



State of Connecticut
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Legal Division ~ 450 Columbus Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

Promoting Equality and Justice for all People

TANYA HUGHES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Transgender Students' Rights are Protected in Connecticut

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities Executive Director Tanya Hughes issued the following statement in response to the announcement of a federal investigation into protections for transgender students in Connecticut public schools:

“Connecticut state law has expressly protected against discrimination based on gender identity since 2011. These protections include the rights of students to use bathrooms, locker rooms, and participate on sports teams that align with their gender identities.

The Trump administration’s attacks on Connecticut public schools for their policies—which are intended to protect transgender students’ civil rights—put school districts in an impossible position. The Trump administration’s actions are designed to cruelly target a small group of transgender children. Complying with the Trump administration’s demands would result in schools directly violating our state’s civil rights law. Failure to comply could result in the loss of vital education funding for Connecticut students, despite the questionable legality of withholding federal funds for this reason.

The CHRO stands with Connecticut students. We will continue fighting to protect equal access to education for all students, including students’ rights to safely experience and express their gender while at school.”