



New York City Commission on Human Rights

22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007
212-306-7450 | 212-416-0197
www.nyc.gov/site/cohr

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 20, 2026

**STATEMENT FROM COMMISSIONER ANNABEL PALMA
OF THE NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
OPPOSING PROPOSED FEDERAL RULE TARGETING TRANSGENDER CARE**

NEW YORK, NY — The New York City Commission on Human Rights strongly opposes the proposed federal rule "*Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance*." Although it is framed to be about particular words in a federal law, in practice it will harm the transgender and gender nonconforming community.

The Commission contributed to comments submitted by the City of New York to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services opposing the rule because it is motivated by hostility towards transgender and gender nonconforming people and would deny people their basic rights as part of a broader effort to erode civil rights and limit access to health services.

Transgender and gender nonconforming people already face serious health and safety risks because of bias and discrimination. This rule would make those harms worse and create barriers for people seeking supports for gender dysphoria and other gender-affirming care.

If passed, this rule would weaken long-standing civil rights protections that ensure equal access and opportunity for all. It is against the values of New York City and in stark contrast to the NYC Human Rights Law.

###

The New York City Commission on Human Rights is the agency responsible for enforcing the NYC Human Rights Law, one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. The Commission works to promote equality and combat discrimination in New York City through law enforcement, community relations, and public education.