**Trump’s Biggest Attack on the Trans Community Yet**

**Norfolk, VA** – The Trump Administration has once again come after the rights of the transgender community, people he promised to protect when he said, [*“As your president, I will do everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens.”*](https://www.vox.com/2016/7/21/12254616/trump-acceptance-speech-lgbtq-rnc)

Despite that promise, this administration has banned transgender soldiers from continuing to serve, has rescinded guidance at the education department to tackle bullying, has supported “religious freedom” laws that grant a license to discriminate, and has directed the department of Housing and Urban Development to allow discrimination in housing and homeless shelters on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. **In their latest move, this administration – through the Department of Health and Human Services - has announced that health care providers may turn away transgender patients by ignoring the Health Care Rights Law, a part of the Affordable Care Act that bans gender discrimination.**

Who will benefit from additional homelessness? Condemning people – anyone – to the streets is a compassionless act that makes our communities weaker, preys on the most vulnerable among us, and threatens the survival of our friends, families and neighbors. Who will benefit from fellow Americans being denied the vital health care services they need to survive? This policy seeks to erase transgender Americans by blocking their basic right to access health care and their right to survive.

Transgender individuals already fight an uphill battle in our health care system even with this law in place that protects them. [23% of transgender people have avoided going to a doctor](https://www.ustranssurvey.org/) when sick or injured out of fear of discrimination in the past year, and 33% of transgender people who saw a health care provider in the past year were harassed, denied care, or even assaulted.

**LGBT Life Center stands committed to combating these hateful policies that weaken our communities.** We condemn this administration’s attack on anti-discrimination policies and on the health and well-being of our LGBTQ family. Through advocacy, education, our LGBTQ and HIV specialty clinic, counseling services and medical and social support services, we will fight back against these attempts to be erased.

For more information on the LGBT Life Center, please visit www.lgbtlifecenter.org or call 757-640-0929.

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**ABOUT LGBT LIFE CENTER**: LGBT Life Center was formerly known as CANDII House, Full Circle CANDII, and ACCESS AIDS Care/LGBT Center of Hampton Roads until June of 2017 when it expanded its mission and rebranded as LGBT Life Center. For 29 Years, LGBT Life Center has been a trusted leader that empowers the LGBTQ communities and all people affected by HIV through improving health and wellness, strengthening families and communities and providing transformative education and advocacy.