

Dear Members of the Cornell LGBTQ+ Community,

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the White House and Departments of Education and Justice withdrew the federal guidance on transgender students that was issued in May 2016. This was historic guidance for the nation's schools on the needs and rights of hundreds of thousands of students who are transgender. The guidance summarized over a decade of best practices from across the country, advising schools that under the federal Title IX law, schools should treat trans students according to their gender identity. This guidance allowed students throughout our nation to use restrooms matching their gender identity, as well as expected schools to honor one's gender identity in areas related to instruction, inclusive of names and pronouns.

A complete list of frequently asked questions and answers is available from the [National Center for Transgender Equality](#), which provides both background and explanation for what is happening.

As a reminder for us at Cornell and in New York State, New York State [Human Rights Law \(by means of regulation\) covers gender identity as a protected class](#). Governor Cuomo has also issued statements today related to [New York State protections and trans rights](#). Cornell has [policies in place which protect our communities](#) from harassment and discrimination related to gender identity, and these policies reinforce this for all members of our community - students, faculty, and staff.

However, even with the law and policies in place throughout our state and in our local community, the climate for our transgender community is still deeply impacted by the ongoing federal and state actions regarding the rights of transgender people. Now is the time to reach out and provide support, to check in with those who you know, and to be sensitive to what you can do to create an inclusive, welcoming and supportive campus for our transgender and gender queer communities. There are still systemic and social barriers that impact our students, faculty, and staff every day.

All of us working together can continue to improve the climate for our community. As we continue to advocate for change, take time to imagine how you might be able to improve the Cornell and Ithaca experience for our transgender community. We have much work yet to do and this work is our collective work!

Take good care of each other,

***The Staff and Students of the LGBT Resource Center***

## Additional Resources from the LGBT Resource Center

At Cornell, students and those who support them are encouraged to access resources at <https://www.gannett.cornell.edu/>, (607) 255-5155, 24 hours a day. Our faculty and staff struggling to make sense of this have the Faculty and Staff Assistance program available to them as well, with more information accessible at <http://fsap.cornell.edu/> or by calling, (607) 255-2673.

*Below are other resources that may be helpful at this time:*

### National Hotlines/Resources:

- **The Trevor Project** (<http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>)  
(866) 488-7386
- **The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender National Hotline** (<http://www.glbtonationalhelpcenter.org/>)  
(888) 843-4564
- **The GLBT National Youth Talkline** (<http://www.glnh.org/talkline/>)  
(Youth serving youth through age 25)  
(800) 246-7743
- **The TransLifeline Transgender Crisis:** (<http://www.translifeline.org/>)  
(877) 565-8860
- **The National Runaway Switchboard**  
1-800-RUNAWAY
- **Crisis Text Line: 741-741** (<http://www.crisistextline.org/>)  
*Crisis Text Line Serves anyone, in any type of crisis, providing access to free, 24/7 support and information via text. Simple text 741-741 from anywhere in the USA, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds quickly, helping you "move from a hot moment to a cool moment." Please note that this Crisis Text Line is not specific to LGBTQ+ people.*

**Still seeking more? Find Resources where you are:**

- **Find support in your community!** (<http://resources.lgbtcenters.org/Directory/default.aspx>)