

CLAIM YOUR RIGHTS

BRICK BY BRICK

A BRIEF GUIDE TO
PROTECTING YOUR
COMMUNITY'S HEALTH
WITH DIRECT ACTION

TAG

Treatment Action Group

PRIDE 2025

AS LONG AS LGBTQ+ FOLKS HAVE EXISTED
(ALWAYS), WE HAVE BEEN MADE TO
FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO SIMPLY
EXIST.

FROM THE FIRST BRICK THROWN AT
STONEWALL

TO THE FIRST MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS

TO DIE-INS ON CAPITOL STEPS TO ASSERT
THE VALUE OF OUR LIVES AND HEALTH

TO MARRY-INS OUTSIDE THE
COURTHOUSES THAT REFUSED
US

TO HORMONE INJECTIONS
OUTSIDE THE SUPREME
COURT THAT SEEKS TO
ERASE US

WE HAVE FOUGHT -
CLAIMING OUR
RIGHTS BRICK BY
BRICK.



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In the 1980s, as a mysterious disease spread throughout the gay community, the government ignored us — even as deaths from AIDS reached 40x that of the Vietnam War.

By joining together as a community, working with our fellow travelers in organizations like TAG, ACT UP!, Housing Works, and Gay Men's Health Crisis, we were able to fight back with direct action and community organizing. We demanded the healthcare, research, and support we needed — insisting on our own value when the government wouldn't. And we WON.

From the Nazi Burning of Queer Research to the HIV/AIDS Crisis, to today, our right to exist and health is and has been under attack. By denying us healthcare and the research to realize it, the powerful aim to erase the LGBTQ+ community.

Once again, we must come together in the struggle for our very right to exist with openness, happiness, hope, love, and health.
And we will win.



**WHEN OUR RIGHTS ARE UNDER ATTACK,
WHAT DO WE DO?**

ACT UP! FIGHT BACK!

CURRENT THREATS

MEDICAID CUTS

Over a million LGBTQ+ people are currently covered by Medicaid and 30% of ALL LGBTQ+ adults qualify. Medicaid coverage ensures access to key components of healthcare, including everything from PrEP, STI Testing, pap smears, gender affirming care, and even mental health care. Cuts to Medicaid's budget through the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill" threaten healthcare for millions of our community members.

BANS ON GENDER AFFIRMING CARE

The recent SCOTUS *Shrout* decision allows states to restrict or ban life-saving gender affirming care for trans youth. Along with other rulings, including *Dobbs* which overturned *Roe v. Wade*, this creates a legal foundation for states to interfere in our lives and the choices we make about our own bodies. 40% of the trans community lives in states with policies banning gender affirming care. This is particularly pressing for trans youth who face increasingly limited access to gender affirming care and high rates of poor mental health and self-harm as transphobic laws spread.

"AMERICA FIRST" POLICIES

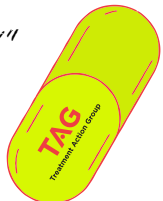
Global health relies heavily on international cooperation between public health programs, researchers, clinicians, advocates, and many others. The Trump administration has tried to destroy those networks by pulling funding, blocking communication, and cancelling visas. This targeted attack on science and multilateralism will have devastating impacts on everyone's health for generations to come.

BANS
OFF OUR
BODIES

MY BODY
IS NOT MINE
IN AMERICA

PROTECT
TRANS
BODIES

TRANS BODIES
ARE NOT
POLITICAL PROPERTY



CURRENT THREATS

This drug is the 'breakthrough of the year' — and it could mean the end of the HIV epidemic.
Promise of Victory Over H.I.V. Fades as U.S. Withdraws Support
Trump Administration Slashes Research Into HIV B.T.Q. Head

HIV PROGRAM CUTS

Within days of taking office, the Trump regime halted funding to HIV services worldwide — immediately shuttering clinics and access to HIV meds. His 2026 federal budget proposes eliminating PEPFAR and USAID entirely, and cutting all funding for HIV prevention and surveillance programs across the US. These cuts put lives at risk at home and abroad and will upend the decades of progress towards ending HIV.

DESTROYING LGBTQ+ RESEARCH

One of the prime targets of the Trump regime has been LGBTQ+ research — the very basis for all progress we've made improving queer lives. Since January 2025, the US government has halted funding for research that specifically includes trans people, addresses racist health disparities, and explores underlying health inequities in marginalized groups. Some of the hardest-hit studies focused on HIV, TB, and hepatitis C, especially studies that partnered with researchers in South Africa and other high-incidence countries.

OUR SHARED STRUGGLES

These threats will continue to target immigrants, communities of color, women and femmes, disabled folks, and many others — groups already marginalized and vilified beyond their queer identities and experiences.

In standing up to these threats and fighting for our community, we must fight for **everyone**. No one is healthy, safe, free until we are **all** free.



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ACTION ITEMS

BATTLE BUDGET CUTS AND DEFEND ACCESS TO LGBTQ+ HEALTHCARE

- DEMAND FULL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, GLOBAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND MEDICAID
- CALL ON YOUR STATE LEADERS TO PROTECT ACCESS TO GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE FOR TRANS KIDS

VOICE YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES

- DEMAND THAT U.S. FUNDING FOR GLOBAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS BE PROTECTED AND RESTORED
- REFUSE "AMERICA FIRST" AND XENOPHOBIC MESSAGING — ALL PEOPLE'S LIVES AND HEALTH ARE OF EQUAL VALUE, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY WERE BORN
- ASSERT THAT HIV, TB, AND HCV CAN ONLY BE ENDED ANYWHERE IF THEY ARE ENDED EVERYWHERE

CALL ON YOUR SENATORS TO CO-SPONSOR S.1941, THE CURE HEPATITIS C ACT OF 2025

- URGE YOUR SENATORS TO SIGN ON TO THIS BILL THAT WILL HELP ELIMINATE HEPATITIS C AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF EVERYONE AFFECTED

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TRUMP'S
AIDS CUTS KILL

HOW TO SHOW UP

1. CALL, EMAIL, SNAIL-MAIL YOUR LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS DEMANDING LEGISLATION THAT PROTECTS THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE (A SAMPLE CALL SCRIPT IS LINKED BELOW)
2. JOIN LOCAL ACTIVIST AND ADVOCACY GROUPS (E.G., ACT UP!, RISE & RESIST, HOUSING WORKS) WITH SHARED MISSIONS TO FIND COMMUNITY AND ALLIES
3. PARTICIPATE IN PROTESTS, ACTIONS, MARCHES, AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF LGBTQ+ RIGHTS AND YOUR LARGER COMMUNITY
4. GET ACTIVE IN YOUR LOCAL MUTUAL AID GROUPS TO SUPPORT LGBTQ+ AND OTHER TARGETED COMMUNITIES

WE TAKE CARE OF
EACH OTHER

RESOURCES



[TAGLINK.INFO/M/PRIDE25](https://taglink.info/m/pride25)



WHO WE ARE

Treatment Action Group (TAG) is an independent, activist, and community-based research and policy think tank committed to racial, gender, and LGBTQ+ equity; social justice; and liberation, fighting to end HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).

Since the AIDS epidemic, TAG has been on the front lines fighting for the healthiest possible futures for our queer community and beyond.

We catalyze open collective action by affected communities, scientists, and policymakers to ensure that all people living with or impacted by HIV, TB, or HCV — especially communities of color and other marginalized communities experiencing inequities — receive life-saving prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, and information.

We are science-based activists working to expand and accelerate vital research and effective community engagement with research and policy institutions for an end to the HIV, TB, and HCV pandemics.

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