

March 26, 2025 | Via Email

To the office of Governor Matt Meyer:

In the two months since Donald Trump was inaugurated, the Transgender community has been under relentless and dehumanizing national attacks. A flurry of executive orders has sought to deprive Transgender people from fundamental rights like gender affirming care, identification that reflects their true gender, and their ability to live full and complete lives. Many of the executive orders have sought to erase Transgender lives altogether. Utilizing threats of cuts to federal funding if they do not comply, the executive orders aimed at educational institutions, nonprofits, and the business community specifically call for the elimination of programming for and mentions of Transgender people.

This onslaught has been frightening for members of the Transgender community in Delaware. While our state has enacted laws to protect our community, we are not immune to the heightened rhetoric that provides license for people to attack, ridicule, and discriminate against us.

Daily, we see that Donald Trump and his administration are escalating their attacks on the Transgender community. Delawareans have waited patiently for our local elected officials to stand up against the hateful and divisive actions of this administration. Instead, what we are seeing from our elected officials in Delaware is either silence, ambiguous support, or blatant actions that align with those of the Trump administration.

We were incredibly disappointed to see one state legislator, Sussex County Republican Sen. Bryant Richardson, filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, essentially attempting to pressure Delaware officials to drop access for Transgender girls to play in girls' sports. This action by Senator Richardson has placed all Delaware students at risk as the action places public schools in jeopardy of losing all federal funding if they affirm the rights of Transgender students.

To add insult to injury, the Governor of our state, has not made a clear stance on protecting the Trans community in Delaware, despite pledging to in his inaugural address to use all vested powers as Governor to protect our communities. In recent interviews, Governor Matt Meyer went on the record to state that he will defer the decision of Trans athletes to the localities, equating the issue to that of a designated hitter, while a spokesperson for Governor Meyer was quoted in a [news story](#) saying that the Governor does not believe Transgender girls should play in girls' sports.

With all the attacks on Transgender people today, many Delawareans may wonder why access to athletics should concern us. While we are only speaking about a very small percentage of athletes nationwide, the issue is bigger than sports—it is fundamental to

our human and civil rights. If we accept that a person's gender identity can be undermined in one aspect of life, other restrictions will certainly follow. If we allow the oppression of one group, we open the path for other groups to be oppressed. If we allow for the cruel bullying of the Transgender community, it allows for the bullying of women, people of color, and those who are disabled.

Transgender children are especially vulnerable, as many are subjected to frequent bullying and harassment. Sports build confidence, help students forge relationships with team members and community, and improve students' mental and physical health. The right to participate in athletics that match a person's gender identity is essential because being forced to participate on a sports team that does not reflect their identity or their outward appearance, directly impacts their self-esteem, confidence, and mental health. The alternative would force Transgender students to not only out themselves but be subjected to more harassment and discrimination by their teammates. Statistics show that LGBTQIA-identified youths have high rates of suicide attempts, anxiety and depression, and social isolation. Positive community interactions, such as sports, decrease these rates.

The statements from the office of Governor Meyer are very concerning as they indicate, at best, an ambiguous stance, and at worst opposition, in a moment when we need clear and unequivocal support of our community. As the highest elected official in our state, Governor Meyer has the power to enact protections through executive order, but he has failed to act. Even more importantly, Governor Meyer has a tremendous megaphone to amplify messages in support of our community, to show strong leadership against the relentless attacks against the Transgender community, yet he and his administration have chosen to do the exact opposite.

Many Delawareans have been appalled by the abhorrent treatment U.S. Congresswoman Sarah McBride has received since her election, as the target of bathroom bans and cruel misgendering. People across the First State have spoken out in support of our Congresswoman, rallying to her defense. But statements like Governor Meyer's are in the same vein as those we have heard against Rep. McBride, and so we cannot stay silent. We call on Governor Meyer to make his support for the Transgender community unequivocal and disavow his previous statement on Trans athletes.

Delawareans deserve elected officials that will not only ensure and protect our rights but also stand up to bullying and cruelty.

The current political climate presents one of the clearest threats to our community in generations and it will become worse. We need leadership to take bold action to ensure Delaware remains a state where all are welcome and able to live to their fullest potential.

We need leadership that will make clear statements to defend the rights of all Delawareans, instead of an “we’ll see what we can do” approach. Our lives depend on it.

In Solidarity,

American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware
Delaware Sexuality and Gender Collective

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Transitions Delaware, LLC
Rising Hope Therapy
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