

ACLP Condemns Actions that Threaten the Health of Transgender and LGBTQIA+ Youth

Washington, D.C. – The Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) strongly condemns the actions occurring across the United States that directly threaten the health and well-being of transgender, gender-expansive, and LGBTQ youth.

“These discriminatory laws create unsafe environments for children and families,” says ACLP CEO Alison Heron. “ACLP is committed to ensuring that children and families, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, are provided with emotionally safe care.”

The Child Life Code of Ethics, Principle 3, states that child life professionals “are called to ensure that all in our clinical care and with whom we work are not the subject of racism or discrimination.” Child life professionals must uphold this standard by advocating in their communities to overcome the policies and practices that continue to harm and traumatize the health and well-being of transgender and LGBTQ youth.

According to research from the American Academy of Pediatrics (2020), “for young people who identify as transgender, gender-affirming care can reduce emotional distress, improve their sense of well-being, and reduce the risk of suicide.”

ACLP’s commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) includes embedding DEI principles into the profession through education and training in order to create a welcoming and supportive environment so that youth of every gender identity and sexual orientation can thrive.

Alison E. Heron, MBA, CAE
ACLP CEO

Quinn Franklin, PhD, CCLS
ACLP Board of Directors, President

Reference

Turban, J., King, D., Carswell, J., Keuroghlian, A. (2020). Pubertal suppression for transgender youth and risk of suicidal ideation. *Pediatrics*, 145(2). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-1725>

###

About the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP): ACLP is the leading professional association supporting child life professionals. Child life professionals advance psychosocial care and the emotional safety of children, youth, and families impacted by healthcare and significant life experiences. Founded as a nonprofit organization in 1982, ACLP provides members with professional development programs, resources, membership, certification, and advances best practices. More information on ACLP can be found at childlife.org.