



UNITED STATES PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSGENDER HEALTH

www.wpath.org/uspath
uspath@wpath.org

phone: 1+(847) 752-5328
fax: 1+(224) 633-2166

STAFF

Executive Director

Blaine Vella
blaine@wpath.org

Associate Executive Director

Jamie Hicks
jamie@wpath.org

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February 24, 2022

The United States Professional Association for Transgender Health (USPATH) is strongly opposed to Gov. Greg Abbott and the State of Texas' intention to identify gender affirming care for trans and gender diverse youth as "child abuse", and to investigate these cases through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Ample evidence supports gender affirming interventions, including social transition, change of name and pronouns, and the use of medical interventions for trans and gender diverse youth who have been properly assessed for, and diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Furthermore, evidence shows that trans and gender diverse youth have improved mental health outcomes when they have the support of their family, while additional evidence shows that these youth experience discrimination and harms when they enter the foster system. Identifying these treatments and interventions as "child abuse" is not based on any evidence and will only bring about harm and disruption to these children and their families.

Maddie Deutsch, MD, MPH

Medical Director, UCSF Gender Affirming Health Program
Associate Professor of Clinical Family & Community Medicine
University of California - San Francisco
President, US Professional Association for Transgender Health

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