

GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS

STATE OF ARIZONA

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

**Executive Order 2023-13**

**Protecting Young People from Conversion Therapy**

**WHEREAS**, my Administration is committed to promoting freedom and self-determination, including ensuring young people who are LGBTQ+ are treated with dignity and respect and are not harmed by state-provided services; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ individuals, including young people, experience discrimination and bias, including in accessing healthcare services; and

**WHEREAS**, medical experts and professional organizations—including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American School Counselor Association, and the National Association of Social Workers—oppose the practice of “conversion therapy” on minors because of its dangerous effects; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Psychological Association has found that being subjected to “conversion therapy” in childhood contributes to increased risk of suicide, depression, and substance use throughout an individual’s life; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has determined that “conversion therapy” is “coercive, can be harmful, and should not be part of behavioral health treatment”; and

**WHEREAS**, the government has a duty to taxpayers to ensure that decisions are fiscally sound, transparent, and evidence-based, and that public healthcare funds are not spent on discredited, ineffective, and unsafe practices.

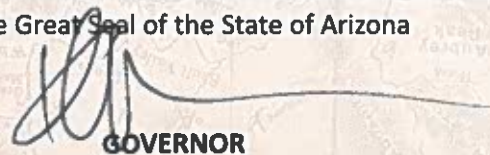
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of this State, hereby order and direct as follows:

1. To the greatest extent permissible under law, State Agencies shall not use State or federal resources to promote, support, or enable any practice or treatment on minors known to be a form of “conversion therapy,” including authorizing funds to reimburse for medical or mental healthcare known to be in connection with the practice of “conversion therapy” on minors.
2. State Agencies shall develop and implement policies, as necessary and consistent with State and federal law, to protect LGBTQ+ minors from harmful medical and mental healthcare services related to “conversion therapy.”



3. For the purposes of this Executive Order, “conversion therapy” means any practice or treatment that seeks or purports to change an individual’s non-heteronormative sexual orientation or non-cisgender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expression, under the false premise that homosexuality and gender-diverse identities are pathological. This does not include gender-affirming care.
4. For the purposes of this Executive Order, the term “State Agency” shall include, without limitation, all executive departments, agencies, offices, and all State boards and commissions and any employee, officer, or other person acting on their behalf, except for: (a) any State agency that is headed by a single elected State official; (b) the Corporation Commission; and (c) any board or commission established by ballot measure during or after the November 1998 general election.
5. This Executive Order shall not confer any legal rights or remedies upon any person and shall not be used as a basis for legal challenges to any action or inaction of a State Agency, officer, employee, or agent thereof.
6. If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Executive Order which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are declared to be severable.
7. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon signature, and shall remain in effect until repealed, replaced, or rescinded by future Executive Order.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

  
**GOVERNOR**

**DONE** at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 27th day of June in the Year Two Thousand Twenty-Three and of the independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Seventh.

**ATTEST:**

  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**

