

Dear UPMC,

I am writing to urge you to offer medically necessary gender affirming care to your patients, without arbitrary restrictions on age or other access limitations.

Gender-affirming care is lifesaving medical treatment validated and recommended by every major medical association, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology, and the American Psychological Association.

A wide body of scientific literature has consistently found that gender-affirming care improves overall health outcomes and well-being for transgender and gender-expansive patients while significantly reducing depression and suicidality. This extends to transgender and nonbinary youth, who are particularly vulnerable in our present moment. A [2022 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association](#) found that receipt of gender-affirming care in transgender and nonbinary youth, including puberty blockers and hormone treatments, was associated with 60% lower odds of moderate or severe depression and 73% lower odds of suicidality.

Ceasing or declining to offer this medical care is to reject established medical science, best practices for patient care, and to condemn patients to depression, suicide, and death merely for the immutable fact of their transgender identity.

The executive order attempting to restrict access to gender-affirming care is not grounded in medical science, and it is not law. This order and its anti-trans rhetoric are an expression of what the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention characterizes as a genocidal movement that seeks the eradication of transgender people from public life.

By capitulating to these forces, you are prioritizing malicious disinformation over the very lives of the patients whom it is your duty to serve. You are abdicating your sworn mission to serve your communities by providing outstanding patient care. Trans patients and trans youth are part of your communities, and they deserve the same level of care. What use is this mission statement if abandoned at the first sign of pressure?

If mounting pressures not grounded in medical science can dictate whether you administer gender-affirming care, what other forms of validated medical treatment will you allow these unscientific, hate-driven forces to dictate next? Vaccinations? Epidemic response? Clinical trials and medical research?

I urge you: please do not pre-comply to the forces that are seeking to eradicate gender-expansive people's ability to access lifesaving medical care. Please do not outsource the ability of qualified medical professionals to make treatment decisions for their patients to the hands of forces who have reduced the lives of transgender people to a convenient scapegoat to further a strategy of cruelty.

Please stand up for medical science. Please stand up for patient care. Please stand up for the lives of transgender people.

Urgently,