



MASSACHUSETTS  
TRANSGENDER  
POLITICAL  
COALITION

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2025

ADVOCACY & ORGANIZING  
FRAMEWORK

## SD.1296/HD.1541: AN ACT PROTECTING PERSONAL SECURITY

### What's the issue?

Currently in Massachusetts, anyone legally changing their name must publish a notice in a local newspaper regarding their name change. Additionally, legal name changes are public record unless a judge approves a separate motion to impound the record. These are both major privacy and security concerns for people who are legally changing their name.



### How does this bill address it?

This bill will end the publication requirement for legal name changes in Massachusetts, as nearly all other neighboring states have done. Additionally, it will keep name changes private if the court finds that there is a threat to security or safety. The bill explicitly names gender nonconformity and status as transgender and/or survivor of domestic violence as examples of appropriate circumstances for impoundment.

## SD.1116: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

This bill will create the MA Commission on the Status of Transgender People (MCSTP), an independent state agency that will monitor the status of transgender people in Massachusetts, including, but not limited to, the implementation and enforcement of antidiscrimination laws, access to gender-affirming healthcare, insurance coverage, and accurate identity documents. This commission will operate similarly to other commissions that the legislature has established, including the MA Commission on the Status of Women and the MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth.



The MCSTP will be made up of 20 commissioners drawn from diverse backgrounds who have personal and/or professional experience serving or supporting transgender people. More details on the makeup of the commission can be found [here](#).

## SD.1220/HD.1500: AN ACT RELATIVE TO TRANS-INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE ACCESS

### What's the issue?

Currently insurance companies in MA are able to set arbitrary expiration dates for letters that certify a patient's eligibility for receiving gender-affirming healthcare. This is especially problematic for patients seeking surgery where hair removal is a prerequisite.



Additionally, many health insurance companies require at least two letters from mental health practitioners. This practice is unfair and likely a mental health parity violation as there are very few, if any, medical procedures that require diagnoses from two separate providers before a health plan will approve coverage.

Making trans people navigate unnecessary bureaucracy such as this is a major equity issue that can be burdensome and in some cases may prevent people from accessing critical healthcare.

### How does this bill address it?

This bill will bar insurance companies from setting arbitrary expiration dates for letters certifying a patient's eligibility to receive gender-affirming care and prevent them from requiring more than one of these letters.

# SD.501/HD.2965: AN ACT TO PROTECT LOCATION PRIVACY

## What's the issue?

Currently, there are no restrictions on companies selling, trading, or renting location information taken from electronic devices including cell phones, tablets, computers, and more. This is particularly dangerous for individuals who may face increased risk of violence, or who are accessing or providing reproductive or gender-affirming healthcare.



## How does this bill address it?

This bill will prohibit companies from selling, trading, or renting your location information in Massachusetts and ensure that companies collect and use your location data only with your permission. This will protect domestic abuse survivors, abortion patients, trans people and their families, doctors, nurses, journalists, and all Massachusetts residents.



## ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

### INCREASE GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE COMPETENCIES

Through a collaborative effort of our advocacy, and education and training teams, we seek to increase the knowledge, competency, and confidence of all healthcare providers throughout Massachusetts in providing informed, inclusive, and affirming care for transgender and nonbinary people.



### DEVELOPING COMMUNITY CARE EFFORTS

We seek to help develop community care efforts for trans and nonbinary people throughout the Commonwealth, especially focusing on youth. This could be everything from peer-to-peer support groups, training and support for behavioral healthcare providers, to micro-grants for youth and/or their families to celebrate joy and community during this especially challenging time.





## REBUILD MTPC'S INTERFAITH TRANS ADVOCACY NETWORK

Over the years, MTPC has fostered many relationships with faith leaders and congregations throughout the Commonwealth, most recently during the highly successful Yes on 3 campaign in 2018 to protect trans rights at the voting booth. We cherish the many members of many faiths who have stood resolutely in their support for transgender and nonbinary people in opposition to the often faith-based attacks of our political opposition. We seek to expand these relationships by reestablishing MTPC's Interfaith Trans Advocacy Network. This network, built on the strong foundation of the many faith communities in Massachusetts, will support and uplift trans clergy members, organize faith communities to advance trans and nonbinary rights, provide congregations a way to be connected in their support for trans and nonbinary people, and help us all shift the narrative on the relationships between trans people and faith communities.



## EXPAND THE MASS. TRANS HEALTH COALITION

Since 2014 MTPC has facilitated and led the Massachusetts Trans Health Coalition to hold a collaborative space for healthcare providers and advocates to advance their priorities for protecting and expanding access to gender-affirming healthcare in Massachusetts. We're working to expand this coalition to include opportunities for patients and community members to get involved, provide DEIB training for the group, and create a governance structure for the coalition to be a more autonomous group.





## ORGANIZING STRATEGIES

### TRACKING HATE

Working together with our community partners, we plan to create a process for reporting and tracking discrimination and anti-LGBTQ hate throughout Massachusetts. While this sounds depressing—and it is—we need this kind of data and information to tell the true story of the lived experiences of trans and nonbinary Bay Staters, not just how the law claims to protect us.



### PROVIDING INTERSECTIONAL TRANS POLITICAL EDUCATION

We're developing a trans-focused intersectional political education curriculum to provide urgent and required development to community leaders, organizers, activists, volunteers, and supporters. We believe that this is a key step in building unity, fellowship, and collaboration on our journey toward collective liberation. This curriculum will cover the basics of politics and advocacy, media literacy, the history and present of the trans liberation movement, the intersections of all liberation and justice movements, and our vision for joyous, sustainable, and thriving new trans futures.



### CONNECT WITH US

To learn more and get involved, visit [www.masstpc.org/advocacy](http://www.masstpc.org/advocacy).