The Phyllis Schlafly Report

Half-Trans, Half-Free: Blue States Defy Trump

By John and Andy Schlafly

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Democrat-majority states are defying President Trump on the transgender issue, and dividing our Nation into half-trans and half-free. The free half are the states that protect girls' sports from males invading as transgenders, and which protect both boys and girls against mutilating transgender surgeries.

This country endured "half-slave, half-free" until it became impossible to co-exist that way, as the half-slave portion insisted on complicity by the half-free portion until it was no longer willing to go along. President Trump has already put an end to federal workers signing their emails with pronoun commands to recipients for how they address the senders.

On January 28, Trump signed an Executive Order that commanded every federal agency "that provides research or education grants to medical institutions, including medical schools and hospitals" to "immediately take appropriate steps to ensure that institutions receiving Federal research or education grants end the chemical and surgical mutilation of children."

President Trump further ordered the Attorney General to "prioritize enforcement of protections against female genital mutilation." Trump has also ended the transgender policies of our Armed Services.

On Feb. 7 and as made public on Monday, newly confirmed (by Vice President JD Vance's tie-breaking vote) Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth suspended all future military promotions of soldiers who have "a history of gender dysphoria." He canceled "all unscheduled, scheduled, or planned medical procedures associated with affirming or facilitating a gender transition for Service members."

As to boys and young men invading girls' school sports and locker rooms, Trump issued another Executive Order terminating that for all schools receiving federal funds. Only private high schools and a few private colleges do not receive federal funding.

"The war on women's sports is over," President Trump announced at his White House signing of this protection against unfair competition. He thereby rescinded a Biden policy encouraging boys to compete as transgender athletes in girls' sports, as many have.

The NCAA, which governs college sports, immediately issued a new policy in partial compliance with President Trump's orders. The NCAA immediately disallows men, as defined not by Trump's definition based on reproductive potential at conception but by birth certificates (which could be inaccurate) from competing in women's sporting events while still allowing men to practice with women and thus enter their locker rooms.

Blue states including New York and Minnesota are already flatly defying Trump's directives. Democrat New York officials have advised the many hospitals in New York City and throughout the state to continue to perform transgender surgeries on children even if that means they will lose federal funding.

A total of 23 Attorneys General from blue states have obtained a temporary restraining order (TRO) from a federal court in the blue state of Rhode Island against Trump's freezing of federal funding of hospitals and other institutions that are performing transgender operations on children. California and 14 other blue states have told hospitals not to cancel transgender procedures or else they would be in violation of state laws against discrimination.

A few hospitals had reportedly canceled a few transgender procedures, while the ACLU and others have sued to seek an injunction blocking Trump's order against transgender surgeries and treatments from taking effect. Federal power is at its zenith on the issue of how it spends its money, and thus Trump should ultimately prevail at the Supreme Court, but that Court may not resolve this anytime soon.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota State High School League has told schools there to continue to allow boys to compete as transgender athletes in girls' sports. In Virginia, which has a Republican governor, schools will comply with Trump's order against boys invading girls' sports.

Planned Parenthood is in the business of transgender treatments, so every Democrat-appointed judge sides with that agenda. Blue state judges rule entirely for transgender activists.

On Sunday the *New York Times* Editorial Board stated their opinion entitled "Trump's Shameful Campaign Against Transgender Americans," and asserted that Trump is siding with "the worst of" U.S. history. Yet grassroots politics are confirming the opposite.

In Pennsylvania, where the Democrat voter registration advantage over Republicans exceeded 800,000 voters in 2020, that margin has fallen to less than 200,000 and continues to plummet even after the recent election. Outspoken Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA), who will face

reelection there in the presidential year of 2028, observed in November that Trump's victory may have resulted from ads saying, "Kamala is for 'they/them.' President Trump is for you."

More recently Fetterman described the overall political approach by Democrats today as "toxic," particularly for the young men who shifted to vote Republican in the last election. Fetterman assessed Trump's election victory as a "gut-check kind of vote" about which side would protect voters' "personal view of the American way of life," and that is President Trump.

John and Andy Schlafly are sons of Phyllis Schlafly (1924-2016) and lead the continuing Phyllis Schlafly Eagles organizations with writing and policy work.