



About Florida's Ban on Medically-Necessary Healthcare for Transgender Adolescents and the Legal Challenge to It

Florida's transgender healthcare ban was enacted through the adoption of rules by the state Board of Medicine and state Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

The development and eventual adoption of these rules have faced considerable scrutiny as a politically-motivated process instigated at the urging of the governor and ignoring established medical and scientific consensus on medical care for transgender adolescents.

In the summer of 2022, Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo and the Department of Health asked the state Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine to adopt a categorical ban on all treatment of gender dysphoria for people under eighteen years of age.

In February and March of 2023, respectively, the Boards adopted formal rules prohibiting all access to safe, effective medical treatments for transgender adolescents who have received a gender dysphoria diagnosis but who have not yet begun puberty blocking medication or hormone treatments.

Those rules went into effect on March 16, 2023 and March 26, 2023, respectively.

On March 23, 2023, Florida parents filed a challenge to those rules in federal court on behalf of themselves and their transgender children. The case was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Northern Florida.

The grounds of the lawsuit, *Doe v. Ladapo*, are that the policy unlawfully strips parents of the right to make informed decisions about their children's medical treatment and that it violates the equal protection rights of transgender adolescents by denying them medically necessary, doctor-recommended healthcare to treat their gender dysphoria.

On April 19, 2023, the family plaintiffs filed a motion for preliminary injunction, asking the court to halt the ban while their case proceeds.

Surgeon General Ladapo and all members of the Florida Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine are defendants in the families' suit challenging the ban.

For more information about *Doe v. Ladapo*

Visit glad.org/cases/doe-v-ladapo or contact:

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