



AB 1876: Fair Care for All Act

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill 1876, the Equitable Care for All Act, codifies federal non-discrimination protections under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act in state law. Given federal threats to scale back these protections, this bill would protect vulnerable groups from discrimination in any health program or activity that receives government funding.

BACKGROUND

In 2010, Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA includes Section 1557, which houses the law's non-discrimination protections. This section makes it unlawful for any health care provider receiving federal funds to refuse to treat an individual on the basis on race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. These protections have been in effect since the ACA's passage, but implementation has reflected guidance across different Presidential administrations.

In 2024, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a final rule implementing Section 1557. The protections outlined in this rule have been essential to ensuring historically vulnerable communities—including LGBTQIA+ individuals, non-English speaking individuals, and pregnant individuals seeking abortion care services—are not subject to discrimination and maintain equitable access to health care.

PROBLEM

In the first month of the Trump Administration, as part of the onslaught of sixty-four executive orders, the President issued Executive Order 14187 which functions as a direct attack against non-discrimination protections in the ACA.

The Executive Order uses inflammatory and blatantly false rhetoric to justify rolling back access to gender-affirming care for transgender youth. To this end, Executive Order 14187 directs the HHS Secretary to review the legality of Section 1557 of the ACA. This action communicates that the Trump Administration is

both prepared and willing to scale back long-standing non-discrimination protections for all Medicaid recipients.

The ripple effects of this order have been catastrophic, creating instability and uncertainty in our healthcare system, especially for transgender youth and their families.

Kaiser Permanente, one of California's largest health care providers, has halted gender-affirming surgeries following legal intimidation from the Trump Administration. This comes after Children's Hospital Los Angeles closed its clinic for transgender youth and Stanford Medicine scaled back services following threats from the Trump Administration to withhold federal funding from providers offering gender-affirming care.

SOLUTION

AB 1876 will enshrine federal non-discrimination protections issued under Section 1557 of the ACA in California state law. Given the Trump Administration's deliberate efforts to roll back longstanding protections, this bill would preserve and enforce those provisions across all government-funded health programs and activities.

SUPPORT

- TransLatin@ Coalition (*sponsor*)
- Equality California (*sponsor*)
- Planned Parenthood (*sponsor*)
- TransFamily Support Services (*sponsor*)
- California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network (*sponsor*)
- Gender Justice LA (*sponsor*)

CONTACT

Gabriel Peña | Legislative Aide
916-319-2030 | gabriel.pena@asm.ca.gov