

Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation

Administration Policy:

On January 28th, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) titled [Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation](#). This order establishes that it is the official policy of the United States to not “fund, sponsor, assist, or support, the so-called “transition” of a child from one sex to the other” and that all laws to prohibit these procedures will be rigorously enforced.

Specifically, Section 2 defines the terms:

- “child” or “children” as an individual under 19 years of age.
- “pediatric” as relating to the medical care of a child.
- “chemical and surgical mutilation” as the use of puberty blockers, and surgical procedures that change an individual’s appearance from one sex to the other, or procedures to alter or remove an individual’s sexual organs.

To ensure children are protected from these dangerous procedures, this EO also requires:

- Agencies to rescind or amend all policies that rely on the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) guidance.
- Agencies to take immediate steps to ensure medical institutions that receive research or education grants, stop providing puberty blockers or gender related surgeries to minors.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to take all appropriate actions to end the use of puberty blockers or gender related surgeries to minors in federal programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, mandatory drug use programs, etc.
- The Secretary of Defense to exclude puberty blockers or gender related surgeries to minors from TRICARE coverage.
- Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) and Postal Health Benefits (PSHB) to exclude coverage for puberty blockers or gender-related surgeries to minors.

Background:

- Currently, [26 states](#) have enacted laws limiting the use of hormones, puberty blockers, or related surgical procedures for minors.
- In response to a 2023 [Tennessee law](#) prohibiting this kind of care for minors, the Biden administration sought an injunction to prevent this law from going into effect.
- Oral arguments for this case, [United States vs. Skrmetti](#), were heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on December 4, 2024, with a decision pending.