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The State of Trans-Inclusive Healthcare at the UNC System Universities

Transgender people are people whose gender identity or expression differs from their sex assigned at birth. In 2018, the Center for American Progress found that one in three transgender people had been denied medical care by a healthcare provider because of their gender identity. In 2015, the US Transgender Survey found that around one in four transgender people has declined to seek health care when they need it due to fear of mistreatment. Despite the increase in focus on transgender health disparities, research on this topic has neglected to investigate the trans-inclusivity of on-campus student health resources. The focus of this paper is to examine the current status of trans-inclusive healthcare at the sixteen UNC System Universities and to provide policy suggestions to improve these resources.

Priority 1: Removing Policies and Barriers that are detrimental to the physical and mental health of transgender or gender-nonconforming students

- **Removing the UNC Board of Governors' Ban on Gender Inclusive Housing.** Students are required to live on-campus for some or all their time in college in twelve of the sixteen institutions. This ban can burden students financially and put their safety and mental health at risk by not being able to live in housing that matches their gender identity.

Priority 2: Increasing and Improving LGBTQ resources on campuses

- **A formal University-run LGBTQ Center is one where the center is staffed by University employees, not dependent on student labor to function, and where the Center is focused on LGBTQ programming and advocacy.** Nine out of sixteen UNC System Universities do not have a formal University-run LGBTQ Center. Minority serving institutions are less likely to have a formal University-run LGBTQ Center.
- **In 2015, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation found that 41% of spectators and athletes have witnessed anti-LGBTQ attitudes amongst fans. No UNC System university has an LGBTQ-inclusive fan code of conduct to ensure that sporting events explicitly welcome and protect LGBTQ fans.**

Priority 3: Researching future development

- **Only one of the sixteen universities have conducted a campus climate survey focused on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.** In 2011, UNC Chapel-Hill found that 33.3% of surveyed transgender, genderqueer or intersex students concealed/modified their gender identity or gender expression when interacting with their campus health practitioner.
- **Over 100 colleges and universities cover hormone replacement therapy in their student health insurance plans. This statistic includes all 16 UNC System Universities. However, there is no information on how easy it is for students to start or continue using HRT on their respective campuses.**