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PRESS RELEASE

# AMA strengthens its policy on protecting access to gender-affirming care

Chicago, IL June 12, 2023

Endocrine Society-proposed resolution passes with overwhelming support in House of Delegates

The American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates today passed the Endocrine Society's resolution to protect access to evidence-based gender-affirming care for transgender and gender-diverse individuals.

As political attacks on gender-affirming care escalate, it is the responsibility of the medical community to speak out in support of evidence-based care. Medical decisions should be made by patients, their relatives and health care providers, not politicians.

In the resolution, the AMA committed to opposing any criminal and legal penalties against patients seeking gender-affirming care, family members or guardians who support them in seeking medical care, and health care facilities and clinicians who provide gender-affirming care. The AMA will work at the federal and state level with legislators and regulators to oppose such policies and collaborate with other

organizations to educate the Federation of State Medical Boards about the importance of gender-affirming care.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Urological Association, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the American College of Physicians, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology, GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality and AMA's Medical Student Section co-sponsored the Society's resolution.

Due to widespread misinformation about medical care for transgender and gender-diverse teens, 18 states have passed laws or instituted policies banning gender-affirming care. More than 30 percent of the nation's transgender and gender-diverse youth now live in states with gender-affirming care bans, according to the **Human Rights Campaign**. Some policies are even restricting transgender and gender-diverse adults' access to care.

These policies do not reflect the research landscape. More than 2,000 scientific studies have examined aspects of gender-affirming care since 1975, including more than 260 studies cited in the Endocrine Society's **Clinical Practice Guideline**.

Pediatric gender-affirming care is designed to take a conservative approach. When young children experience feelings that their gender identity does not match the sex recorded at birth, the first course of action is to support the child in exploring their gender identity and to provide mental health support, as needed.

Medical intervention is reserved for older adolescents and adults, with treatment plans tailored to the individual and designed to maximize the time teenagers and their families have to make decisions about their transitions. Major medical

organizations also agree on waiting until an individual has turned 18 or reached the age of majority in their country to undergo gender-affirming genital surgery.

Gender-affirming care can be life saving for a population with high suicide rates. For example, a 2020 study analyzed survey data from 89 transgender adults who had access to puberty-delaying medication while adolescents and data from more than 3,400 transgender adults who did not. The study found that those who received puberty-delaying hormone treatment had lower likelihood of lifetime suicidal ideation than those who wanted puberty-delaying treatment but did not receive it, even after adjusting for demographic variables and level of family support. Approximately nine in ten transgender adults who wanted puberty-delaying treatment, but did not receive it, reported lifetime suicidal ideation.

## About Endocrine Society

Endocrinologists are at the core of solving the most pressing health problems of our time, from diabetes and obesity to infertility, bone health, and hormone-related cancers. The Endocrine Society is the world's oldest and largest organization of scientists devoted to hormone research and physicians who care for people with hormone-related conditions.

The Society has more than 18,000 members, including scientists, physicians, educators, nurses, and students in 122 countries. To learn more about the Society and the field of endocrinology, visit our site at [www.endocrine.org](http://www.endocrine.org). Follow us on Twitter at [@TheEndoSociety](https://twitter.com/TheEndoSociety) and [@EndoMedia](https://twitter.com/EndoMedia).

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PRESS RELEASE Awards

## Ali wins Wayne Bardin International Travel Award

June 07, 2023

The Endocrine Society selected Dalal S. Ali, M.D., as the recipient of its 2023 C. Wayne Bardin, MD, International Travel Award for her outstanding ENDO abstract and research contributions related to bone disease, calcium and endocrine disorders in pregnancy.

PRESS RELEASE Advocacy

## Endocrine Society experts call for plastics treaty to protect public from chemical exposure

May 31, 2023

Endocrine Society experts called on the nations participating in talks to develop a global plastics treaty to seize the opportunity to protect the public from dangerous endocrine-disrupting chemicals found in plastics.

PRESS RELEASE Awards

## Endocrine Society congratulates 2023 Early Investigator Award winners

May 31, 2023

The Endocrine Society has selected five recipients for its Early Investigator Awards.

PRESS RELEASE Scientific Statement

## **Endocrine Society's new Scientific Statement identifies research gaps in pediatric, LGBTQIA care**

May 16, 2023

In a new Scientific Statement released today, the Endocrine Society identifies areas for future endocrine research to reduce health disparities in pediatric and sexual and gender minoritized populations.

PRESS RELEASE

## **Niraula wins 2023 Endocrine Images Art Competition**

May 10, 2023

Anzela Niraula, Ph.D., of the University of Washington in Seattle, won the Endocrine Society's 2023 Endocrine Images Art Competition for her image of the microglia mandala. This contest celebrates the beauty of endocrine science, and entries were judged based on aesthetic value and significance to endocrine research.

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