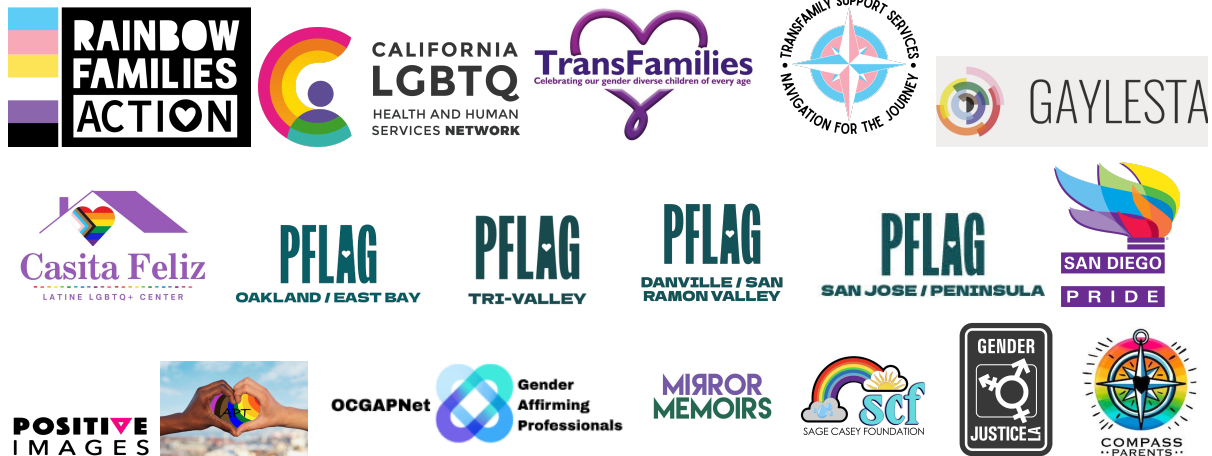




Dear Messrs. Thomas, Smith, Vial, et al:

Rainbow Families Action was profoundly shocked to learn a few days ago from our community that Sutter Health has quietly announced an abrupt end in the near future to all gender-affirming care (GAC) for patients under age 19. As far as we know, you have provided no formal notice, explanation, or clinical justification, nor have you given those responsible for the care of our trans and gender-diverse youth the time or protocols to continue treatment elsewhere, despite the significant risks that discontinuity poses to patients' mental and physical wellbeing.

Our children rely on consistent, affirming care to live healthy, stable, hopeful lives. To just end that care, without warning, is unconscionably cruel. It is a breach of trust, a violation of medical ethics, and a direct threat to our kids' mental health and safety.

It is also illegal. [California Attorney General Rob Bonta has made it clear to healthcare providers like Sutter](#) that "California law prohibits healthcare providers and insurers from discriminating or denying healthcare services to a patient for being transgender, nonbinary, gender nonconforming, or intersex, or due to a diagnosis of gender dysphoria." And as you presumably know, medical organizations worldwide—including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the Endocrine Society—support gender-affirming care as lifesaving and medically necessary. Abruptly removing access can heighten anxiety, depression, self-harm risk, and overall distress for transgender youth, who already face disproportionate mental-health challenges due to societal discrimination. Sutter knows these truths and has, nonetheless, chosen to discontinue care in spite of them.

The fact that this decision was communicated to internal Sutter staff on November 20 — Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day meant to honor the lives lost to anti-trans violence — sends a chilling message to our families. Instead of honoring trans lives, Sutter is choosing to harm them. To add insult to injury, this news comes right after the end of open enrollment, trapping families in a system that will no longer care for their children.

Rainbow Families Action and our partners demand that Sutter Health reverse course on this decision immediately. We call on you, Sutter's leaders, to provide:

- An immediate meeting between Sutter leaders and the impacted families.
- A commitment to families in the Sutter system to not pre-capitulate before it's legally necessary
- A formalized plan for continuity of care in the event that GAC might be wound down.

Parents should never have to fight their own medical care organization to protect their children's health. We refuse to stand by while Sutter pre-emptively bows to political pressure instead of standing up for our kids. California law is clear: our children deserve stability, respect, and the same medically appropriate care as any other child.

We look forward to your reply,

Rainbow Families Action

Co-Signed by

CA LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
TransFamilies Silicon Valley
TransFamilies Santa Cruz
Gaylesta
TransFamily Support Services
APT
Positive Images
Gender Affirming Professionals
Compass Parents
Sage Casey Foundation
Mirror Memoirs
Gender Justice LA
San Diego Pride
PFLAG Tri Valley
PFLAG San Jose
PFLAG Oakland/East Bay
PFLAG Danville/San Ramon