TRANS AGENDA
FOR LIBERATION

DADS LET THEM SHINE

A TOOLKIT FOR DADS READY TO TAKE ON THE BULLIES AND MAKE SURE ALL KIDS, TRANSGENDER OR NOT, GROW UP HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND CONFIDENT



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INTRODUCTION

Who was the first person that made you feel seen, loved, and understood?

For many of us, our dad was the first person who made us feel like we could shine bright as our authentic selves. Through their own actions, they taught us the values of perseverance, courage, and respect. But dads today face countless hardships as they work to support their kids and love their families. CEOs make life difficult for our families and jeopardize our kids' futures by gouging prices, holding down wages, and pushing harmful social media and AI. The last thing dads need to worry about is certain politicians and their billionaire backers bullying their kids.

All of us — Black, white or brown, Native or newcomer, transgender or not – deserve to shine bright as our true selves, without being forced to dim our light.

So let's make it that way.

Across the country, dads are mobilizing to make sure all youth, including trans youth, can have every opportunity to thrive. Dads are having conversations with their friends, neighbors, and fellow dads; they are showing up at their local school and athletic board meetings; and they are exercising their right to vote to demonstrate that every kid belongs and is loved.

This toolkit invites families to take action and make clear that all kids belong in our communities – and billionaire-backed bullying campaigns do not.

VISIONING EXERCISE

Think about what being a dad means to you.

Close your eyes and picture a core memory of fatherhood. What do you see? Maybe it's your kid falling asleep in your arms for the first time or watching them play in their first soccer game. Or maybe you see your kid holding the door for a stranger, standing up for a friend, or making someone laugh. Raising our young people in this world is equal parts defending them, understanding that they are their own person, and raising them to be the kind of person who helps others too. Each of us knows what it feels like to need someone in our corner at a young age and how much it means to hear "I got you" when it feels like the world is telling you that you don't belong.

These days, many of our kids are being singled out, made into targets, and are being told they don't belong. People in robbing our young people of their health, wealth, and freedoms -- sending Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to kidnap their parents at school drop-off, passing laws that exclude trans kids from sports and school life, and threatening to pull school funding and resources from families across the country.

Dads are no stranger to why these fights are happening all at once: it's the age-old strategy of divide and conquer. If people can be convinced that one group is somehow less worthy of respect, safety, and belonging, it becomes easier for those in power to divide parents and communities against each other and control us all.

As dads who are fiercely proud of our kids for being their authentic selves and who believe that young people have something to teach us about empathy, we can reject these efforts to divide us. We have a choice. We can take the billionaires' bait and vent our fears and uncertainties onto kids based on what they look like or where they come from. Or we can take on the bullies hurting all of us and listen to the instinct that comes with being a dad: when a kid needs someone in their corner, we will show up to support them.

Take a few minutes to imagine your community five years from now.

What would it look like if every kid, including trans kids, knew the adults around them would take action for their safety and belonging?

What would you want your own kids to learn from the ways that you showed up? How would you want other adults to show up for your kid?



OUTREACH ACTIONS



This toolkit is rooted in the reality that all of us know and love someone who doesn't share our political beliefs. We've conceded that there are some conversations we're not willing to have because we want to avoid conflict, to ensure everyone feels welcome, and to shield our own hearts from the pain of disagreeing with someone we respect over something we feel strongly about.



But the truth is, many of us changed our hearts and minds because someone we admired took the time to listen to us, even when we didn't agree. Change didn't happen overnight, but the trust we had in that relationship kept the conversation going.

What is relational organizing?

Relational organizing is an engagement strategy where we advocate for an issue within our existing network of family, friends, and neighbors. It allows us to harness the strength of personal relationships to encourage action and to ultimately change hearts and minds. And, it gives us the opportunity to learn more about folks' honest questions about an issue. Rather than relying on cold calls or door-knocking, relational organizing focuses on having meaningful conversations with people we already see regularly. These conversations can help build understanding, strengthen community connections, and inspire people to get involved.

We believe the most effective way to engage friends, neighbors, and other dads in conversations they may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with is to meet them where they already are - literally. Backyard barbeques, game nights, early morning soccer games - gatherings should be fun and low-pressure with room for curiosity and grace in conversation. The dynamic we want to create is one that emphasizes shared values and leaves room for unfamiliarity and reflection.

What can you do?

There are many actions you can take to engage your neighbors and other dads in supporting trans youth:

- **Pick Up Game.** A pickup game is an easy and fun way to bring dads together and create space for conversations that can sometimes feel difficult to have. The best part? You don't need to be a seasoned organizer to host one. Grab your gym shoes, a basketball, and the checklist below to get started.
- **Game Night Rally for Trans Youth.** A rally at a local sports event is a fun and impactful way for dads to make our collective respect for trans youth visible. Make some signs, come up with a few chants, grab your friends, and head to your local stadium before game time.
- **Backyard Barbeque or Community Potluck.** Bring dads and neighbors together for a relaxed backyard barbeque or potluck where conversation flows naturally. Share food and grilling tips, swap stories, and get to know the people in your community outside of the usual routines. The goal is to create a comfortable space where dads have honest conversations about what it means to make sure every kid, including trans youth, feels respected and supported.
- **Build A [Blank] Together.** Invite your neighborhood dads into the garage for a night of projects and conversation. Building something together can help difficult conversations flow more naturally. Spend some time talking about parenting, community, and the importance of making sure every kid knows we're in their corner.

ACTION EXAMPLE: PICKUP GAME

Remember that the goal isn't to move everyone into perfect alignment in one night. It's to offer a space where dads can build community with each other, ask honest questions, and learn a little more about why all our kids' well-being is interconnected.

Before The Event

Identify support and pick a date

Before you begin your planning, ask one or two people you trust to help you. This could be a friend, spouse, or another member of your family. If you have dad friends who already feel comfortable talking about trans issues, that's great! They can co-facilitate the conversation with you during the event. Divide up the work in a way that makes sense to you and your team.

Pick a date and time for the event that works for you and your co-organizers.

Come up with your outreach plan

You should aim to invite 10-15 people, with a goal of 6-10 RSVPs. Think about dads you have already encountered in your everyday life. You don't need to start with strangers; just make sure that those invited are willing to be a part of a meaningful conversation. Write down a list of:

- Existing friends
- Neighbors
- Dads you know through your kids' school or PTA meetings.
- Dads from your faith community or other community groups.
- Dads you regularly see at the gym, at the neighborhood coffee shop, or in the school dropoff line.
- Dads you've met socially who seem interested in building community.



- Dads who have questions or reservations about trans people but are willing to have a respectful conversation.

Not everyone will have identical beliefs, and that's okay! What matters most is that everyone agrees on ground rules for a respectful and meaningful conversation.

Create a RSVP system

You can create a simple RSVP form through a tool like Google Forms. Your RSVP form should ask:

- Name
- Phone number
- Email address
- Will you play or watch?
- Are you interested in future pickup games?
- Are you comfortable being added to a group text for this event?
- Anything we should know to make the event accessible for you?

We ask for accessibility needs because we want everyone who wants to attend to feel welcome. These accessibility needs may be that the location has a ramp available for wheelchair users or that it happens at a certain time of the day that makes it easy to schedule a babysitter.

Make sure to include a deadline on your RSVP form! That way, folks know when they need to make a decision, and you know when to start working through logistics.

Here is a sample RSVP form.

Pick the location

Your venue should be centrally located and easy to access with plenty of parking. To make sure the court is available for your event time, rent a court for low or no cost through a local community center. If this option isn't available to you, you can also arrive with enough time in advance to claim the court before the rest of your team arrives.

Draft an agenda

Your event should be no longer than 2 and a half hours to keep the time commitment reasonable for your guests. Be sure to build a short break into the agenda between the pickup game and the conversation so that everyone has a chance to drink some water, grab a snack, and use the bathroom.

Here's a sample agenda to help you get started:

- **Settling in (15 minutes)**: Let your guests settle in and get introduced to each other before diving into the game.
- **Pickup game (1 hour):** Break into teams, break out the basketball, and have some fun!
- **Post-game break (15 minutes)**: Rehydrate and grab a snack before diving into conversation.
- **Grounding and storytelling (10 minutes)**: Share why this gathering matters to you and what's at stake.
- **Conversation prompts (45 minutes)**: Open the space for dialogue by asking questions to your guests.
- **Action commitment (5 minutes)**: Verbally commit to one action you can all take together after your time together. *I.E., show up to the next pickup game with someone new, join us at the next school board meeting, sign a petition, or have a conversation with your neighbor.*

Invite your outreach list

Time to reach out to your potential players! Invitations in person or over the phone are the most effective. Be upfront about the purpose of the event, and make sure they know they don't need to be an expert or arrive with a particular viewpoint.

Make sure you have your RSVP form link handy when you invite folks, let them know they can watch if they don't want to play, and give them a heads-up about the RSVP deadline.

Initial conversation and invitation:

> Hey! I'm putting together a pickup basketball game for dads in our neighborhood, and I'd love for you to come. We're going to play some games for about an hour, catch up, then talk about how we as dads can make sure our kids and all young people can thrive. The more I talk to other dads, I realize that most of us want the same things for our kids. We worry that they won't have the future they deserve because politicians and billionaires are too focused on money and their own agendas, rather than supporting us. As a [DAD/PARENT/ALLY/ETC] of a trans young person, I feel especially called to this conversation because [REASON]. I don't expect everyone who shows up to have the exact same political beliefs or opinions – just that those who show up are up for some respectful dialogue with new friends around the neighborhood.

To draft your reason, visit page 28.

For a sample conversation guide, visit page 12.

For talking points, and commonly asked questions, visit page 33.

Grab your supplies

You and your co-organizers should make a plan to collect supplies for the event:

- A basketball or two
- Water and drinks
- Snacks
- A first-aid kit

You can have a bring-your-own-drinks-and-snacks policy for your guests, too; just make sure you communicate!

Remind your guests

Between work, little league games, working out, and chores around the house, it's hard to keep on top of a calendar. Make sure to send reminders to your confirmed attendees for the event. Send an email two weeks before the event with the date, time, location, and agenda. Create a group text one week before the event and send a text reminder with the date, time, and location. On the day of the event, send one last text reminder.

Sample email:

Hey all,

Thanks for signing up for the neighborhood pickup game! We're excited to see you there. Just a quick reminder that the game is in two weeks. Here are the details:

When: [DATE/TIME]

Where: [LOCATION]

What to expect: We'll spend about an hour on the court, then about an hour in conversation after the game. We'll be talking about how we as dads can help build a world where all of our young people, including trans youth, have what they need to be themselves and thrive. We know some folks are newer to this kind of conversation, and that's okay! Just come as you are and be ready for a respectful and healthy dialogue.

What to bring: We'll have snacks and drinks, but feel free to bring your own if you have a favorite. Extra basketballs wouldn't hurt, so bring one if you have one.

If you have any questions or need to update your RSVP, you can reply to this email or text me at [PHONE NUMBER]

See you soon!

Sample text – one week away

Hey, all! This is [NAME] reaching out about our pickup game. We're one week out. I sent the details in an email last week. If you didn't get it, let me know. We'll be at [LOCATION] at [TIME]. I'll send another text with the exact location once I'm there on [DATE]. Reach out with any questions!

Practice your conversation

Facilitating a conversation with people you know about an issue you care about can be intimidating, especially if you've never done something like this before. Remember, your goal is to build trust and open the door to future conversations by providing a space for healthy, open dialogue.

Schedule time with your co-organizers to plan your conversation. You can use the sample scripts in this document for inspiration. After you outline your conversation, ask your co-organizers to role-play as participants to practice.

During the Event

Show up early with your co-organizers

Give yourself time to set up and settle in. Make sure you have all your supplies with you. Once you are all set up, send the group a quick text with your exact location.

Sample text – day of

Hey, all! I'm here at [LOCATION]. We're on the third basketball court to the left. I've got a Knicks jersey on and have an orange cooler courtside. See you all soon!

Welcome everyone personally

The more welcoming the space, the more open the dialogue may be. Say hello to everyone who shows up, reintroduce yourself to those who are new friends, and let everyone know where the snacks, drinks, and bathrooms are. Bonus points if you introduce your guests to each other to support connections within the group, too!

Take a break between the game and the conversation

Give your guests 10 to 15 minutes to rehydrate, hit the bathroom, and grab some snacks before diving into conversation. Let everyone know what time you'll regroup before folks go on break. Be intentional about checking in with folks to make sure they'll stick around for the whole event.

The Conversation

We recommend the following conversation prompts to support a healthy dialogue:

Shared values

- What's a core memory of yours as a father?
- What makes you proud of your kids?
- Why do you love being a dad?
- When you think about being a good dad, what responsibilities come to mind?
- What comes to mind when you think about being a role model for your kid?
- What does it mean to you for a kid to feel safe at school?
- What were the best parts of school for you growing up?

School priorities

- What should be the role of education in our children's lives?
- What are the most important things a school should provide for every student?
- How can schools be a place to learn about things like acceptance and inclusion?
- What should a teacher do when a student is being bullied or excluded?
- How do you think being singled out at school affects a student's self-esteem or sense of belonging?
- Do we think our school has the funds to ensure every student's success? Why or why not?

Unintended consequences

- When a school creates a rule to single out students from participating in school activities, what other effects should we consider? What message does that send to our kids and our community?
- When a school creates a rule to ban all trans girls from participating in sports, how is the school going to verify gender? How might invasive gender checks impact all kids playing sports, not just trans girls?
- When a school is asked to enforce invasive gender checks, is there a way for parents to object to these rules?

Healthcare

- What has been your experience accessing healthcare for yourself and your family?
- How is your relationship with your family's medical providers?
- What is the role of government or politicians in deciding what types of healthcare are allowed or not?
- Who should be able to make healthcare decisions for their family?
- How might doctors, clinics, and hospitals be affected if the government tells them they can't provide care to trans kids anymore?



End with a concrete next step

End the conversation by asking each guest to make one specific commitment. The action can be big or small, so long as it gives people a clear way to stay engaged after the event. Guests who are unfamiliar with trans youth may not be ready to contact their legislator or attend a rally tomorrow, but they may be ready to listen to a podcast that shares the story of a trans athlete. Come prepared with a few suggested actions so guests have ideas to choose from if they aren't sure what they can do.

Suggested actions

- Watch *The Dads film*
- Watch *Disclosure*
- Watch *Parents of Transgender Youth Have Important Advice for New Parents Starting Their Journey from HRC*
- Read zines from the *TRUTH Zine Library*
- Read *Fight to Play, Play to Win: Trans Joy in Sports Zine from GSA Network*
- Listen to *Camp Wild Heart Podcast*
  - *Season 5 Episode 2*: The Courage to be Curious: Parent Mitch Shares His Story
  - *Season 5 Episode 4*: Beyond Pride: How Conservative Parents Became Fierce Allies (Trigger Warning: Suicidal Ideation)
  - *Season 4 Episode 12*: Joyful Resistance: One Dad's Call to Action

After the Event

Send a thank-you text to the group chat

Being in community with new people can be both exciting and overwhelming, especially when vulnerable conversations are involved. Let your guests know you're grateful they showed up! Text everyone and thank them for attending.



Sample text

> Hey, all! Last night was a lot of fun. I'm grateful for the meaningful conversation we had after the game and hope we can keep the conversation going. If you want recommendations for podcasts or things to read, or have any questions after last night, you've got my number. Let's connect again soon!

Debrief with your co-organizers

Take 30 minutes or so after the event to check in with your co-organizers about what went well, what could be improved, and how to keep the momentum going. You'll want to check in with each other while the experience is still fresh. Here are some questions to get you started:

- What were our intended results? What did we hope guests would think, feel, or do during and as a result of our event?
- What were our actual results? What actually happened? What did we observe during the event, and what commitments did guests make?
- What caused our actual results? What aspects of our planning, outreach, facilitation, and the event itself contributed to our actual results?
- What can we learn from this? What should we change, continue, or try in the future when organizing our neighbors?

Keep the group going

The end of your event doesn't necessarily mean the end of the connections you've just built! The more opportunities folks have for connection and for understanding commonalities, the more likely your guests are to take more substantial advocacy actions down the road. Consider grabbing coffee with one or two guests that you connected with or organizing another basketball game in a month or so.



EVENT CHECKLIST

Before the Event

- ☐ Recruit 1-2 co-organizers
- ☐ Identify 6-10 dads to invite
- ☐ Create RSVP form (*example here*)
- ☐ Create flyer (*example here*)
- ☐ Choose invitation deadline
- ☐ Invite people by chosen date
- ☐ Confirm event location
- ☐ Confirm accessibility, parking, and restroom information
- ☐ Prepare 3 to 5 conversation questions and talking point responses (see examples here)
- ☐ Draft 3 to 5 conversation ground rules
- ☐ Send an email reminder 2 weeks before the event
- ☐ Send an email reminder 1 week before the event with:
- ☐ Date, time, location
- ☐ Accessibility, parking, and restroom information
- ☐ Agenda
- ☐ Purchase food and drinks

Day of the Event

- ☐ Create a group chat and send a reminder text before the event with the time and location
- ☐ Arrive 30 minutes early to set up food and drinks
- ☐ Text your group the exact location of the court
- ☐ Welcome everyone personally as they arrive
- ☐ Include observers in the group
- ☐ Take a brief break between basketball and the conversation
- ☐ Establish conversation norms
- ☐ End with a concrete next step or action
- ☐ Thank everyone personally for coming

Day after the Event

- ☐ Text the group chat and thank everyone again for coming
- ☐ Share resources that were promised or that might be helpful based on the discussion
- ☐ Invite people to the next event (or encourage someone from the group to organize the next one if you do not have the bandwidth)!
- ☐ Debrief with your co-organizers


OUR
WORLD
CUP
COMMUNIT
GAME





ACTION EXAMPLE: GAME NIGHT RALLY FOR TRANS YOUTH

What's more fun than a live game? The goal isn't just to make some noise, but to show trans kids and families that they have allies standing with them. Keep the energy positive and welcoming, and don't forget to invite your local media!

Before The Event

Identify support

Before you begin your planning, ask one or two people you trust to help you. Got a friend who is great with a computer but doesn't want to show up for the game? Great! They can help with registration and outreach emails. Got a friend who draws well? Perfect! They can help you create signs. Putting a rally together is much easier when you have a few other people and skill sets working alongside you to make it happen. Divide up the work in a way that makes sense to you and your team. Make sure you have the following roles for the day of the event:

- **Greeter**: Personally welcomes everyone who shows up to rally, shows them where the drinks are, and introduces them to other people
- **Media point person**: This will be your main point of contact to connect any media that shows up with dads willing to be interviewed
- **Photographer or Videographer**: No fancy education required! Just make sure someone is taking pictures and video throughout the event so you can send them to local media or post them afterward



Pick a sport, a location, a date, and a time

Start by choosing a local sports game where you want to show up in support of trans youth. Maybe you have a favorite baseball, basketball, or soccer team that has a history of standing up for transgender people, and you want to thank them by rallying outside of a game. Or maybe you've seen anti-transgender protests happening outside an event in your community and want to show up so transgender young people know you've got their backs.

Think about what's happening in your own community and where your presence could make the biggest difference. You'll want your rally to take place before a scheduled game and in an approved location near where the game is taking place. Choose a date that gives you at least 3 weeks of time to organize and prepare. You'll want your rally to start about an hour and a half before the game.

Come up with your outreach plan

Think about dads you have already encountered in your everyday life. Write down a list of:

- Existing friends
- Neighbors
- Dads you know through your kids' school or PTA meetings.
- Dads from your faith community or other community groups.
- Dads you regularly see at the gym, at the neighborhood coffee shop, or in the school dropoff line.
- Dads you've met socially who seem interested in building community.
- Dads who have questions or reservations about trans people but are willing to have a respectful conversation.

Your outreach plan can also include locations where you'd like to hang up a flyer. Individualized invitations are important because they lead to higher attendance confirmations, but leaving flyers in locations where dads hang out can also increase your overall reach. Think about places where dads spend time or gather with friends and family. You can consider leaving a flyer at local:

- LGBT+ organizations
- PTA meetings and parent gatherings
- Gaming cafes
- Recreational gyms
- Coffee shops
- Libraries
- Community centers
- Breweries
- Barbershops
- Youth sports organizations

Online gathering spaces are fair game, too! Are you a part of a parents-only Facebook group? A Discord server for fantasy football? Go ahead and drop your flyer into the chat after you...

Create your flyer

Not a graphic designer? No problem! Websites like Canva make it easier than ever to quickly create attention-grabbing flyers. Your flyer should include the name of your rally (make it catchy!), the day, time, and location where you'll meet. Ask everyone to wear the same color (you pick!) so that other rally attendees can easily identify you and so that folks attending the game can see you are a part of a collective cause.

Here's a *template flyer* to get you started.

Invite your outreach list

Time to reach out to the folks and organizations you identified. Invitations in person or over the phone are the most effective. Be upfront about the purpose of the event and make sure they know you are inviting the media. If you have a few people in mind who are good in front of a camera, tell them you'd like them to speak with the media at the event if they are open to it. For every person who confirms they will be there, ask them to invite a couple more friends.

Grab your supplies, make your signs, and plan your chants

You and your co-organizers should make a plan to collect and create supplies for your rally:

- Water and drinks
- Handheld signs for you and approximately 10 other people
- A first-aid kit

Your signs can be as extravagant or as simple as you'd like... just make sure the slogan is catchy! Here are some suggestions:

- Dads for Trans Youth
- Celebrating Trans Youth
- Real Dads Teach Respect
- Dads for Trans Joy

For chants, we recommend:

- **Call**: No Fear!
  Response: Dad's Here!
- **Call**: 2/4/6/8 Who do we appreciate?
  Response: Our Kids!
- **Call**: Dads on Defense!
  Response: Clap / Clap / Clap Clap Clap
- **Call**: T in Team!
  Repeat: T in Team!
- **Call**: Who's got you?
  Response: We got you!
- **Call**: It's fun to support our
  Response: [to the tune of YMCA] K-I-D-S

Reach out to local media

Leveraging local media is a great way to help your rally reach beyond the stadium. With some advanced outreach, you can get local reporters, community news outlets, and radio stations to cover this visible show of support for trans youth led by local dads. Start by making a list of local or state newspapers, TV and radio stations, and independent news outlets that cover sports or community issues.

Once you have identified news outlets, it's time to research which reporters will be best to reach out to. Start with a simple online search with terms like "[outlet name] trans youth" or "[outlet name] transgender sports." Click on the articles you find and skim the article, noting any red flags in how they talk about transgender people (e.g., using inaccurate or offensive terminology).

Based on the articles you find, make a list of friendly reporters you want to reach out to who will accurately cover the event. Find the reporter's contact information, which will usually be listed online. If their email address is not listed on the news website, find the newsroom's general contact email for pitches or story tips.

It's best to email your pitch to reporters at least several days in advance of the event. This ensures the reporter can make time in their schedule to be on site and conduct interviews. In the pitch email, you should include: who you are, what the rally is about and why it matters, and where and when you'll gather. Make sure to give reporters a way to follow up. Here's a sample pitch email to get you started:

Sample Subject Line:

Sample pitch email:

Hello [REPORTER],

My name is [NAME], and I'm a dad living in [TOWN]. Given your previous coverage of trans athletes, I thought you might be interested in covering a first-ever rally of local dads in support of trans youth.

On [DATE] myself, along with other dads and families from the community, will be in front of [STADIUM] from [TIME] to [TIME] for the [TEAM] game. We will have signs, chants, and a simple message: all youth, including trans youth, deserve to be safe, supported, and respected in our communities.

We expect approximately [NUMBER] people to attend. If you're interested in covering the rally and how dads are showing up for trans young people in this moment, I can connect you with organizers and participants for interviews.

Please feel free to reach me at [PHONE / EMAIL] with any questions or if you'd like more information.

Thank you!

During the Event

Show up early with your co-organizers

Put on your color-coordinated t-shirt, grab your supplies (make sure you have all of them!) and head to the stadium early. You'll want to stake out the location listed on your flyer and make yourselves visible by holding up signs.

Do a quick check-in with your co-organizers before things get busy. Make sure everyone knows their role and who will handle any media questions. Keep your signs and messaging positive and easy to understand. Remember that your presence is about making sure trans youth know that dads have their back.

Welcome everyone personally

The more welcoming the space, the more fun the event will be! Say hello to everyone who shows up, introduce yourself to those you're meeting for the first time, and let everyone know where the drinks are.

Keep an eye out for people who show up on their own or seem unsure about what to do. A friendly welcome can make a big difference. Make sure everyone feels like they're part of the group!

A good way to do that is to give people something to do, like being an Observer, Greeter, Materials Lead, Media Lead, or Vibes Lead.

- An **Observer** will watch the crowd, keeping track of people's reactions like someone saying, *I support trans youth too!* or stopping by and asking what the event is for. This is great information that helps determine what kind of impact your event had.
- A **Greeter** will say hello to everyone showing up to the event and give them an orientation, leading them to where the signs are or giving them a chant sheet. Greeters are critical – they're your first impression of the crowd.
- A **Materials** Lead will hand out the signs you made, hand out chant sheets, and keep track of your supplies. If you bring materials for people to make their own signs, wit and creativity is a plus!
- A **Media Lead** will keep an eye out for reporters and check in on others who agreed to be spokespeople. A Media Lead will make sure that they're still willing to be on camera if a reporter shows up and ask if they want support prepping any talking points.
- A **Vibes Lead** will keep the energy high at the event.

Encourage your folks to participate, whether that is holding a sign, joining a chant, talking with a reporter, or simply being there in solidarity.

Local media

If reporters show up, make it easy for them to find the right people and get the story! Introduce yourself, explain what the rally is about, and share your story about why you're attending and why the rally is important to you. Be supportive of your participants who agreed to speak with the media! Offer to check in with them before and after the interview for any prep and to debrief how it went. Media interviews can be a nerve-inducing experience if it is your first time, and it's a lot easier to feel confident when you have other folks supporting you.

If a reporter asks to interview you, take a moment to gather yourself and your thoughts before answering. Know that you can always decline an interview if you're not up for it. When talking with the reporter, speak from your own experience. If you get asked questions that are off topic, don't feel pressured to answer or speculate. Stick to your main talking points, and if you don't know an answer, it's perfectly fine to say, "Thanks for the question, I'll have to think about that some more," or "That's a great question. Let me ask someone who may know more."

Don't take the bait

Not everyone who sees your rally will agree with you. That's okay! You may encounter provocative comments or people trying to pull you into an argument. Don't let them set the tone for your event.

Keep your focus on the reason you're there: to show trans youth that they have the respect, care, and support of dads in their community. You don't have to respond to every comment or win every debate. If someone tries to provoke you, you don't need to engage. If a situation starts to feel unsafe, do your best to de-escalate the situation by distancing yourself and involving event staff if needed. Your strongest response is to stay positive, stay together, and keep showing your support.

For more information on de-escalation, *check out this resource* by Vision Change Win.

Ask for your attendees' contact information

Let your attendees know that you want to stay in contact after the game and ask for their email addresses. You should also let them know how you'll use their contact information, for example to share updates about future events or to follow up about the rally.

Ask your attendees if it's okay to connect them with reporters who might reach out. It's important to get their explicit permission before sharing contact information. Never assume that participating in the rally means someone wants to be contacted by the media.

After the Event

Follow up with local media

The rally may be over, but your media outreach should continue! Send a short thank you to any reporters who attended and include a note of appreciation if they've already published an article about the rally. If there were reporters you reached out to who didn't reply or couldn't make it, send a brief recap of what happened, a link to a small selection of photos or videos, and offer to chat with them about the event. Don't forget to keep track of which reporters expressed interest in the rally or showed up. Building those relationships over time can make it easier to get local coverage the next time you organize an event!

Sample email for reporters who attended

Hi [REPORTER],

Thank you for joining us at [STADIUM] for our rally in support of trans youth! I read your article and really appreciated the ways you uplifted the stories of the many dads in attendance who are showing trans youth that they have our respect and support. I would love to stay in touch and be a resource for any future reporting you might do related to trans young people. Thanks again for all that you do and please don't hesitate to reach out in the future.

Best,

[NAME]
[PHONE NUMBER]

Sample email for reporters who did not attend

Hi [NAME],

I wanted to follow up with a quick recap of the rally we held outside [STADIUM] in support of trans youth on [DATE]. We had a great turnout, with approximately [NUMBER] of dads there to make sure that trans youth know they have our respect and support. Here are a few photos and videos from the event: [LINK]

I'm happy to answer any questions and can connect you with participants who can speak about why they took part in this important rally. Please feel free to reach out if you'd like to cover this story!

Thank you for considering,

[NAME]
[PHONE NUMBER]

Debrief with your co-organizers

Take 30 minutes or so after the event to check in with your co-organizers about what went well, what could be improved, and how to keep the momentum going. You'll want to check in with each other while the experience is still fresh. Here are some questions to get you started:

- What were our intended results? What did we hope guests would think, feel, or do during and as a result of our event?
- What were our actual results? What actually happened? What did we observe during the event, and what commitments did guests make?
- What caused our actual results? What aspects of our planning, outreach, facilitation, and the event itself contributed to our actual results?
- What can we learn from this? What should we change, continue, or try in the future when organizing our neighbors?



EVENT CHECKLIST

Before the Event

- ☐ Recruit 1-2 co-organizers
- ☐ Pick a league, a location, a date, and a time
- ☐ Identify 6-10 dads to invite and locations to drop the flyer
- ☐ Create flyer (example here)
- ☐ Complete outreach
- ☐ Research reporters and local news stations to invite to the rally
- ☐ Complete reporter outreach
- ☐ Purchase drinks and materials for signs
- ☐ Create signs

Day of the Event

- ☐ Arrive 30 minutes early to set up and get settled
- ☐ Assign roles (greeter, media point person, photographer)
- ☐ Welcome everyone personally as they arrive
- ☐ Connect local media to volunteer spokespeople
- ☐ Don't take the bait
- ☐ Take pictures of the event
- ☐ Get contact information for those who attended
- ☐ Thank everyone personally for coming

Day after the Event

- ☐ Send an email and thank everyone for coming and share any positive news stories that were published
- ☐ Invite people to the next event (or encourage someone from the group to organize the next one if you do not have the bandwidth)!
- ☐ Debrief with your co-organizers
- ☐ Follow up with media

DIGITAL ACTION EXAMPLE: SAMPLE OP-EDS

Opinion pieces in local newspapers are an excellent way to voice your support for trans youth. Whether they are a response to anti-trans ads, or attacks from lawmakers, or aligned with the introduction of legislation or ballot measures, they can signal to your neighbors that more people agree that trans kids should be able to shine bright, like any other kid.

We've shared two samples to customize or as inspiration to write your own story of how you found yourself supporting trans youth.



OP-ED ON SPORTS

Example title: As a dad, I want sports to be for everyone – no exceptions.

It's that time of year when school gets underway and my kid(s) start signing up for all their extracurricular activities for the year. Sports is a big one. [When I was a kid at _____ in _____ [SCHOOL DISTRICT]], I remember how excited I was to see my teammates and friends. That feeling of fun and joy to be on the field/court with them again is something I'll always remember. And I know my own kids are feeling the same way as they enter ____ [GRADE] in _____ [SCHOOL DISTRICT]].

But this year, I'm nervous for young people across our [STATE OR SCHOOL DISTRICT] because of [A PROPOSAL/ A BALLOT MEASURE/LEGISLATION] that, if [PASSED BY VOTERS/VOTED ON BY LEGISLATORS], would isolate some kids just for being who they are.

[PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] bans kids who are transgender from playing on the sports teams that match the gender in which they live their everyday lives.

The people pushing this [PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION]] are the same bullies and billionaires making life so hard for our families. Just think about the higher prices corporations are making us pay for gas, groceries, rent, and child-care, all while politicians cut funding for teachers, schools, and healthcare every year. Now they want to pit us against each other instead of delivering the real change our families need to thrive. [If relevant: The millionaires pushing this ballot [INSERT STATE CONTEXT] don't care about those things. In fact, they want our [STATE] schools to lose funding for having inclusive policies.]

This [PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] does real harm to our kids. It would target transgender kids while subjecting all kids who want to play sports to invasive gender checks. Sports were incredibly important for me growing up. [They taught me how to be part of a team, to persevere through losses, and I'm still friends with several of my teammates from high school.] Every kid deserves the chance to learn these life skills. And to be honest, playing sports was just fun. [When I was in elementary school playing ____ [SPORT], competition was rarely on my mind.] And even when I got older, though of course our team wanted to win, competition was always secondary to my love of the game.

It makes me sad, and frankly angry, to think that if this [PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] passed, trans kids wouldn't get the same opportunities to play. I can tell you trans kids are like every other kid in so many ways. [I didn't know anyone who was trans until my son/daughter brought one of their best friends over to play, and she/he/they happens to be trans. And I can't help but smile watching the two of them share inside jokes with each other, laugh during their favorite movie, or make up their own imaginative game that has them running around our house.]

Every kid deserves to feel like they are respected and that they belong. But what's scary is that this [PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] threatens to single out trans kids and make them feel othered. If passed, it would subject all kids to invasive gender checks. No one deserves to be singled out or sidelined for what they look like or who they are.

I know that the people of [STATE] want better for our kids. We want schools that are welcoming to every student, no matter what they look like or how they identify. We want our kids to have fun on the playground and on the playing field with their friends. And we want our kids to have every opportunity to pursue the things they love.

I know that this issue is new to many of us. But I can tell you that as a dad, I would do anything to love and support my son/daughter and his/her friends. [If relevant: That is why all of us who can vote must turn out in November and remind people that we stand for every kid to have the freedom to live as who they are.]

OP-ED ON HEALTHCARE

Title example: How [PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] distracts from the healthcare my family actually needs

My last visit to the doctor's office with my son/daughter was just like any other. [We read a book together in the waiting room, the doctor did his/her usual check-up routine and then asked me and my kid about any concerns we had. OR We were able to ask the doctor questions, have those questions answered, and scheduled our next check-up appointment. OR It was a blur with the doctor spending exactly the amount of time an insurance company allows, no more, no less, with my kid.]

[Honestly, I don't think twice about these routine doctor's visits with my kids. OR Honestly, it's stressful to think about routine doctor's visits with my kids because of the cost.] What makes me [worried though OR more worried] is a [PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] this year that, if passed, would put politicians into the doctor's office and prevent some kids from getting the healthcare they need.

[PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] would take medical decisions out of the hands of families with trans kids and instead give decision-making power over to politicians.

The people pushing this measure want us to believe a lot of misinformation about the type of healthcare that trans kids receive. But I can tell you from the families I know with trans kids that they have similar experiences to the rest of us; their kids wait months for an appointment, go through lots of conversations together with their doctor, and make medical decisions alongside their parents and healthcare team.

That's why this ballot measure really concerns me, because how can a politician know what type of healthcare every child in our state needs? Honestly, they can't. No two kids are alike, and I can tell you that my [INSERT AGE] ____-year-old son/daughter had wildly different health needs than my [INSERT AGE] ____-year-old. Which is why I really appreciate when our family doctor takes the time to understand what each of them needs and that we can make those decisions together.

The issue that's more concerning to me is that if [PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] passes, there could be a whole range of consequences on our healthcare. But the people pushing this measure aren't talking about that. They aren't talking about [LIST ANY THAT APPLY: how doctors might be forced to hand over private medical records to politicians and disclose personal medical decisions about my kid or any child in the state.] As a dad, I don't want my family's privacy violated. But that's a real possibility, especially because we've already seen politicians in power in D.C. trying to do that in a lot of states across the country.

I also worry about whether my kids' doctor will stick around if [PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] passes. She/He does provide care to trans young people. And if they can no longer provide that type of care, she/he could leave the state and a ton of families, including mine, would lose access to a really great family doctor.

This [PROPOSAL/ BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] is honestly a distraction from the actual issues I think about when it comes to my family. Like a lot of dads, I worry about the rising cost of living and if I can keep providing for my kid so they are as healthy and happy as they can be. So when it comes to healthcare, I worry a lot about things like how much my co-pays will be, the cost of my family's health insurance, and whether or not my family will have to wait months or drive hours away just to see a doctor who will meet our needs. It's time for our leaders to stop the political stunts like [PROPOSAL/BALLOT MEASURE NUMBER/LEGISLATION] and fund the healthcare we all need.

I know that families across our state want the best for our kids. We want a healthcare system that is affordable and accessible to everyone, no matter who we are or where we live. And I know we want our kids, trans or not, to have the best chance to grow up happy, healthy, and confident.

[If relevant: This November, I'll be at the ballot box to make sure every family should have the freedom to access the care they need for their kids. I hope my fellow ___ [INSERT DEMONYM] do the same.]

DIGITAL ACTION EXAMPLE: CREATING SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEOS

Social videos should sound like one dad talking to another, not like a scripted political advertisement. Choose 2-4 prompts that feel natural and start there.

If this is a follow-up action you're asking other dads to take, encourage them to answer in their own words and draw from their own experiences.

Fatherhood and Personal Story

- What does being a good dad mean to you?
- What is something you want your child to always know about you as their dad?
- When you think about showing up for your kid, what does that look like in everyday life?
- What did you learn from your own dad that you want to carry forward?
- Is there anything about parenting that you want to do differently from the way you were raised?
- What hopes do you have for your kid as they grow up?
- What is one moment with your child that reminds you why being a dad matters so much to you?

Shared Values

- What do you think most dads want for their kids, regardless of politics?
- Why is respect an important value in your family?
- What does it mean to make sure a kid knows that they belong?
- How do you respond when your child is going through something you do not completely understand?
- Why is listening important in your relationship with your child?
- What do you hope your kids learn from the way you treat other people?

Talking About Trans Kids

- What would you say to another dad who tells you he does not know much about transgender people?
- Why do you think a parent can support a young person even if they do not have every answer?
- If your child had a trans friend who was being bullied or excluded, how would you want your child to respond?
- What would you want another parent to do if your own child felt scared, different, or left out?
- Why do you think these conversations are easier when we start with our kids instead of politics?

Sports, Schools, and Local Issues

- What did playing sports, joining a team, or participating in activities mean to you growing up?
- What do you want your own kids to get out of sports and extracurricular activities?

- When does a policy meant to "protect kids" go too far?
- What concerns you about a child being singled out or scrutinized because of who they are?
- What should our schools be spending their time, money, and attention on?
- What questions should parents ask before supporting a policy that could affect students in their community?
- What is happening in your state, school district, or community that made you want to speak up?

Politics and Division

- Why do you think politicians spend so much time getting parents to fight with each other?
- What are the issues families in your community are actually worried about right now?
- Who benefits when neighbors are divided against each other?
- What would you rather see elected leaders doing to support kids and families?
- How do we disagree without losing sight of the fact that we are talking about real children?

Moving People to Action

- Why did you decide to have this conversation now?
- What is one thing you are doing to show up for kids in your community?
- What would you say to another dad who is uncomfortable talking about this issue?
- What is one small action another parent could take after watching this video?
- Why should dads talk to other dads about what is happening in their schools or state?
- What would you tell someone who thinks they need to know everything before getting involved?

Closing Prompts

- "I'm still learning too. I just know I want to show up for kids."
- "You don't have to agree with me about everything. I'm asking you to think about what happens to the child."
- "Talk to another dad. Ask questions. Listen. That's where we start."
- "Our kids are watching how we treat people. I want mine to see me lead with respect."
- "You don't have to understand everything about being trans to understand what it means to show up for a kid."

SAMPLE CONVERSATION SCRIPT



Based on two years of quantitative and qualitative research on American dads, we've learned what values drive dads to be supportive of their kids, trans or not. Dads who believe their kids have something to teach them and know their kids are their own people and not property and understand that the expectations of fatherhood have changed from one generation to the next want to have a grounded and respectful conversation about a topic they may not know too much about.

Start the conversation by identifying common ground.

Grounding and storytelling:

Before we get into a larger discussion, I want to share why I invited everyone over. I've been thinking a lot about what it means to be a dad. We spend so much time working to raise good kids, teach them kindness, provide for them, help them find their place in the world, and make sure they know we've got their backs.

The more I talk with other dads, the more I realize that we're worried for our kids and their future. A lot of us are trying to figure out how to keep up with the rising cost of well, everything from food to gas. Our kids spend more time on screens than in conversations with us, which makes it harder than ever to stay connected. Our schools are facing the constant threat of funding cuts. And on top of it all, certain politicians and billionaires are increasingly making decisions for our families that shouldn't be up to them to decide. They should be working to help our families and kids, and instead it feels like they're working for billionaires.



I think it's time that as dads, we start working with each other to make sure our families and our kids get the respect they deserve. As a [DAD / UNCLE / ETC. of a trans kid], this feels particularly important to me. [PERSONAL STORY]

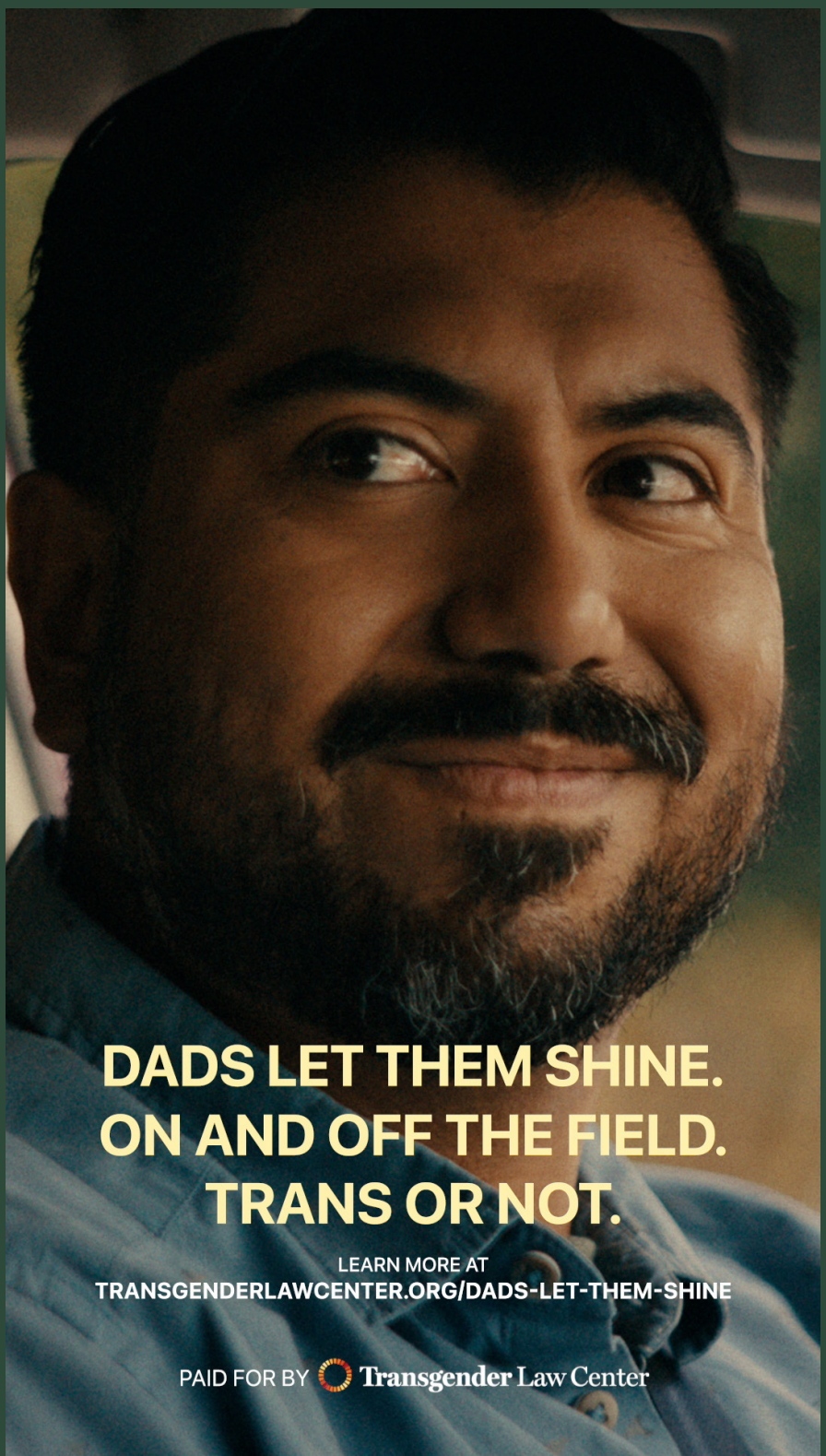
The more I talk with other parents, the more I realize that most of us want similar things for our kids. Every parent wants their kids to be safe, accepted, and to know they're loved. I also know these conversations can feel uncomfortable. It's okay to not have all the answers, know the right words, or to agree on everything.

Ground rules:

To keep the conversation respectful, I created some ground rules for us. I'll read them to you all, then we can decide as a group if we need to change or add anything:

- One person speaks at a time.
- Listen to understand, not to debate or win.
- Be curious. It's okay to ask for more information or to say that you do not know a lot about a certain topic.
- If you begin to feel strong emotions, take a walk and/or say, "I'd like to just listen and not engage right now."

TALKING POINTS & MESSAGING



As a dad, my kids are my pride and joy. There are lots of little moments that make me love being a dad. Like watching them do well in school, offering a hand to a fallen teammate, or even just holding the door open for a stranger.

But to be honest, I'm also struggling right now. I think a lot of us are finding it hard to make sure we can afford rent, gas, and food every month. Social media has also made it difficult to connect with my kids, and sometimes I ask myself, "What does the future look like for my kids?" given how much AI is taking over society.

With all of that going on, the last thing I want to worry about is certain politicians and billionaires using their hoarded wealth and power to try and control my family's decisions. But that's what is happening right now. They are trying to pass laws that will give them unchecked power to invade the private lives of families and single out some kids just because they're trans.

As a dad, I want every child to grow up happy, healthy, and confident. I want them to be able to have fun, make friends, and have every chance to go after what they want in life. So if you're a dad, whether you have a trans kid or not, we need you!

Join an outreach action to:

- Make sure our young people know that dads have their backs
- Meet other dads who want to make the world better for our kids
- Let our school boards, elected officials, and billionaires know that dads will always put their families first over politics

You might run into some tough conversations talking about trans people with other dads and people you talk to. Some of those questions might be...

About sports

"I don't want my daughter playing against guys who are bigger and stronger than her. It's a safety hazard."

- Sports have always been a big part of my life and my kids too, so I hear you. I think something we forget is that the laws that would exclude trans kids from playing on sports apply really widely to kids of all ages. We're talking kindergarteners and elementary school kids who are just kicking the ball on the field and running around with their friends. The people pushing these laws are creating a lot of unnecessary fear around sports, when really, we should be thinking about how important it is for young people to be able to just play. For me, I played [insert sport] and it was really just about having fun, building camaraderie with my teammates, and learning how to take both wins and losses.
- When it comes to safety, I'm actually a lot more concerned about how these types of sports bans would be enforced in practice. Like, how are we supposed to know if someone is trans or not? To me, this raises huge red flags around adults trying to check a kid's gender. They could be asking kids invasive questions and violating their privacy to try and "verify" what their sex is. The last thing I want is for my kid, or any kid, to have their body scrutinized or examined.

"It's not fair that guys should be able to compete against girls."

- I think for a lot of us, myself included, playing sports when you're a kid is about having a good time with friends and learning about teamwork and dedication. Of course as I got older, competition became more important. But I think we have to remember that there will always be differences among the people we play with and against. I remember playing [insert sport], and I had teammates that were much taller than me, teammates who ran faster, and some of my teammates came from wealthier families who were able to afford private coaching. All of these might be considered "advantages" that would make sports "unfair" but there aren't policies targeting tall and wealthy people. I think that's what makes it clear to me that the people pushing these policies are doing so solely to go after transgender kids and make it impossible for them to enjoy life as themselves.
- What worries me more when it comes to fairness is excluding trans kids from playing on the team just because they're trans. And I worry because then it isolates them and invalidates their experience. When you think about it, these laws are basically the state mandating that schools kick a kid off a team if they're trans. I'm really concerned about the government's role in this, because why should they be dictating which kids get to play sports? They are singling out trans kids who then wouldn't get to participate in sports like the rest of their friends when really every kid should be able to play.

"There are obvious biological differences between men and women. That's why we need separate sports teams."

- I can understand where you're coming from. What I think back to is when I started to play [insert sport] in middle school, there were a lot of differences even among the guys on my team. Some of them had huge growth spurts and were much taller than me. Other guys were naturally built a little bit bigger and had more muscles, but that didn't mean they were excluded from the team. But what these policies are trying to do is force trans kids off the team they want to play on just because they are trans. I don't want any kid to be shamed or rejected from the team.
- You know, as a dad, I really try to teach my kid about respecting other people and making sure other people feel included. And for the most part, my kids' school has had very inclusive policies. But now I'm worried because politicians in DC are coming after schools like ours and threatening to cut their funding if they continue supporting trans kids. We shouldn't have to worry about whether our schools can keep their doors open. If we really wanted to support our kids, we would make sure everyone has access to fully funded schools.
- Yeah, as dads, we have to do our best to keep our kids safe. But frankly, when I think about what that means for my family, I'm less focused on what a child might do and more worried and angry about all of the adults who are hurting kids right now and not being held accountable. Billionaires robbing our kids' futures. Politicians who do nothing to stop school shootings, who send ICE to abduct parents and put immigrant kids in concentration camps, who won't even release the Epstein files. I just know that those folks are thrilled to have us scared of some kid on a soccer team, so we don't go after them for their very real crimes.

About healthcare

"I don't want irreversible procedures done on kids."

- As a dad, it's important for me to be involved in my children's well-being because I want them to grow up healthy and strong. What I know is this type of healthcare for trans kids isn't different than when I go with my kid to the doctor's office. There is an entire healthcare team that works with the young person and their family to make sure they get the right care that they need. I know this type of care has been around a long time, and it's backed by the same amount of science and evidence as other types of healthcare that young people receive. What's not right is for politicians to try and overrule the shared decision-making between families and their medical providers.
- Like most dads, I want my family to be able to access healthcare when they need it. I know there's a lot of information out there that makes it seem like trans kids get a type of healthcare that is somehow exceptional. But I can tell you that they face the same challenges we all face when it comes to seeing a doctor. It can take months to schedule an appointment, costs are going up, health insurance is still really confusing and hard to navigate, and sometimes we have to drive hours just to see the right specialist because there is such a shortage of medical providers that meet all our needs. All of us, including trans kids, are having the same difficulties when it comes to accessing healthcare. So what makes me upset is that the government is trying to take care away from trans people instead of putting money and energy towards making our healthcare system actually affordable and accessible for all of us.

"Kids are too young for those kinds of decisions. Let them wait until they're 18 and then they can do whatever they want."

- Like a lot of dads, I worry about my child's mental health. And for trans kids as they become teenagers, it can be really distressing to not have access to the healthcare they need. Waiting can actually do a lot of harm and take a big toll on their well-being. But when trans youth are able to work with their doctor and family to get the care they need, I've seen them become happier and more confident in who they are.
- What's more concerning to me is that healthcare providers could shut down in our state if they can't provide this care. The government keeps going after clinics and doctors who are just doing their jobs. It's scary to think that families everywhere could lose access to their healthcare providers. What I would hope is that we can focus on the actual issues at hand, like making sure healthcare is accessible and affordable to everyone, no matter who they are.

"I worry kids might regret these decisions when they get older."

- Of course, I always want what's best for my kid. I think every dad does. And also as my kids get older, I see them becoming more independent and sure of themselves and what they want. That makes me really proud. And while I sometimes have worries in the back of my mind, I know that my kid is surrounded by a caring team of healthcare professionals who are supporting my kid every step of the way. None of this care happens overnight. And the research shows regret rates for this care is around 1%. We can't predict the future, but I will do everything I can to make my child feel loved and supported and for them to just know I'm there for them no matter what.

About schools

"Parents should know what's going on with their kids. I don't want teachers keeping a secret from me."

- I remember growing up, my dad didn't really ask me a lot of what was going on with me. It felt like mental health wasn't really a thing. I feel proud that things are different with my kids. I try to make it to their games, meetings with teachers, and ask them how they're doing. But I know that's not the same for all kids. In my mind, I want more support for my kids as they grow up. I know that wherever my kids go, I want them to feel safe and like they belong. For some trans kids, school might be the only place where they feel that. Where they feel like they can be themselves with their peers and their teachers. These types of policies put trans kids at risk, and we shouldn't be forcing teachers to put students into a dangerous situation. I think that every kid should be able to come out when they feel safe and ready to do so. And as a dad all I can do is my best to show my kid that I love and support them and that I'll always be around to listen to what they have to share.

"It seems like schools are pushing this sex and gender stuff too early. That type of curriculum needs to wait until kids are older."

- You know, when I went to school there was a designated curriculum for each grade level of what kids were supposed to learn. It's been the same with my kids, except now they read books about people from different backgrounds than what I read. But it's also been tough because over the last few years, there's been a lot of talk about book bans. Certain politicians want to ban books about Black and brown people, and now they've set their sights on the LGBTQ community. What actually bothers me is that certain politicians are trying to dictate what schools can and can't teach. I wish our government could focus on funding for programs that help kids get free meals at school and that support families who are feeling financially strapped.
- To be honest, I wish we could focus on supporting schools in hiring and retaining teachers who can reach our kids. With social media, ChatGPT, and AI, I worry about whether my kids are going to learn things that will make it possible for them to get a job in the future. Teachers are an important part of our kids network of care, but if they're being given directions that harm their ability to connect to and respect their students, I worry what we're doing is setting up our kids to fail.

Sample Social Media Posts

Transgender Law Center created two ads, Girl Dad and Team Dinner, that you can watch and share with the following sample social media posts.

- Girl Dad [English]
- Team Dinner [English]
- Team Dinner [Spanish]

The goal is for the posts to generate a conversation in the comment section. Remember:

- Read people's comments to understand, not to debate or win. If they already agree with you, great! Invite them to share their own message of support on a social media platform
- Be curious. If people disagree with you, ask them why they feel a certain way. If this is someone you care about, make it clear that you are committed to the relationship and that questions are welcome.
- If you begin to feel strong emotions, take a break from the social media back and forth. If a thought is worth saying, it'll be worth saying tomorrow.
- Lastly, acknowledge that you are still learning. People are afraid of rejection, feeling dumb, or being excluded. You didn't become an activist overnight, so give that person the opportunity to learn with you.

Showing Up for Our Kids

Being a dad means showing up for your kids, even when the world they're growing up in looks different from the one you grew up in.

I won't have every answer, and I may not understand every experience my kid or their friends have. But I can listen. I can make sure they know they're loved. And I can stand up when a young person is being singled out simply for being who they are.

That's the kind of dad I want to be.

Every Kid Deserves a Team

Some of my best memories growing up happened on a field, court, or playground. Sports gave me friends, confidence, and a place to belong.

That's what I want for my kids too.

I know there are a lot of strong opinions about transgender kids and sports. But when politicians start singling out individual children, subjecting kids to unnecessary scrutiny, or isolating them from their teammates, I think it's time to push back.

Every kid deserves the chance to play, learn, grow, and belong.

Protecting Kids Means Looking at the Consequences

As dads, we hear a lot of politicians say they're acting to "protect kids."

I think parents should look beyond the slogan and ask what actually happens to our kids.

Will a policy make a child more likely to be bullied or singled out? Will it create more conflict in our schools? Will it take resources or attention away from helping students succeed?

Protecting kids means thinking about all of our kids, including trans kids, and the real consequences they will have to live with.

Our Schools Have Bigger Priorities

I talk to parents all the time who are worried about whether our schools have enough teachers, counselors, programs, and resources.

The last thing our schools need is another political fight taking time and resources away from educating kids.

Whatever your politics are, I think dads can agree on this: our schools should be focused on helping every student learn, grow, and succeed.

Who Benefits From Us Fighting Each Other?

Families are trying to keep up with groceries, housing, childcare, school expenses, and everything else it takes to raise a kid.

Meanwhile, politicians and billionaires profit and keep pointing to some new group of people for us to fight about.

Whenever somebody is working this hard to get neighbors angry at each other, I think it's worth asking who benefits from the fight.

I'd rather spend my energy making sure our kids have good schools, strong communities, and every opportunity to build a future.

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