

1 Furthermore, we instruct our Conference Secretary to transmit this resolution to the Governors
2 and heads of the House and Senate of the States of Oregon and Idaho.

4 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

5 **What will this action accomplish?**

6 This resolution affirms and celebrates transgender persons. By sending this resolution to
7 elected officials in Oregon and Idaho, we, as the United Methodist Church will be taking a stand
8 on protecting and supporting transgender persons in both of our states.

10 **Why is it important?**

11 This resolution sends our message of support for transgender persons to the political leaders of
12 the states where we do ministry. It also raises awareness within our congregations for the need
13 to support and respect trans persons.

14 The following information details the research and facts about the impact of anti-trans laws,
15 especially on youth and young adults

17 A report from the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law estimates, “more than 54,000
18 transitioning transgender youth ages 13-17 are at risk of losing access to gender-affirming
19 medical care...the figures are staggering considering that only 150,000 American youth identify
20 as transgender...The most extreme measure was recently passed by the Idaho House of
21 Representatives.” Thankfully the Idaho Senate did not address the bill, but it would have made
22 it illegal to cross state lines to obtain gender-affirming treatment and it stated providing gender
23 affirming surgery on transgender youth would be a felony. (Most states do not allow for
24 surgeries until 18 years old). (source: NPR)

26 Recent legislation in Texas has led to a 150% increase in LGBTQAI+ crisis contacts among
27 youth with the Trevor Project between 2020 and 2021. After their recent legislation in Texas,
28 the Trevor Project, “received more than 10,800 total crisis contacts. Transgender or nonbinary
29 youth made up more than 3,900 of those crisis contacts.” (Scientific American)
30 All this recent legislation is in direct violation of guidelines from the American Psychiatric
31 Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. A
32 survey in 2018 published by *Pediatrics*, “found that 30-50% of young trans and nonbinary
33 people reported a previous suicide attempt, compared with less than 9% of all
34 adolescents...Gender affirming care has been associated with a nearly 40% reduction in
35 depression and in attempting suicide this past year. Furthermore, trans youth who have access
36 to puberty suppressants have a much lower risk of lifetime suicide as adults.” (Scientific
37 American)

39 The Trevor Project’s 2020 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health showed that, “54%
40 of young people who identified as transgender or nonbinary reported having seriously
41 considered suicide in the last year, and 29% have made an attempt to end their lives. In
42 contrast, numerous research studies have found that gender-affirming care leads to improved
43 mental health among TGNB youth.” Dr. Kareen M, Matouk, from Columbia University states, “It
44 is clear that these proposed laws have a drastically negative impact on TGNB youth and their

1 families, compounding the prejudice, discrimination, violence, and other forms of stigma they
2 continue to face in their daily lives. Indeed, research has demonstrated that the sociopolitical
3 climate and legislation targeting the LGBTQ community impair the mental and physical health of
4 individuals in the community. (source: Columbia University)

5
6 Results of the Trevor Project “National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2021”
7 42% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more
8 that half of transgender and nonbinary youth.

9
10 94% of LGBTQ youth reported that recent politics negatively impacted their mental health
11 Transgender and nonbinary youth who reported having pronouns respected by all the people
12 they lived with attempted suicide at half the rate of those who did not have their pronouns
13 respected by anyone with whom they lived.

14
15 Transgender and nonbinary youth who were able to change their name and/or gender marker
16 on legal documents reported lower rates of attempting suicide.

17
18 LGBTQ youth who had access to spaces that affirmed their sexual orientation and gender
19 identity reported lower rates of attempting suicide.

20
21 77% of TGNB youth reported symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder in the past two weeks.

22
23 The Trevor Project “Facts About LGBTQ Youth Suicide”:

- 24 • LGBTQ youth are more than 4X as likely to attempt suicide than their peers
- 25 • TGNB youth were 2 to 2.5X as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously
26 consider suicide, and attempt suicide compared to their cisgender LGBQ peers.
- 27 • Black TGNB youth report disproportionate rates of suicide risk – with 59% seriously
28 considering suicide and more than 1 in 4 (26%) attempting suicide in the past year.
- 29 • Having at least one accepting adult can reduce the risk of suicide attempt among
30 LGBTQ young people by 40% (Think how impactful a church can be).
- 31 • TGNB youth who reported gender identity acceptance from adults and peers had
32 significantly lower odds of attempting suicide in the past year.
- 33 • LGBTQ youth who report high levels of social support from family and friends are
34 significantly less likely to attempt suicide compared to those with lower levels of social support.
- 35 • LGBTQ youth who reported having at least one LGBTQ affirming space had 35%
36 reduced odds of reporting a suicide attempt in the past year.
- 37 • Gender-affirming hormone therapy is significantly related to lower rates of depression,
38 suicidal thoughts, and suicide attempts among TGNB youth

39
40 Resources:

- 41 • NPR – “A Third of Trans Youth Area at Risk of Losing Gender-affirming Care, Study
42 Says,” March 21, 2022 by Vanessa Romo

- 1 • Scientific American – “Anti-Trans Laws Will Have a Chilling Effect on Medicine,” March
- 2 31, 2022, by Ashley Andreou
- 3 • Columbia University, Department of Psychiatry – “Gender-affirming Care Saves Lives,”
- 4 March 30, 2022 by Kareen M. Matouk and Melina Wald
- 5 • TheTrevorProject.org
- 6 • OHSU medical doctors report on work with transgender persons:
- 7 • [https://news.ohsu.edu/2021/04/19/affirming-healthcare-is-life-saving-for-transgender-](https://news.ohsu.edu/2021/04/19/affirming-healthcare-is-life-saving-for-transgender-youth)
- 8 [youth](https://news.ohsu.edu/2021/04/19/affirming-healthcare-is-life-saving-for-transgender-youth)
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10 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

11 The Conference Secretary will send the official copy of this resolution to the governors and

12 heads of the House and Senate of the states of Oregon and Idaho.

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14 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

15 Minimal fiscal impact for stamps and paper and the time to print and send this resolution to

16 elected officials.