

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY of CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

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June 17, 2025

Dear Attorney General Bonta:

We're the California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CALACAP), writing to express our deep concern over the escalating political attacks on gender-affirming care and the insufficient protections being offered to providers and institutions in California. Every day, we work directly with young people and their families—many of whom rely on access to gender-affirming care as a critical part of their mental health and well-being.

While we appreciate the steps that have been taken, such as filing an amicus brief in opposition to recent federal actions, these efforts have not translated into meaningful protections for those on the front lines. Most notably, Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA)—home to the largest youth gender clinic in the country—has announced its closure following sustained federal threats. This is devastating for our patients. California, through your office, must do more – immediately - to save CHLA, other similar facilities, providers, and young people and their families.

We urge you to take immediate and concrete steps to protect gender-affirming care in our state. This includes:

1. Clear legal guidance affirming the right of providers and institutions to offer gender-affirming care without fear of legal retaliation;
2. Public commitments to defend those under attack by federal or out-of-state entities;
3. Active, visible leadership that makes clear California will not back down in the face of political pressure.

The fact that such an institution feels it cannot safely continue its services should be a call to further action for all of us. This termination of care will only embolden the Trump administration's radical agenda to control every aspect of our rights, including healthcare.

If there is any way that we can be of service to you in the immediate actions that are necessary in this regard, please contact us at the number below. We appreciate your prompt reaction to this crisis and stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

Sincerely,



Ijeoma Ijeaku, MD, MPH, DFAPA
CALACAP President