



# No. Pr: Without Trans Youth



What we  
(trans youth)  
saw, felt,  
+ learned  
this Spring 2021  
Legislative Session

**GJLP**



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**BYOC**

**Bring**

**Your Own**

**Chair**

**to the table**

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Throughout the 2021 State Legislative session, state after state introduced legislation that directly targets transgender young people and attempted to limit our freedom. This session followed 2020's anti-trans legislation wave that had focused on restricting trans peoples' access to facilities like restrooms. While conservative leaders using policy to hurt trans communities is nothing new, we've seen a recent narrowing of focus onto trans youth.

A year and a half into a global pandemic, state leaders have decided that this is the right time to make it a crime for a doctor to provide healthcare to trans youth. Policymakers have also decided to prioritize a flawed and recycled debate over *fairness in sports* in order to justify banning trans athletes from playing alongside our peers. These kinds of attacks are neither random or coincidental.

### Do you remember Betsy Devos?

Under her leadership, the US Department of Education made it clear that it would not investigate complaints from trans students, helping the then-president set the stage for these continued attacks on trans students. Political attacks like this take advantage of the fact that many people may not know much about transgender folks in order to create fear and divide us.



Imagine what it would look like if we showed up by the thousands and said: "Actually no. You can't just throw doctors in jail for treating patients!" and "Let them play or we're voting you out!" When we dream of the future, we're united in liberation. To get there, we must be united now, and this means getting clear on what is happening and how to be in solidarity with trans youth

Over the next few pages, we're breaking it down:

- ★ What was seen and learned during the session
- ★ What trans youth are saying and feeling, and
- ★ How we can get and stay ready for a future where we #ShowUp4TransYouth.



Newly appointed Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona has promised to get back on track with his Department's role in protecting the rights of all students. (& we're down to be part of that conversation... if you're reading this Secretary Cardona!)







Bills

bills

Bills

### What kinds of policy bills were introduced this session?

Policymakers introduced bills that aimed to: prohibit healthcare for transgender youth, restrict access to gendered facilities (like restrooms), exclude trans youth from athletics, increase restrictions on ID documents, and more.

The most common bills focused on trans athlete bans and gender-affirming healthcare bans.

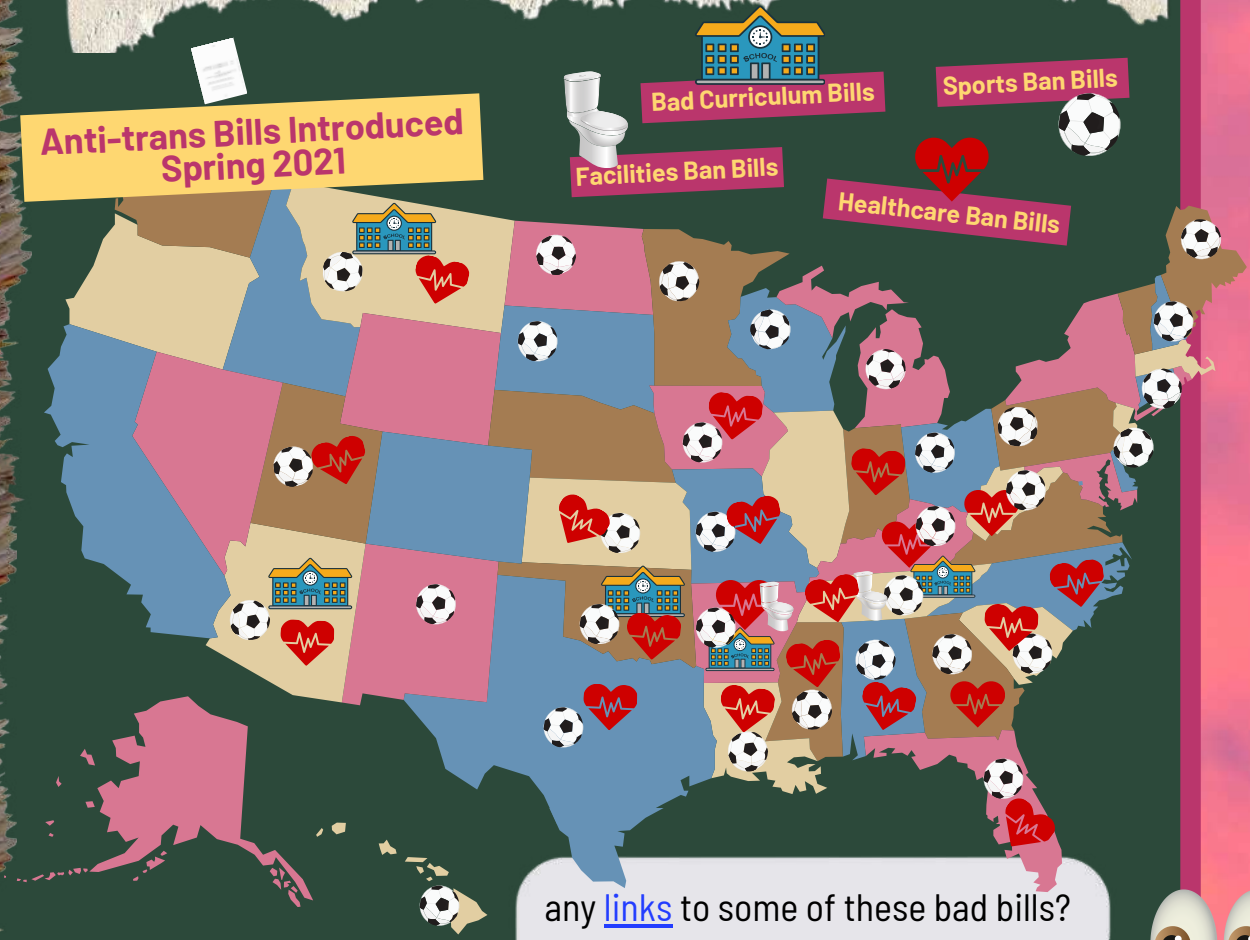
### How many states? ...and how many bills?

So far, over 33 states have introduced a combined total of 150 anti-trans bills, including 75 athlete bans and 40 healthcare bans.

### How many bills have passed?

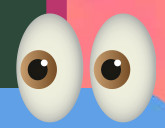
As of June 2021, over 20 bills that may impact trans youth have passed their respective houses and are going to or have made it to the governor's desk.

Anti-trans Bills Introduced Spring 2021



any [links](#) to some of these bad bills?

trying to do so... yes, we got u. click the little cute icons on a state for the related bill [text links](#)







**These bills have made it clear for young people: we must fix the world around us because the adults in power aren't going to. This is disheartening, but it has also created a generation of change makers.**

Ashe (he/him) North Carolina

## **Why were these bills introduced? Are they connected to past years?**

Historically, trans people have been targeted through legislation in order to promote false narratives about who we are and to create fear amongst non-trans people. We saw this fear-mongering in 2020 during a wave of anti-trans bills mainly focused on limiting our access to restrooms. When fear is created, it is easier to justify increasing the policing of trans people, our bodies, and our lives. As trans and nonbinary people build community power, those in state power attempt to limit our access to some of our most basic needs in an attempt to push our progress backward and tighten their grip on the nation. These bills block us from affirming healthcare, playing sports with our peers, being safe while we use restrooms, receiving our birth certificates with correct information, and more. Trans youth are even more vulnerable to legislative attacks since the majority of us can't even vote for those debating our rights.

## **What happens in states where bills passed?**

This is when we wish our high school government teachers actually taught the information that stuck. In short: even when bad bills are passed (and signed into law), the fight isn't over. State and national legal organizations (like the ACLU) are prepared and ready to sue every state government that has passed anti-trans bills and fight against them in court. This process and the legal proceedings can also pause anti-trans laws from becoming enacted, which means the rights of trans folks are protected under current law.





## Will these bills come back?

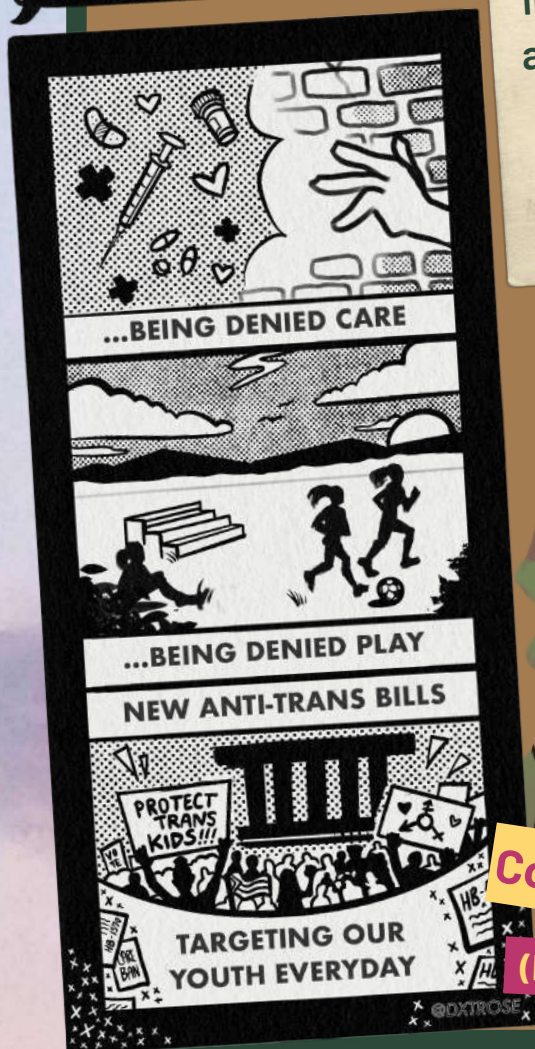
As long as we continue to build #TransPower, state power holders will try to get in our way. In the past years, most of these attempts were unsuccessful in becoming law. In 2021 we saw bills pass in multiple states. It is likely that right-wing policymakers will continue to try and use legislation to target the freedoms of trans and queer people, especially Black & brown trans and queer youth; this year's increase in anti-trans and anti-queer bills also points to a predictable upward trend.



## What do we do?

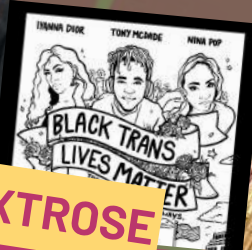
In order to #ShowUp4TransYouth and win against these attacks, we need our people to listen to and honor the solutions called for by trans young people, ourselves. Keep on reading to hear exactly this!

"THINK OF THE CHILDREN!"



Comic art by @DXTROSE

(Nat'l Trans Youth Council Youth Alumni, too!)





Here's what we would add to this conversation

if someone had  
**actually**  
asked us...

lol?

Legislative sessions like this can be scary because not only is transphobia happening in an interpersonal way from our peers and community, but it's also now backed by the government. It feels as if not only are we outcasted socially, but yes... it is in writing that we are seen as different under the law. But we're fighting back. We have to.

Bug (they/she) Nevada

To my representatives: you are harming real students. You are harming not only the young people who are trans and trying to be out and safe at school, but you're harming every student who will explore their gender in the future... who might be seeing all of this and questioning whether they can even think about gender outside of what they've been taught. You are harming so many more people than you realize. There are people who are just wanting to live their lives and we are not your enemies. We are just trying to be ourselves and what we are beautiful.

Jay (they/them) Florida

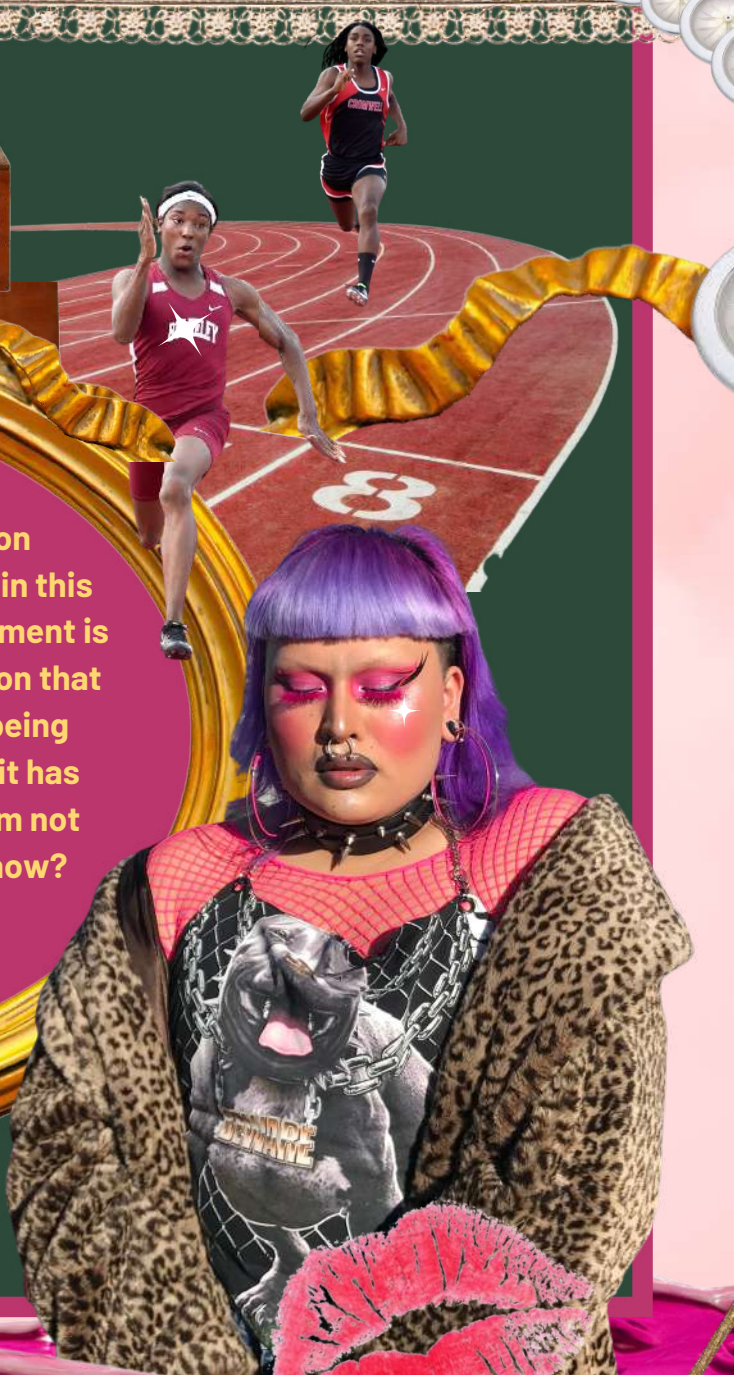






I am a trans athlete!  
I might not look like one *\*giggles\**  
but I am a trans athlete!  
Sports are a part of who I am.  
The feeling of being on a team is  
amazing and being the person who I  
want to be is so freeing. Let me be.



Ash (xe/la) Illinois



I fear sometimes that  
I will experience violence when I'm  
outside my home. But I try to not dwell on  
those fears. It's scary being a trans person in this  
world already, let alone when the US government is  
writing our death into law. But I don't dwell on that  
fear because I can't live my life in fear of being  
me! I just can't. It would destroy me... and it has  
already kept me down me long enough. I am not  
going to let it destroy me anymore, you know?  
I'm gonna go ahead and keep living in  
my little *fantasía*! I'm the moment.


Amayas (they/them) Colorado






All the flawed arguments that politicians try to use fade away when you're looking in the face of a trans person... the lies just don't make much sense when you're actually looking at me. A person. Yes, a person who is simply trans.

Eli (they/them) South Carolina



I didn't feel like I belonged at my high school so much that I went to a different one part-time. I felt like skipping every day at my old school, but this one was different... I felt affirmed and engaged and interested. My old high school had security guards at every door, but this school just focused on helping us find something that we love doing. For me, it's music. And wanna know the wildest part? I felt so much safer there.

Jace (he/him) North Carolina



It can make it almost impossible to live your life as a young person when you don't even have your basic needs met. Then these layers of privacy invasion??? It's never okay to put someone through nonconsensual exams, especially kids.

We are literally just trying to live.

Ky Claude (they/them) Ohio



# #ShowUp4TransYouth

To keep trans youth alive, thriving and fighting for liberation, solidarity must exist in many ways. This requires us to find the best way to help out in ways that are within our abilities+talents+resources, as well as, aligned with what impacted folks (trans youth, in this case) have asked for.

*From conversations with trans youth leaders, this is starting place for our people who are dedicated to trans (youth) liberation.*

FIGHT  
4 OUR  
RIGHT  
TO  
EXIST

Demand your rep at  
every level support  
trans youth

Educate + mobilize  
your people about  
anti-trans bills

Center + uplift trans  
youth voices  
everyday all day!

“

Hey! It's Clippy.

(Remember me?)

I'm back with a tip: It looks like we're starting with **solidarity focused on policy** (since this is about anti-trans bills...) but remember:

- There are so many ways to #ShowUp4TransYouth **in addition** to policy demands
- ...AND we offer many of these possibilities over the next few pages. Weeeeeeee!

”

BLACK TRANS LIFE  
IS SACRED





Break down the gender binary in our minds

Work against ageism + lean into intergenerational power

Interrupt Anti-Blackness

Be down to learn from young people

Recognize ableism + make our work accessible to all disabled trans youth

Fight for trans youth self-determination + respect for all young people's bodies

# COMMIT TO UNLEARNING + RELEARNING SOME THINGS



Hire us

INVEST IN OUR...

OFFER GUIDANCE FOR OUR...

SUPPORT OUR...

CHEER ON OUR...

Support Black & Indigenous leadership

Support youth-organized spaces (like GSAs!!)

Connect us with opportunities to learn new + useful skills

Support access to learning materials

AAA

(books, PDFs, trainings)

Indicate to the young people around you that you support trans youth. Make it clear that you are down for our success!

Ash (xe/la)

Illinois

Invest in our leadership + professional development

# ...GROWTH





Offer food, housing

Support GoFundMes

Fund safe public transportation

Foster + adopt us

Abolish the police (especially @ school!)

Interrupt transphobia from family and friends

HELP  
KEEP  
US SAFE

I heard the question, *what is visibility without protection?* Trans people should have it all. We shouldn't just strive for representation on the screen, we deserve to feel safe and have laws that protect us. I don't think this is radical. It's not a radical thing to say trans people should be in control of our bodies.

Imani (they/them) Ohio



BUILD  
RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH US

Mentor trans youth

Foster Intergenerational Connections

Create spaces for trans youth to meet

Connect & Check-in





Support access to  
mental health resources

Love trans youth

Offer to coach us on  
sustaining self

Create moments that  
spark joy with us

Love trans youth

Help us experiment  
w/passion projects

Love trans youth

Encourage us to  
dream BIG

Love trans youth

MAKE  
IT  
POSSIBLE  
TO  
THRIVE

As an adult, the best thing  
you can do is listen, and  
then ask yourself: how I  
can create a more  
supportive environment  
for trans youth? Not how  
can I fix how you're  
feeling, but more like how  
I can support you on your  
journey of being the  
person you want to be.

Ash (xe/la) Illinois

Ask us what we  
think about  
things going on  
in this world

Listen + uplift  
what we have to  
say

Believe trans youth  
who are survivors of  
violence

Honor  
trans youth  
expertise

BELIEVE  
IN US  
(LIKE..  
ACTUALLY  
BELIEVE  
IN US)



# Resources 4 Continued Building

Click the links below (!) and together, we can build a safer future for all of us.



**GJLP**  
**Website**

**GJLP**  
**Twitter**

**GJLP**  
**Instagram**

**Join the**  
**Roses**  
**Youth**  
**Council**

**Network**  
**GSA**

**Trans**  
**Law**  
**Center**

**Black**  
**Trans**  
**Travel**  
**Fund**

**Storytelling**  
**Toolkit 4**  
**Trans Youth**  
**Interested**  
**in Sharing**  
**their Story.**

**Trans**  
**Agenda**  
**4 Liberation**

**#Love** **Letters 4** **Trans** **Youth**





I BELIEVE THAT

THERE'S A BIG FUTURE OUT THERE

WITH A LOT

OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS...

*Octavia St. Laurent*

**GJLP**

This has not been paid for by Pride™