



Response to Trump Administration's Unpublished Memo Regarding Transgender Rights

October 2018

Earlier this week, the *New York Times* reported that they received an unpublished memo drafted by President Trump's Administration which reveals its intent to eliminate long-established and hard-fought rights of transgender people by narrowly defining gender as a "biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth." This attack on the millions of Americans who identify as transgender, gender fluid, gender non-binary or a member of a gender non-conforming community or family is not only cruel, it flies in the face of significant federal court decisions and state laws that have recognized the basic human rights of transgender people.

Transgender people, especially transgender people of color, face some of the highest poverty rates in the country. This is due to a lifetime of discrimination, harassment and marginalization. In housing, employment, education, health care and our criminal justice system, the disenfranchisement of and historic lack of legal protections for transgender people have made it difficult to provide for their families and cover basic necessities like rent, food, clothing, and healthcare. The discrimination transgender people face takes many forms, including the lack of basic cultural and clinical knowledge about transgender people in our institutions and community settings, which undermines our ability to provide quality and meaningful safety-net services.¹ If successful, the Administration's plans to change regulations that would roll back established legal protections would greatly exacerbate existing income and health disparities experienced by transgender people in America.

Western Center stands with transgender people and others in the gender non-conforming community and joins a broad coalition of civil and human rights organizations to oppose and fight back against the Administration's plans.

To learn more about the critical work of transgender and gender nonconforming communities to achieve key victories in courts and within government agencies, making clear that transgender and gender nonconforming people are protected from discrimination under federal civil rights laws and the U.S. Constitution, visit: <https://transgenderlawcenter.org>

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

Western Center on Law and Poverty leads the fight in the courts, counties, and capital to secure housing, health care and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. Learn more at: www.wclp.org

¹ For more information about poverty among transgender people in America, see, "Paying an Unfair Price: The Financial Penalty for Being Transgender in America," found at: <http://www.lgbtmap.org/unfair-price-transgender>