

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Association of Child Life Professionals Stands Firmly with Transgender and Gender-Diverse Youth Following Supreme Court Ruling**

Washington, D.C. – June 18, 2025 – The Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) stands firmly with transgender and gender-diverse youth and their families following today's Supreme Court decision in *United States v. Skrmetti*. This 6-3 ruling represents a significant setback for the health and well-being of transgender and gender-expansive youth across the nation.

"Today's Supreme Court decision ignores overwhelming scientific evidence and prioritizes ideology over evidence-based medicine," said ACLP President Elana Brewer, CCLS. "Research consistently demonstrates that denying gender-affirming care increases rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation among transgender youth."

ACLP stands in solidarity with leading medical authorities who consistently support evidence-based gender-affirming care. The American Academy of Pediatrics affirms that gender-affirming care "can reduce emotional distress, improve well-being, and reduce the risk of suicide" for transgender youth. More than 20 major medical organizations—including the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, Endocrine Society, and World Professional Association for Transgender Health—recognize these treatments as medically necessary and ethically imperative.

This decision undermines the Child Life Certification Commission's Child Life Code of Ethics, which mandates ensuring all children receive care free from discrimination. Research consistently demonstrates that denying transgender youth appropriate medical care causes measurable harm, while access to affirming care reduces suicide attempts and improves mental health outcomes.

"Every child deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued in healthcare settings," noted Brewer. "ACLP remains committed to creating inclusive, welcoming environments where all children—regardless of gender identity or expression—can receive the compassionate care they deserve".

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*About ACLP*

The Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) is the leading professional membership organization for child life specialists. ACLP promotes the most effective evidence-based practice of child life professionals working with children and families to reduce stress and enhance coping during healthcare experiences, illness, injury, trauma, disability, loss, and bereavement.

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