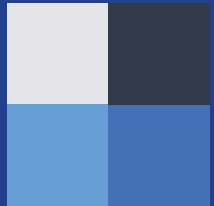


What You Can Do to Secure the Rights and Well-Being of LGBTQ People





WHO AM I?

- **Rodrigo Heng-Lehtinen**
- **He/him**
- **Executive Director**
- **National Center for Transgender Equality**



WHAT WE'LL GO OVER TODAY

- What are the LGBTQ health disparities?
- What changes are needed in the field?
- What legislation or policy is needed?
- What can YOU do to help?
- Q&A



What are the LGBTQ health disparities?

- **Source: US Transgender Survey**
- **33% reported in prior year having been turned away from treatment, been physically or sexually assaulted in a health care setting, or faced another form of discrimination due to transgender status**



What are the LGBTQ health disparities?

- **39% of respondents reported they were currently experiencing serious psychological distress**
 - **Nearly 8x higher than general population**
 - **Rate of serious distress is highest among those early (0-5 years) in transition**
 - **Trans people with supportive families were significantly *less* likely to report serious distress**



What are the LGBTQ health disparities?

- **48% reported having experienced serious suicidal ideation in the previous year**
 - **12x higher than general population**
 - **Suicidality is largely driven by discrimination and unaccepting family/community**



What are the LGBTQ health disparities?

- Issues with accessing gender-specific procedures
- Respondents assigned female at birth significantly less likely to have received a Pap smear in prior year
 - 27% vs. 43% for cis women



What are the LGBTQ health disparities?

- **Source: APA**
- **LGBTQ individuals are more than 2x as likely as heterosexual men and women to have a mental health disorder in their lifetime.**
- **LGBTQ individuals are 2.5x more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and substance misuse compared with heterosexual individuals**



What are the LGBTQ health disparities?

- **Source: Center for American Progress**
- **17% of LGBTQ respondents reported having concerns that if they disclosed their sexual orientation to a health care provider, they could be denied good medical care**
- **15% of LGBTQ respondents reported experiencing refusal by a doctor or other health care provider in the year prior**
 - **23% among LGBTQ respondents *of color***



What are the LGBTQ health disparities?

- **Veterans Administration surgery ban**
- **State-level bans on transition-related healthcare for youth**
 - **Already enacted: AL, AR, AZ**
 - **OK***
 - **Currently considering bill: OH**



What are the LGBTQ health disparities?

- **State-level administrative actions**
 - TX
 - FL Medicaid ban
 - FL Board of Medicine
- **Threats against hospitals**



What changes are needed in the field?

- Intake forms in your medical practice
- Data collection in your health research
- Training for providers and front-line workers
 - CMEs, etc.
- Encouraging behavioral health providers to accept health insurance
- Rejection of “conversion” therapy



What legislation or policy is needed?

- Protecting 1557
- Making telehealth extension permanent
- Finally lifting VA surgery ban
- Stopping the trans youth healthcare bans
- Banning so-called “conversion” therapy



What legislation or policy is needed?

- Medicaid expansion
 - State-by-state
 - CMS/HHS regulations
- Adopting Colorado model for ACA benchmark plans
- Expanding coverage for gender-affirming care under health insurance plans
 - Eliminate exclusions
 - Reduce need to appeal for care that is supposed to be covered



What YOU can do

- **Issue statements/pass resolutions**
 - **On the broad issues, validating trans patients' experiences**
 - **On particular topics and legislation, especially when in your state**
- **Submit public comment on VA surgery ban when the time comes**

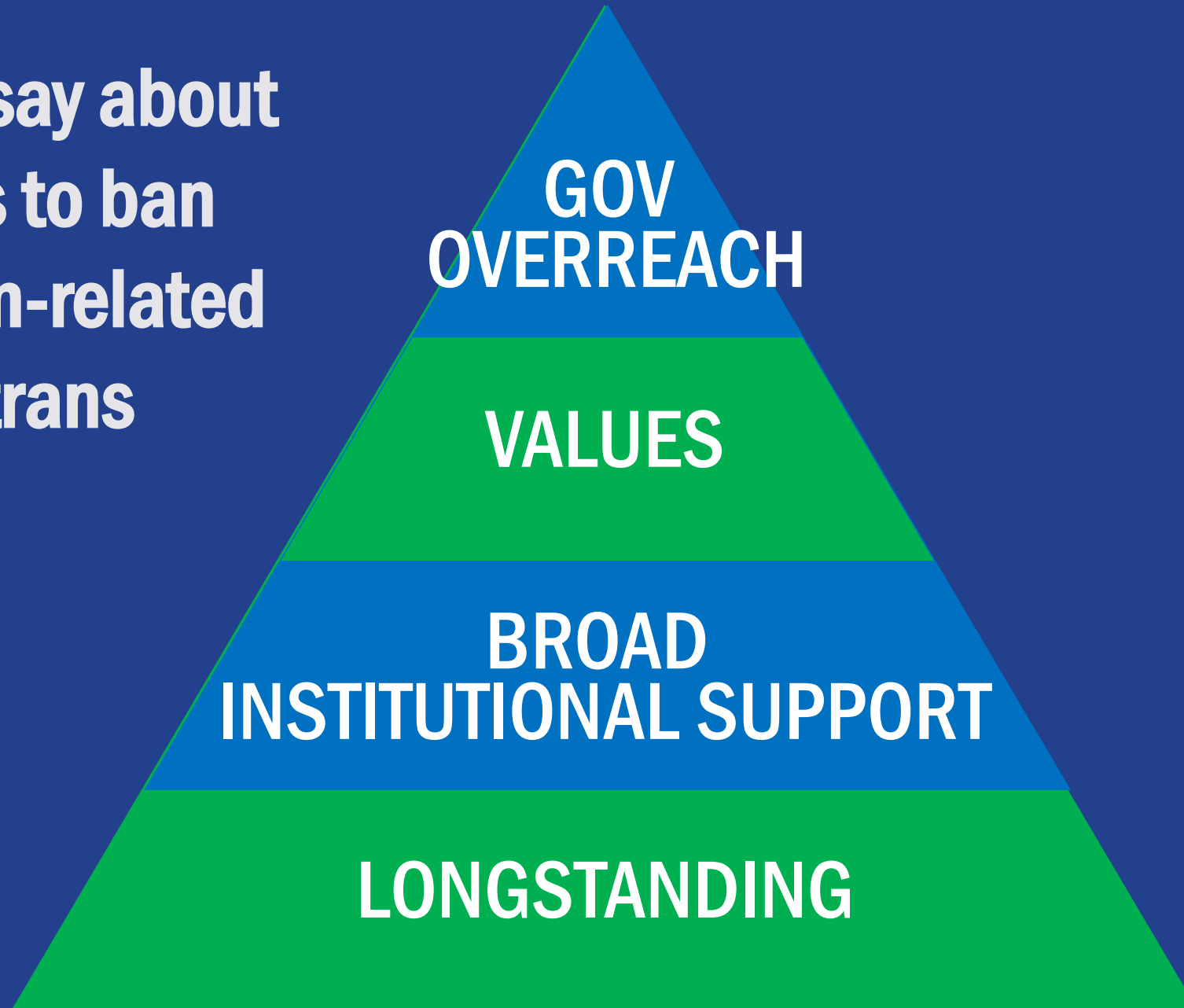


What YOU can do

- **Submit public comment on state level administrative actions**
 - e.g., Florida Board of Medicine rulemaking
- **Testify against anti-trans state legislation**



**What to say about
attempts to ban
transition-related
care for trans
youth**





What to say about attempts to ban transition-related care for trans youth

- Longstanding:
 - Transition-related healthcare has been studied for decades.
 - Medical providers have been providing transition-related care for more than four decades.



What to say about attempts to ban transition-related care for trans youth

- **Broad institutional support:**
 - Every major US medical and mental health organization supports transition-related care.
 - American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, Federation of Pediatric Organizations, and American Psychological Association



What to say about attempts to ban transition-related care for trans youth

- Values:
 - You don't need to understand everything about what it's like to be transgender to agree that every person deserves access to the medical care they need.
 - Everyone, including transgender people, should be able to visit health care providers who can support them.

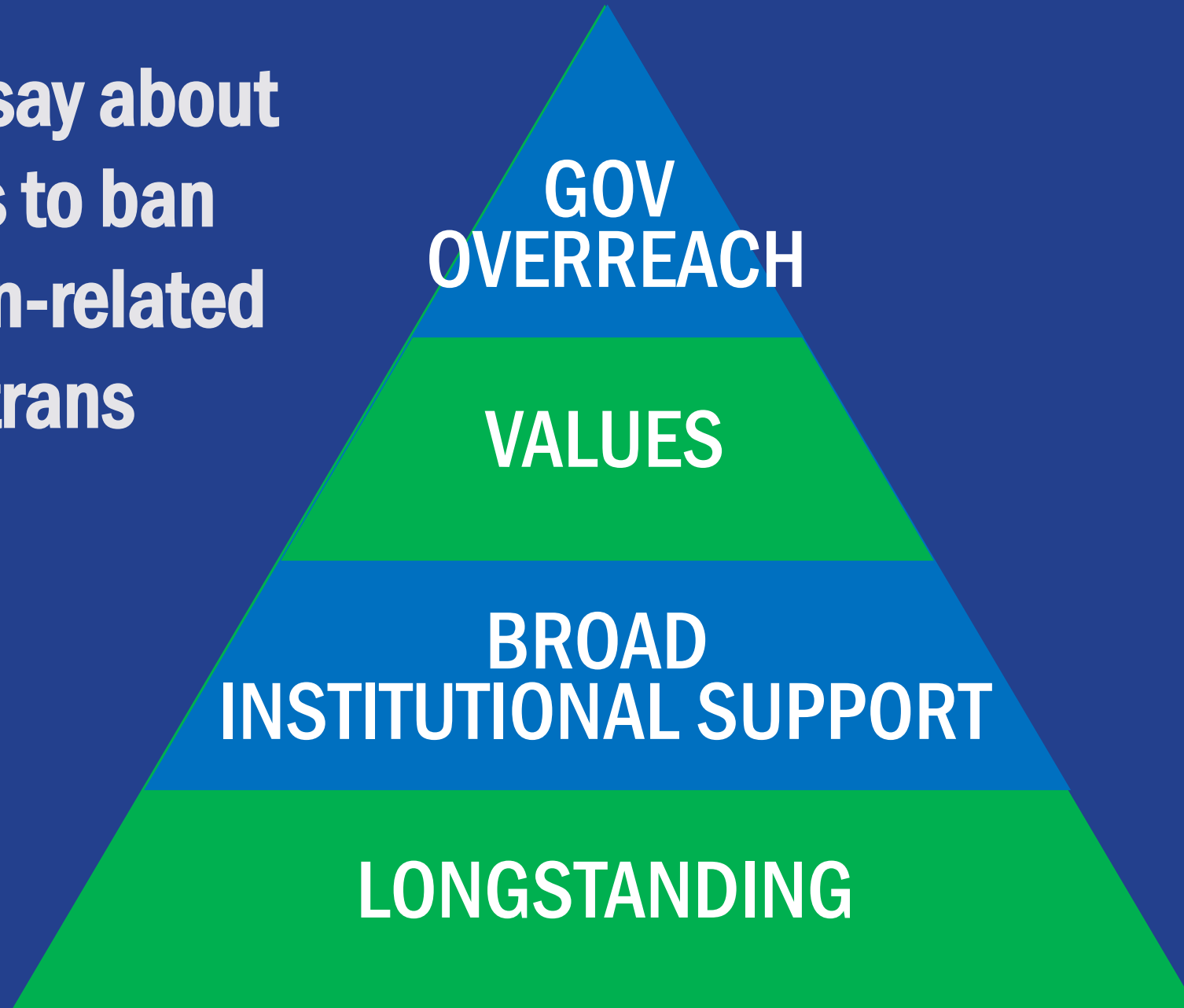


What to say about attempts to ban transition-related care for trans youth

- Bans as government overreach:
 - Medical decisions should be up to patients, families, and doctors – NOT politicians.



**What to say about
attempts to ban
transition-related
care for trans
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How NCTE can help

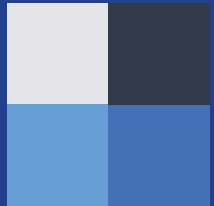
- **Provide information and resources**
 - **Best practices**
 - **State of the law**
 - **e.g., Identity Documents Center**
 - **Policy analysis**



How NCTE can help

- **Connect you with:**
 - **Local groups advocating at the state level**
 - **Experts**
 - **Media**

Thank you!



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