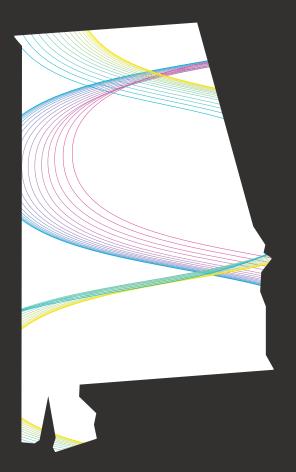
STATE SPOTLIGHT | *ALABAMA*



In 2022, the Alabama Legislature passed and Governor Kay Ivey signed the most anti-transgender legislative package in history into law. This has created an untenable environment for our community in Alabama.¹

Over the past legislative session across the nation, but especially in Alabama, the number of anti-transgender legislation has skyrocketed. With anti-transgender legislation at an all-time high, our staff on the ground in Alabama are working directly with families to provide necessary resources and support. We are committed to pursuing all available avenues to ensure protections for LGBTQ+ Alabamans, especially young transgender Alabamans who have been targeted this year by the state.

During 2022, the Alabama legislature made national news and got the attention of the Department of Justice with bills attacking transgender youth, including by criminalizing access to medically-necessary healthcare and excluding fair access to public accommodations like bathrooms and school facilities.²

Similar to Florida's infamous "Don't Say LGBTQ+" bill, Alabama is prohibiting conversations in schools. Alabama's HB 322 bans K-12 students from using bathrooms and school facilities consistent with their gender identity. The bill unfortunately doesn't stop there - HB 322 extends so far as to ban any acknowledgement of sexual orientation and gender identity in classrooms up to fifth grade.

¹HRC Staff, An Update on Anti-Transgender Legislation in Alabama, The Human Rights Campaign, (April, 21, 2022), https://www.hrc.org/news/an-update-on-anti-transgender-legislation-in-alabama

²Arthur Jones II and Aaron Navarro, *This year on pace to see record anti-transgender bills passed by states, says Human Rights Campaign*, CBS News, (April 22, 2022 at 5:07 PM), https://www.cbsnews.com/news/2022-anti-transgender-legislation-record-human-rights-campaign/; Department of Justice, Justice Department Challenges Alabama Law that Criminalizes Medically Necessary Care for Transgender Youth, Justice News, Office of Public Affairs, (April 29, 2022), https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-challenges-alabama-law-criminalizes-medically-necessary-care-transgender

³AL HB 322

STATE SPOTLIGHT | *ALABAMA*

This discrimination against transgender students is not only in direct contravention of federal law but also causes transgender youth to feel unsafe in school, which leads to students suffering academically and disproportionate rates of dropping out of school.⁴

The Alabama Legislature did not stop at schools, but continued to use their legislative power to promote discrimination in healthcare settings and in the home as well. The "Alabama Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act" (SB 184) makes it a felony (punishable by up to ten years in prison) to cause the provision or administration of gender-affirming medications to youth.⁵ This is only the second law in the country to ban this age-appropriate, medicallynecessary gender affirming care, and the only law to impose criminal penalties for doing so.

SB 184 criminalizes both actions by medical professionals and parents, stripping away their autonomy and disintegrating transgender youth's support systems. Legislation like SB 184 and HB 322 not only violates the rights of LGBTQ+ youth, families, and education and medical professionals, but also leads to higher rates of depression and suicide in LGBTQ+ youth. HRC is committed to fighting these violations and protecting LGBTQ+ Alabamans.

We joined the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the GLBTQ Legal Defenders and Advocates to fight for transgender youth, their families, and medical providers in Alabama.⁷ We filed a legal challenge in federal district court against SB 184 on behalf of those directly impacted by the law.

An Alabama federal district court judge issued a ruling temporarily blocking the enforcement of SB 184 while this legal challenge continues to proceed.⁸

Despite the consistent attacks to our community in the state of Alabama, we are committed to continuing to challenge these violations of our constitutional protections.



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⁴Delphine Luneau, Alabama Advances Discriminatory "Bathroom Bill", "Don't Say Gay or Trans", Legislation to Governor's Desk Amid Legislative Assault on Vulnerable Transgender Youth, The Human Rights Campaign, (April 7, 2022), https://www.hrc.org/press-releases/alabama-advances-discriminatory-bathroom-bill-dont-say-gay-or-trans-legislation-to-governors-desk-amid-legislative-assault-on-vulnerable-transgender-youth-2

⁵HRC Staff, An Update on Anti-Transgender Legislation in Alabama, The Human Rights Campaign, (April, 21, 2022), https://www.hrc.org/news/an-update-on-anti-transgender-legislation-in-alabama

⁶Jo Yurcaba, Alabama passes bills to target trans minors and LGBTQ classroom discussion, NBC News, (April 7, 2022, 5: 22 PM), https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-politics-and-policy/alabama-passes-bills-targeting-trans-minors-lgbtq-classroom-discussion-rcna23444

⁷HRC Staff, An Update on Anti-Transgender Legislation in Alabama, The Human Rights Campaign, (April, 21, 2022), https://www.hrc.org/news/an-update-on-anti-transgender-legislation-in-alabama

⁸Aryn Fields, Judge Halts Alabama Law Criminalizing Parents For Obtaining Essential Medical Care for their Transgender Children, The Human Rights Campaign, (May 14, 2022), https://www.hrc.org/press-releases/judge-halts-alabama-law-criminalizing-parents-for-obtaining-essential-medical-care-for-their-transgender-children