiciary: Passed 5-2
- House: Passed 38-20
- Senate: Passed 20-14
- Senate Concurrence in the House: Passed 39-24

Signed by Governor Polis: May 16, 2025



## SB25-001 Colorado Voting Rights Act

### SUMMARY

This bill created the Colorado Voting Rights Act to prevent voter suppression and dilution based on race, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, or incarceration status. It also expanded protections for tribal voters, required multilingual ballot access in qualifying municipalities, strengthened recount and data transparency procedures, and mandated inclusive access to candidate selection processes.

### IMPACT

By protecting the right to vote for communities that have historically been excluded, including LGBTQIA+ Coloradans, people of color, people with disabilities, and those in jail, the bill strengthens democracy and advances equity in elections. It ensures that all Coloradans, regardless of identity or background, have a fair chance to participate in choosing their leaders and shaping the future of their communities.

### SPONSORS

- Senator Julie Gonzales (D-34)
- Representatives Jennifer Bacon (D-7) and Junie Joseph (D-10)

### VOTES

- Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs: Passed 3-2
- House: Passed 43-22
- Senate: Passed 20-12

Signed by Governor Polis: May 12, 2025





## HOUSE BILLS

Bill Identifier	Bill Title	LGBTQ+ Impact	Status	Policy Engagement
HB25-1239	Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act	Creates a longer statue of limitations on discrimination complaints and includes more people in what defines discrimination	Signed	● ● ● ● ●
HB25-1297	Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise Update	This bill increases access to health insurance to more financial situations	Postponed Indefinitely	● ● ● ● ●
HB25-1084	Remove Gendered Language from Title 35	Updates language to be inclusive of all farmers and agriculture workers, instead of limiting language to just "man", recognizing that anyone can be a farmer or agriculture worker	Signed	● ●
HB25-1274	Healthy School Meals for All Program	This bill creates space for more students to have access to free lunch in school	Signed	●

## Senate Bills

Bill Identifier	Bill Title	LGBTQ+ Impact	Status	Policy Engagement
SB25-129	Legally Protected Health-Care Activity Protections	This bill makes sure that a person is always able to access legally protected health-care	Signed	
SB25-130	Providing Emergency Medical Services	This bill provides protections for everyone to make sure anyone is able to access emergency department medical care, and they cannot be discriminated against, especially based off of their appearance	Signed	● ● ● ● ●
SB25-063	Library Resource Decision Standards for Public Schools	Makes it so books or resources cannot be taken out of view because of personal bias and requires that if materials are removed there is set of rules that must be followed to avoid bias	Signed	● ● ● ● ●
SB25-276	Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status	Provides protections for immigrants in state facilities (like schools) from federal immigration authorities and similar people	Signed	● ●



## HB25-1068 Malpractice Insurers Gender-Affirming Care

**SUMMARY:** This bill allows medical malpractice insurers to penalize healthcare providers for offering gender-affirming care to minors and prohibits state funds from supporting insurance policies that cover such care.

**IMPACT:** By discouraging providers from offering gender-affirming services, this bill threatened access to life-saving healthcare for transgender and nonbinary youth, amplifying stigma and harming LGBTQ+ Coloradans' well-being.

### SPONSORS

Senator Mark Baisley (R)  
Representative Scott Bottoms (R-15)

### VOTES & COMMITTEE RESULTS

Health & Human Services Committee Failed 4-8

### COMMITTEE APPRECIATION

One Colorado thanks the following Committee members who voted in opposition of HB25-1068: Lisa Feret (D-24), Lindsay Gilchrist (D-8), Eliza Hamrick (D-61), Karen McCormick (D-11), Gretchen Rydin (D-38), Katie Stewart (D-59), Sheila Lieder (D-28), Kyle Brown (D-12)

## HB25-1145 Trafficking Minor for Abortion or Transgender Care

**SUMMARY:** Classifies human trafficking of an out-of-state minor into Colorado for purposes of an abortion or gender-affirming health-care services as a class 2 felony.

**IMPACT:** Classifying the act of transporting a minor for abortion as a class 2 felony would create a chilling effect—discouraging family members, friends, or trusted adults from helping minors seek this constitutionally protected care. Even if the law's intent is framed as targeting "out-of-state" procedures, it blurs legal boundaries and sets a precedent for criminalizing constitutionally guaranteed healthcare.

### SPONSOR

Representative Scott Bottoms (R-15)

### VOTES & COMMITTEE RESULTS

House Judiciary Failed 4-7

### COMMITTEE APPRECIATION

One Colorado thanks the following Committee members who voted in opposition of HB25-1145: Chad Clifford (D-37), Cecelia Espenoza (D-4), Lorena Garcia (D-35), Elizabeth Velasco (D-57), Yara Zokaie (D-52), Jennifer Bacon (D-7), Javier Mabrey (D-1)

## HB25-1251 Parental Consent to Treatment of a Minor

**SUMMARY:** Requires parental consent for a minor's surgical procedures in order to operate, and prohibits individuals and organizations from soliciting or arranging to perform surgery for minors.

**IMPACT:** This bill makes it so transgender minors would not be able to access gender support and gender affirming care (even mental health resources) without parental consent

### SPONSOR

Rep. Scott Bottoms (R-15)

### VOTES & COMMITTEE RESULTS

House Health & Human Services Failed 4-9

### COMMITTEE APPRECIATION

One Colorado thanks the following Committee members who voted in opposition of HB25-1251: Regina English (D-17), Lisa Feret (D-24), Lindsay Gilchrist (D-8), Eliza Hamrick (D-61), Karen McCormick (D-11), Gretchen Rydin (D-38), Katie Stewart (D-59), Sheila Lieder (D-28), Kyle Brown (D-12)

## HB25-1252 Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Regulation of Abortion Clinics

**SUMMARY:** The bill requires the department of public health and environment to annually license and to establish and enforce standards for the operation of medical facilities that perform medical or surgical induced abortions during the second or third trimester of pregnancy.

**IMPACT:** This bill removes patient rights to choose and makes it so an abortion would not be allowed or more challenging to get during 2nd trimester of pregnancy and beyond

### SPONSOR

Rep. Scott Bottoms (R-15)

### VOTES & COMMITTEE RESULTS

House Health & Human Services Failed 4-8

### COMMITTEE APPRECIATION

One Colorado thanks the following Committee members who voted in opposition of HB25-1252: Regina English (D-17), Lisa Feret (D-24), Lindsay Gilchrist (D-8), Eliza Hamrick (D-61), Karen McCormick (D-11), Katie Stewart (D-59), Sheila Lieder (D-28), Kyle Brown (D-12)



## HB25-1253 Youth Health Protection Act

**SUMMARY:** Prevents anyone from assisting minors to get gender-affirming care 'inconsistent' with their assigned sex, and gives parents the right to withhold consent for treatment. Also limits state funding for gender-affirming care

**IMPACT:** this bill removes the right for minors to access gender supportive care and medical resources, and makes it so gender mental health and non permanent medical resources are left up to the parents to decide upon and does not allow the minor to choose .

### SPONSOR

Rep. Brandi Bradley (R-39)

### VOTES & COMMITTEE RESULTS

Health & Human Services Committee Failed 5-8

### COMMITTEE APPRECIATION

One Colorado thanks the following Committee members who voted in opposition of HB25-1068: Lisa Feret (D-24), Lindsay Gilchrist (D-8), Eliza Hamrick (D-61), Karen McCormick (D-11), Gretchen Rydin (D-38), Katie Stewart (D-59), Sheila Lieder (D-28), Kyle Brown (D-12)

## HB25-1254 Limitation on Gender Transition Procedure Claims

**SUMMARY:** The bill requires that causes of action for intentional or negligent acts constituting youth gender transition procedures performed on a youth under 26 years of age must be brought before the youth reaches 38 years of age.

**IMPACT:** This bill creates a statue of limitations for medical mal practice and also attempts to outlaw or limit gender affirming medical procedures on minors.

### SPONSOR

Rep. Ken DeGraaf (R-22)

### VOTES & COMMITTEE RESULTS

House Judiciary Failed 4-7

### COMMITTEE APPRECIATION

One Colorado thanks the following Committee members who voted in opposition of HB25-1254: Chad Clifford (D-37), Cecelia Espenoza (D-4), Lorena Garcia (D-35), Yara Zokae (D-52), Jennifer Bacon (D-7), Javier Mabrey (D-1) Michael Carter (D36)

## HB25-1255 Health-Care Provider Right to Exercise Conscience

**SUMMARY:** Allows health providers to discriminate services they provide based on the provider's ethical, moral, and religious beliefs, and protects them from liability

**IMPACT:** Allows health care providers to use personal bias to prevent a patients access to certain care, that could include gender affirming care

### SPONSOR

Rep. Stephanie Luck (R-60)

### VOTES & COMMITTEE RESULTS

House Judiciary Failed 4-7

### COMMITTEE APPRECIATION

One Colorado thanks the following Committee members who voted in opposition of HB25-1255: Chad Clifford (D-37), Cecelia Espenosa (D-4), Lorena Garcia (D-35), Yara Zokae (D-52), Jennifer Bacon (D-7), Javier Mabrey (D-1) Michael Carter (D36)

## HB25-1251 Parental Consent to Treatment of a Minor

**SUMMARY:** Requires parental consent for a minor's surgical procedures in order to operate, and prohibits individuals and organizations from soliciting or arranging to perform surgery for minors.

**IMPACT:** This bill makes it so transgender minors would not be able to access gender support and gender affirming care (even mental health resources) without parental consent.

### SPONSOR

Rep. Scott Bottoms (R-15)

### VOTES & COMMITTEE RESULTS

House Health & Human Services Failed 4-9

### COMMITTEE APPRECIATION

One Colorado thanks the following Committee members who voted in opposition of HB25-1251: Regina English (D-17), Lisa Feret (D-24), Lindsay Gilchrist (D-8), Eliza Hamrick (D-61), Karen McCormick (D-11), Gretchen Rydin (D-38), Katie Stewart (D-59), Sheila Lieder (D-28), Kyle Brown (D-12)



ONE COLORADO  
303 E. 17TH AVE, SUITE 400  
DENVER, CO 80203  
ONE-COLORADO.ORG  
INFO@ONE-COLORADO.ORG

*One Colorado is the state's leading advocacy organization dedicated to advancing equality and opportunity for LGBTQIA+ Coloradans and their families.*

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