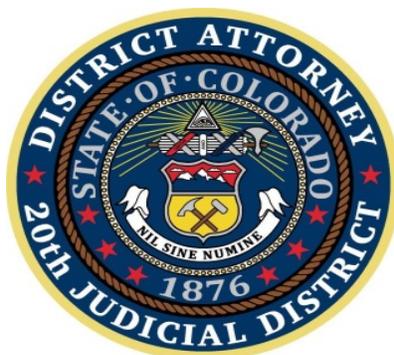




OUT BOULDER COUNTY



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Out Boulder County, District Attorney's Office, & Other Leaders Condemn the Criminalization of Transgender People and Gender-Affirming Healthcare**

Elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders – including Attorneys General, District Attorneys and law enforcement heads, as well as the Law Enforcement Action Partnership and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives – issued a [joint statement](#) condemning efforts by state legislatures across the country to criminalize transgender people and gender-affirming healthcare. In 2021 alone, at least 105 bills that discriminate against transgender people have been proposed in 34 states and 10 have become law. The signatories emphasized that these efforts are a threat to public safety, serve no legitimate purpose and erode trust that is critical to protecting all members of our community.

The joint statement deems the recent tide of anti-trans bills “blatantly unconstitutional attacks on some of the most vulnerable Americans [which] will deeply harm public safety.” It notes that the high rate of violence against trans people is “both a moral travesty and an obstacle in our collective efforts to prevent crime, build public trust, and promote community well-being.” Accordingly, signatories state: “[W]e pledge to use our settled discretion and limited resources on enforcement of laws that will not erode the safety and well-being of our community. And we do not support the use of scarce criminal justice and law enforcement resources on criminalization of doctors who offer medically necessary, safe gender-affirming care to trans

youth, parents who safeguard their child's health and wellbeing by seeking out such treatments, or any individuals who use facilities aligned with their gender identity.”

The District Attorney's Office and Out Boulder County support this strong statement. DA Dougherty explained, “Our office signed on to this letter because we strongly oppose legislation seeking to criminalize transgender people and their healthcare. In Boulder County, we are extremely fortunate to have Out Boulder County to educate, advocate, and provide support for our LGBTQ community members. But these legislative efforts reflect that much work remains to be done, in Colorado and beyond.”

Executive Director Mardi Moore stated, “In 2021, an extraordinary number of bills have been floated by the politicians using our transgender youth as a wedge issue in their attempt to gain more votes. These hateful and ignorant pieces of legislation only strengthens Out Boulder County's education and advocacy activities. At OBC we know that changing hearts and minds is arduous work, but it is this work that will eventually lead us all to a more inclusive and equitable world. We are grateful for Michael Dougherty and his team at the Boulder County District Attorney's Office who once again have made it clear that transgender adults and youth will not be vilified nor targeted in the criminal justice system.”

Read the joint statement and see the full list of signatories [here](#).