



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

## Use Your Voice

June 24th, 2025

Assemblymember Mia Bonta  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 418 (Menjivar)—SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Bonta,

**Youth Leadership Institute** is pleased to support SB 418 (Menjivar), which takes two critical steps to help ensure continued access to essential healthcare in California, particularly for transgender people and others who have long faced discriminatory barriers to care. The bill codifies Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into California law, protecting patients from discrimination by healthcare providers and insurers. It also expands access to prescription hormone therapy by requiring pharmacists to dispense up to a 12-month supply and mandating that health plans and insurers cover these prescriptions when filled at one time.

yli partners with thousands of youth across the state, many of whom are queer and trans. Many of these young people already struggle to get the health care they need and deserve to thrive. We are staunch advocates of policies that protect access to health care.

Within the first month of the Trump administration, the President issued multiple executive orders targeting the safety and wellbeing of transgender Americans. One of them is Executive Order 14187, which was full of blatantly false and wholly misguided information with the intent to restrict gender-affirming care for transgender young people. Executive Order 14187 directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to review the legality of Section 1557 of the ACA, which makes it unlawful for any health care provider

who receives funding from the federal government to refuse to treat an individual—or to otherwise discriminate against the individual—based on race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Since then, federal agencies have since removed public information about these protections from government websites and accelerated efforts to restrict access to gender-affirming care, contributing to clinic closures and significant disruptions to care across the country.

The consequences of these actions are already being felt in California. Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, one of the largest clinics for gender-affirming care in the country, recently announced it would cease operating its gender-affirming clinic on July 22, citing the pressures coming from the Trump administration. At the same time, providers like St. John's Community Health, which operates a network of clinics to provide free and low-cost services in the Los Angeles area, had their grant of \$1.6 million for transgender health and support services terminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These developments are having real and devastating consequences, leaving thousands of transgender young people struggling to access medically necessary care.

SB 418 responds to these threats by taking proactive steps to protect access to care in California. First, by enshrining Section 1557 of the ACA into California state law – including explicit protections for sexual orientation and gender identity – SB 418 will ensure that California remains a leader in healthcare equity and provide greater legal certainty to healthcare providers and patients, reinforcing that discrimination has no place in California. This provision is critical not only for LGBTQ+ people – particularly transgender individuals – but also for non-English-speaking patients, women seeking reproductive care, people with disabilities, and other communities that have historically faced barriers to healthcare.

Second, SB 418 addresses a growing and urgent barrier to care: disruptions in access to prescription hormone therapy. California has led the way in providing greater access to reproductive healthcare and passed SB 999 (Pavley, Chap. 499, Stats of 2016), which authorized a pharmacist to dispense a 12-month supply of FDA approved self-administered hormonal contraceptives. SB 418 rightly applies this same model to prescription hormone therapy, helping patients maintain continuity of care while easing pressure on an overstretched health system. These protections will benefit not only transgender individuals,

but also patients undergoing cancer treatment, those experiencing menopause, and others managing hormone-related conditions.

We strongly support SB 418 and thank you for your leadership to ensure equal access to care. For these reasons and more, we urge you to **SUPPORT SB 418**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PB', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

PATRICIA BARAHONA  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Youth Leadership Institute