

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT

Alyssa Kress

akress@fairandjustprosecution.org

215-264-9665

Over 75 Criminal Justice Leaders Condemn the Criminalization of Transgender People and Gender-Affirming Healthcare

Elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders say legislation discriminating against trans people harms public safety and pledge to not use limited resources to criminalize gender-affirming healthcare

Today, 76 elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders – including Attorneys General, District Attorneys and law enforcement heads, as well as **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 emphasize 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.

“Transgender people experience unconscionably high rates of violent victimization, and discriminatory laws will only heighten that danger,” said **Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of Fair and Just Prosecution**, the organizer of the statement. “These laws have no public safety benefit and only put transgender members of our communities more at risk. Elected prosecutors have a responsibility to use their discretion to promote the safety and well-being of *every* person they are charged with protecting – these laws are in direct contravention of those obligations.”

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.”

“My community elected me to make decisions about how to use limited resources in the pursuit of justice and public safety. Laws criminalizing and discriminating against transgender people go

against my duty to protect every member of my community and to pursue equity and justice,” said **Nueces County, Texas District Attorney Mark Gonzalez**, a signatory to the statement.

Among the most concerning of these efforts are proposals to prevent trans youth from accessing life-saving gender-affirming healthcare, with some going so far as to criminalize parents who allow their children to receive these treatments. In 2021 alone, 20 state legislatures have considered these bills, which would only put trans youth in harm’s way – research has found that access to gender-affirming healthcare reduces suicide risk, which is critical given a 2020 survey that found over half of trans and non-binary youth had seriously considered suicide.

“Efforts to discriminate against any group of people within my community undermine the trust I work every day to build as a law enforcement leader,” said **Charlottesville, Va. Police Chief RaShall M. Brackney**, a signatory to the statement. “We must invest in the strategies proven to improve public safety and not allow the bias and bigotry of some to become the starting point for our law enforcement or criminal legal systems.”

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

###

Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

List of Signatories

Diana Becton

District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

Wesley Bell

Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis County, Missouri

Buta Biberaj

Commonwealth's Attorney, Loudoun County, Virginia

Richard Biehl

Chief, Dayton Police Department, Ohio

Sherry Boston

District Attorney, DeKalb County, Georgia

Chesa Boudin

District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, California

RaShall M. Brackney, Ph.D.

Chief, Charlottesville Police Department, Virginia

Aisha Braveboy

State's Attorney, Prince George's County, Maryland

John Choi

County Attorney, Ramsey County, Minnesota

Jerry L. Clayton

Sheriff, Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor), Michigan

Shameca Collins

District Attorney, 6th Judicial District, Mississippi

Scott Colom

District Attorney, 16th Judicial District, Mississippi

John Creuzot

District Attorney, Dallas County, Texas

Satana Deberry

District Attorney, Durham County, North Carolina

Parisa Dehghani-Tafti

Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Virginia

Steve Descano

Commonwealth's Attorney, Fairfax County, Virginia

Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.

Attorney General, Vermont

Michael Dougherty

District Attorney, 20th Judicial District (Boulder), Colorado

Mark Dupree

District Attorney, Wyandotte County (Kansas City), Kansas

Matt Ellis

District Attorney, Wasco County, Oregon

Keith Ellison

Attorney General, Minnesota

Kim Foxx

State's Attorney, Cook County (Chicago), Illinois

Kimberly Gardner

Circuit Attorney, City of St. Louis, Missouri

José Garza

District Attorney, Travis County (Austin), Texas

George Gascón

District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California
Former District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, California
Former Chief, San Francisco Police Department, California
Former Chief, Mesa Police Department, Arizona

Sarah F. George

State's Attorney, Chittenden County, Vermont

Sim Gill

District Attorney, Salt Lake City, Utah

Joe Gonzales

District Attorney, Bexar County (San Antonio), Texas

Deborah Gonzalez

District Attorney, Western Judicial Circuit (Athens), Georgia

Eric Gonzalez

District Attorney, Kings County (Brooklyn), New York

Mark Gonzalez

District Attorney, Nueces County (Corpus Christi), Texas

Andrea Harrington

District Attorney, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Mark Herring

Attorney General, Commonwealth of Virginia

Jim Hingeley

Commonwealth's Attorney, Albemarle County, Virginia

John Hummel

District Attorney, Deschutes County, Oregon

Natasha Irving
District Attorney, 6th Prosecutorial District, Maine

Letitia James
Attorney General, New York

Kathy Jennings
Attorney General, Delaware

Zach Klein
City Attorney, Columbus, Ohio

Justin F. Kollar
Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i, Hawaii

Lawrence S. Krasner
District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Brian S. Mason
District Attorney, 17th Judicial District, Colorado

Beth McCann
District Attorney, 2nd Judicial District (Denver), Colorado

Ryan Mears
Prosecuting Attorney, Marion County (Indianapolis), Indiana

Spencer Merriweather
District Attorney, Mecklenburg County (Charlotte), North Carolina

Marilyn Mosby
State's Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland

Jody Owens
District Attorney, Hinds County (Raymond and Jackson), Mississippi

Alonzo Payne
District Attorney, 12th Judicial District (San Luis), Colorado

Joseph Platania
Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Charlottesville, Virginia

Bryan Porter
Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Alexandria, Virginia

Abdul Pridgen
Chief, Seaside Police Department, California

Karl A. Racine
Attorney General, District of Columbia

Kwame Raoul
Attorney General, State of Illinois

Rachael Rollins
District Attorney, Suffolk County (Boston), Massachusetts

Jeff Rosen
District Attorney, Santa Clara County, California

Ellen Rosenblum
Attorney General, Oregon

Marian Ryan
District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Tori Verber Salazar
District Attorney, San Joaquin County (Stockton), California

Dan Satterberg
Prosecuting Attorney, King County (Seattle), Washington

Eli Savit
Prosecuting Attorney, Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor), Michigan

Mike Schmidt
District Attorney, Multnomah County (Portland), Oregon

Daniella Shorter
District Attorney, 22nd Judicial District, Mississippi

Carol Siemon
Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County (Lansing), Michigan

David Soares
District Attorney, Albany County, New York

David Sullivan
District Attorney, Northwestern District, Massachusetts

Shannon Taylor

Commonwealth's Attorney, Henrico County, Virginia

Raúl Torrez

District Attorney, Bernalillo County (Albuquerque), New Mexico

Gregory Underwood

Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Norfolk, Virginia

Suzanne Valdez

District Attorney, Douglas County, Kansas

Matthew Van Houten

District Attorney, Tompkins County (Ithaca), New York

Cyrus R. Vance

District Attorney, New York County (Manhattan), New York

Andrew Warren

State Attorney, 13th Judicial Circuit (Tampa), Florida

Todd Williams

District Attorney, Buncombe County (Asheville), North Carolina

Monique H. Worrell

State Attorney, 9th Judicial Circuit, Florida

Organizations

Law Enforcement Action Partnership

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives