



Use this template to write a letter to your local legislator!

Date

Your full name

Your address, or city, state

The Honorable [Legislator's full name]

Their title (e.g., State Senator, Representative, Governor, etc)

Office address

Subject: A short title, such as: Support Inclusive Education in Our Schools (optional).

Dear [title + name]:

First paragraph: Introduce yourself if you are comfortable. At the very least, include, vaguely, who you are and your purpose. Include any relevant titles or affiliations of your own. Close the paragraph with: I'm writing to you because [brief statement of your concern or issue, 1 to 2 sentences].

Second paragraph: 1 to 2 short paragraphs explaining why the issue matters to you (or why it should matter to them). Include a personal story, data points, or examples. If it's a local issue, explain how the community, school, or people around you have been impacted.

Closing paragraph: Give a call to action. What is it that you want the person to do – vote yes or no on a bill, make a public statement, allocate funding, schedule a meeting, etc.? You could say something like: "I respectfully urge you to [include specific action]. As someone elected to represent our voices, your leadership on this issue could make a real difference."

Thank you: Always thank the person for their time and service. Also offer a contact method if that person would like to reach out or has questions.

Sincerely,

Your name

Optional: Your school, organization, or other affiliation.

Sample Included:

Other sample templates can be found online so that you do not have to create a new letter yourself. Additionally, you may reach out to USYF via our website or email brianna@unitedstatesyouthforum.org for assistance.



Here is a sample letter that follows the template above:

06/27/2023

[YOUR ADDRESS (personal or business)]

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

I am writing to you as a resident and constituent of Michigan with an interest in the rights and protections of transgender youth. House Bill No. 4540, which was introduced by Representative Brad Paquette, will criminalize the provision of puberty blockers to minors who are seeking assistance in gender transition. The passing of this legislation will bar transgender individuals from receiving gender-affirming healthcare.

The University of California's School of Law estimates that about 1.6 million individuals outwardly identify as transgender, 300,00 of which are youth, with nearly 1 in 5 transgender people between the ages of 13 and 17 years. Research further supports that transgender youth and adults experience higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation in comparison to cisgender peers. According to the Trevor Project's 2023 National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Youth, 48% of transgender women and 56% of transmen considered suicide within the past year. A study from the JAMA Network suggests that receiving gender-affirming care reduces the odds of suicidality among trans youth by 75%.

Currently, there are 20 states in the U.S. that have banned gender-affirming care in some capacity, impacting 30.9% of trans-youth in need, which is 3 in 10 trans-youth. Additionally, 7 states introduced bills banning gender-affirming healthcare, including the state of Michigan, which leaves 13.2% of trans-youth at risk of losing lifesaving care.

House Bill No. 4540 will have a significant impact on school-aged trans-youth in the state of Michigan. This staggering data shows the importance of gender-affirming healthcare and why we, as the state of Michigan, need to protect transgender rights. I urge you to take the lead and veto this bill, on behalf of all trans-youth. If you would like more information or clarity, please feel free to contact me at [insert contact]. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
[INSERT NAME]