

Gender and Sexuality Alliance at the UVM Larner College of Medicine
Statement on Affirmation of Trans Rights as Consistent with UVM Protocol and State Law
October 2018

The Larner College of Medicine echoes the University of Vermont's statement affirming the rights and protections of our transgender, intersex, non-binary, and gender nonconforming communities. The Trump administration's new proposed memo, through the Department of Health and Human Services, would effectively end legal protections of transgender individuals. According to the *New York Times*, the agency is looking to push a federal definition of sex and gender that is "either male or female, unchangeable, and determined by the genitals that a person is born with," and "any dispute about one's sex would have to be clarified using genetic testing."

The definition put forward by the Trump administration would readily affect Title IX, a federal civil rights bill that bans gender discrimination for schools which receive federal funding. Additionally, this memo would further erode protections in the Affordable Care Act, which have been used to investigate discrimination of transgender individuals within the healthcare system.

As members of the Larner College of Medicine community, we strongly oppose the memo's proposals which are not based in scientific evidence and unsupported by major medical societies including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. We affirm that gender is a spectrum, can be fluid, and people of all gender identities have the right to self-determination. As a community passionate about providing effective care to historically marginalized populations, we stand in support of our transgender, intersex, non-binary, and gender nonconforming communities. We vehemently oppose any federal notion that attempts to invalidate and delegitimize these populations, in keeping with our values as healthcare providers who advocate for the dignity of all people.