

September 2026

As nonprofit leaders and advocates for freedom and democracy, we are writing because the fights we face on the ballot this November are about far more than a single election. There are five states – Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, and Washington – facing ballot measures attacking the rights of trans youth and their families. And the window is closing quickly to determine whether and how these fights – and other attacks on trans rights – will spread across the country in the years to come.

Across the country, politicians are using transgender people as a test case. They are asking whether a small and politically vulnerable group can be isolated, turned into a source of fear, and used to justify greater government control over our lives, our families, and our bodies.

The immediate harm is real. Transgender youth and their families are facing attacks on health care, educational opportunity, and the freedom to make personal decisions alongside trusted doctors and loved ones. But the stakes extend well beyond the transgender community.

In states such as Missouri and elsewhere, anti-transgender measures are being used to undermine reproductive freedom, weaken public institutions, and concentrate political power to undermine our democracy. These campaigns are not isolated. They are testing grounds for a broader strategy that will not stop with trans people.

The outcome of this election matters. And the infrastructure, leadership, and coalitions we build now will determine whether communities are prepared for what comes next.

Our ask is clear: join us in this fight. Fund organizing, communications, legal capacity, education, research, leadership development, and the trans-led and state-based institutions that will remain long after Election Day. Then stay invested.

November may provide answers. What happens afterward will determine who is ready to act on them.

Signed,

The 159 undersigned nonprofit leaders

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