

October 26, 2018

STATEMENT ON THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN TO REDEFINE GENDER  
TO EXCLUDE TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX INDIVIDUALS FROM CIVIL RIGHTS  
PROTECTIONS

The Judge David L. Bazelon Center joins numerous civil rights and medical organizations in condemning the Trump administration's reported plan to redefine sex in Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in order to remove transgender and intersex individuals from civil rights protections. Under the reported new definition, sex would be defined based on a person's sex organs at birth. This definition flies in the face of the scientific and societal understanding of gender.

Efforts to remove federal civil rights protections for any group of individuals subjected to prejudice and discrimination pose grave concerns. Such a change in definition at the very highest levels of government gives credence to the discrimination, societal prejudice, and rejection that cause great harm and trauma, including to the victims of discrimination as well as to our society. Rather than perpetuating antiquated stigma of transgender individuals, the Administration should work to support transgender people and promote inclusion and freedom from discrimination. The Bazelon Center calls on the Administration not to promulgate this proposed redefinition of sex. Transgender rights are civil rights and our federal law and policy must reflect that.