

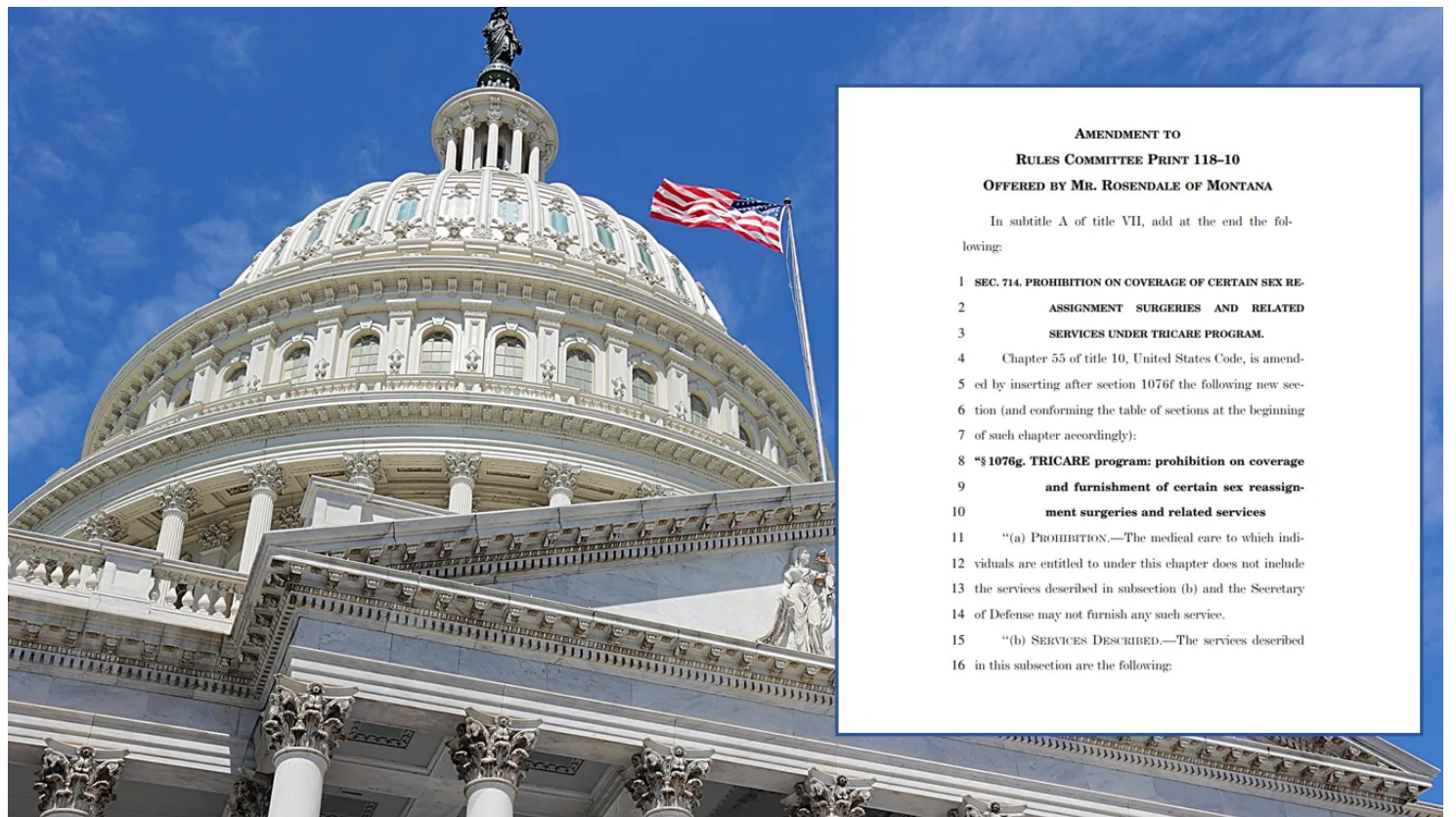
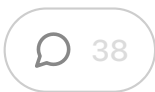
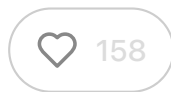
# Will Republicans Shutdown Government In Part Over Trans People?

As the nation hurtles towards the deadline to pass a new budget, Republicans have added anti-transgender riders to must-pass budget bills, with some drawing a red line.



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SEP 29, 2023



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The United States teeters on the brink of a shutdown, and signs suggest it might be protracted. In Washington, tempers flare as federal workers brace for the possibility of missed paychecks. While the Senate has passed a bipartisan budget to keep the government open, the House is in disarray. The Republican Party, embroiled in discord over Speaker McCarthy's tenuous hold of leadership, has seemingly reached an impasse on several issues. Among these, some in the party are drawing a red line on gender affirming care for transgender people. The party's fixation on trans issues, salient in state legislatures over the past four years, has abruptly taken the stage nationally, with the very functioning of the government hanging in the balance.

The provisions under scrutiny are **social issue riders** attached to essential budget bills needed to keep the federal government operational. Many of these target transgender individuals by proposing restrictions on federal funding for medical care, banning the promotion of "transgenderism," barring servicemembers from transitioning, and excluding medical insurance coverage for transgender care. These stipulations can be found in funding bills for the **Military, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, the Food and Drug Administration**, and even those that support **Children's Hospitals**. Just yesterday, the Congressional Equality Caucus **issued a statement** condemning such riders embedded in the State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill. These riders would prohibit the display of pride flags, DEI efforts, drag, and the promotion of "transgenderism."

The riders are paralleled by a renewed offensive against transgender individuals, propelled by influential figures within the Republican Party. Representative Lauren Boebert, recently scrutinized for **inappropriate behavior** with her date during a family-friendly theatre performance, **assailed the Pentagon's top transgender military official** and proposed legislation to slash her salary to a mere dollar. Meanwhile, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene presented a bill seeking a **national felony ban** on gender-affirming care for trans

youth. While the prospects of these provisions advancing in this cycle are slim, the contentious budget impasse over transgender rights underscores the escalating emphasis on trans issues by the Republican Party. Additionally, several state governments under the party's control have already passed identical laws.

Such attacks have also been echoed in the presidential election cycle. On the Republican debate stage, Vivek Ramaswamy **inaccurately declared** that “transgenderism” is a “mental health disorder.” Afterwards, Mike Pence, when asked a question about rising violence against LGBTQ+ people, called for a **national ban on gender affirming care**.

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The animosity towards transgender people in the GOP now threatens to destabilize the entire United States Government. In a fight over one of the appropriations bills that would renew funding for teaching hospitals for children, **Representative Crenshaw declared** that gender affirming care bans are the “hill we will die on.” Biden, on the other hand, has stated that **he will veto** appropriations bills with anti-abortion and anti-LGBTQ+ measures in them. While the Senate has passed its clean and bipartisan budget bill without any of these anti-trans measures, the House remains deadlocked in part because of riders like these.

LGBTQ+ organizations are taking note. The Human Rights Campaign released an ad lambasting Republicans for using these riders to shutdown the government, saying that Republicans are “trying to limit the healthcare you and your family can access, ban books and flags, and block enforcement of civil rights laws, all while risking the government grinding to a halt.”

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You can see the advertisement here:

### Grind to a Halt - 30s



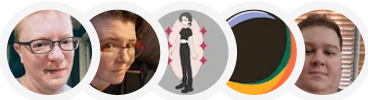
For those doubting the lengths to which Republicans might go to advance anti-transgender legislation, one needs only to observe the recent clashes in state legislatures. In Montana, the party **silenced a democratically elected representative** simply for highlighting the detrimental impacts of such bills. In Nebraska, legislative progression was halted for **three months** while they tried to enact a gender affirming care ban. In 2022 alone, the party spent **tens of millions** of dollars on anti-trans ads, driven largely by organizations like the American Principles Project; Jon Schweppe, the organization's policy director, pledged **even greater financial commitment** to this cause in 2024. A government shutdown now seems a fitting progression for a party so singularly focused on targeting trans individuals.

While public opinion on trans issues fluctuates considerably, a recurring sentiment is that people prefer legislators not to invest disproportionate effort on these matters. A **Fox News poll** from earlier this year revealed that 86% of respondents believe political attacks on **trans children are problematic**, with a mere 10% considering transgender issues as a top

trans children are problematic, with a mere 17% considering transgender issues as a top priority. Concurrently, a [poll by The 19th](#) indicated that 72% of Americans doubt politicians possess the requisite knowledge to create fair policies concerning gender-affirming care.

Bringing trans issues into the national shutdown fight runs counter to these public sentiments. Historically, the public has responded with great disapproval to government shutdowns. In an era marked by concerns over escalating grocery costs and healthcare affordability, an emphasis on anti-trans politics risks painting the GOP as woefully disconnected. Yet, the grim reality is that the government's operation might be jeopardized due to the intense disdain some Republicans harbor for transgender individuals, and those repercussions will be felt by everyone.

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Sadie Ann 10 hrs ago Liked by Erin Reed



As a Trans-person that is a federal employee, I feel particularly targeted by this.

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11 replies by Erin Reed and others



**Jana Elvira Temple** 9 hrs ago    ❤️ Liked by Erin Reed

Absolutely yes, the propaganda is going to enrage the base into a murderous frenzy. The goal is to cause as much damage and chaos as possible

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2 replies

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