



PO Box 120160
Nashville TN 37212
(615) 320-7142
aclu-tn.org

April 17, 2026

Via U.S. Mail and Email to bill.lee@tn.gov

The Honorable Bill Lee
Governor of the State of Tennessee
Tennessee State Capitol, 1st Floor
600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: SB 676/HB 754

Dear Governor Lee,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee and its thousands of members across the state, I urge you to veto SB 676/HB 754. This bill, among other things, would require healthcare and insurance providers to report detailed information about themselves and their patients who receive gender-affirming healthcare to the state department of health, which would then publish this sensitive data on a publicly available government website. Medical providers who refuse to submit this information are subject to investigation by the state attorney general and reporter, six-month suspension of their professional licensure, and fines of up to \$150,000. SB 676/HB 754 represents massive government overreach into Tennesseans' personal healthcare decisions and erodes privacy protections for thousands of patients who rely on this crucial care. We urge you to use your veto to protect Tennesseans from these attacks on their fundamental rights.

Privacy and autonomy over individual healthcare decisions are core American principles that Tennessee must protect. The government should not threaten the ability of Tennesseans to make informed medical choices for themselves with the support of qualified healthcare professionals. But under SB 676/HB 754, the department of health must publish information including the dates of when a patient received gender-affirming care; any drugs they have been prescribed; and any neurological, behavioral, or mental health conditions they have been diagnosed with. The department will also collect the name, specialty, and contact information of the healthcare professional providing the care. As a result, transgender and intersex Tennesseans, especially from less populated areas, will face the risk of having their health information revealed simply because of their gender identity and proximity to their healthcare provider. This will force patients to choose between subjecting themselves to excessive and unwanted scrutiny or forgoing the healthcare they need. Similarly, for healthcare providers, the threat of professional licensure suspension and heavy fines for not



Tennessee

PO Box 120160
Nashville TN 37212
(615) 320-7142
aclu-tn.org

reporting information to the state will pressure them to stop treating transgender patients because the risks are so high. If signed into law, this legislation would functionally deprive Tennesseans of access to gender-affirming care altogether.

This precedent of excessive governmental interference is especially dangerous when applied to discrete communities, as is the case here. Tennessee law contains no parallel for these specific, invasive reporting requirements, meaning that this legislation would threaten transgender and intersex patients' privacy and autonomy in ways that do not apply to any other conditions like cancer or diabetes.

Tennesseans of all political views disfavor government interference in their personal medical decisions, as well as forced disclosure of their private, doctor-patient information and exchanges. Because it is doctors and patients who should make personal medical decisions, and not the government, we urge you to reject this proposed surveillance and investigation into Tennesseans' private medical decisions. As the former governor of Arkansas, Asa Hutchinson, put it when he used his veto to stop similar government overreach, "this is a time to show compassion and to resist the temptation to severely restrict private family health-care decisions."¹

We ask that you reject this legislation's excessive and unwarranted invasion into Tennesseans' medical decisions. Please **veto SB 676/HB 754**.

Sincerely,

Miriam R. Nemeth
Executive Director, ACLU of Tennessee

¹ Asa Hutchinson, *Why I vetoed my party's bill restricting health care for transgender youth*, Washington Post (Apr. 8, 2021), https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/asa-hutchinson-veto-transgender-health-bill-youth/2021/04/08/990c43f4-9892-11eb-962b-78e1d8228819_story.html.