

Minnesota v. Trump Presser Remarks – April 22, 2025

Today, I am suing President Donald Trump, Attorney General Pam Bondi, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Here's the opening line of the lawsuit we just filed:

“Minnesota brings this lawsuit to stop President Trump and his administration from bullying vulnerable children in this state.”

How did we get here?

In January and February, President Trump issued a series of executive orders targeting transgender people. One in particular banned transgender girls and women from participating on sports teams with other girls and women. On February 20, I issued a formal legal opinion saying that the executive order does not override Minnesota's protections against discrimination. In fact, complying with the sports executive order would violate the Minnesota Human Rights Act. That opinion is legally binding in Minnesota unless a court of law says otherwise.

On February 25, our office got this letter from the Department of Justice, stating that it would sue us if we didn't comply with the executive order. We got another letter on April 8, and in an April 16 press conference the DOJ threatened to withhold funds from Minnesota and “seek judicial resolution.”

I'm not waiting for Trump to sue Minnesota. Today, Minnesota is suing him and his administration because we will not participate in this shameful bullying. We will not participate for two reasons:

- 1) They are wrong about the law, both federal and state, and
- 2) We will not let a small group of vulnerable children who are only trying to be healthy and live their lives be demonized.

That's the bottom line. In our Minnesota, everyone is included in our circle of compassion, and no one is left out of our circle of protection.

The Trump administration doesn't see it that way. They've wrongly claimed that gender identity is "false." They've tried to cut off life-saving access to gender-affirming care — and we sued them about that, too. They're trying to remove trans kids from public life, and from the things that let kids be kids.

And now they're coming after Minnesota, threatening to cut off our federal funding unless we turn our backs on our kids. They want to make all of us pay because we welcome all children and want them to be their whole selves.

These are bullying tactics, plain and simple. I've been around my share of bullies in my life, and if there's one thing I've learned, it's that you don't give them an inch and you don't play nice.

The legal claims in our lawsuit are straightforward.

- First, the executive action is invalid because the Trump Administration is trying to use powers that the Constitution reserves for Congress.
- Second, Title IX of federal law explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sex. The administration is wrong on the law.
- Third, the executive action violates the Administrative Procedures Act.
- And finally, the Administration is violating the Tenth Amendment, which protects state sovereignty, by trying to coerce Minnesota to follow its discriminatory policy.

That's not how the law works. That's not how the constitution works. That's not how democracy works.

Trump's burning desire to destroy trans kids and punish us for helping them live and thrive isn't just a violation of the law. It's a violation of Minnesota values. We're not going to sell out trans kids — or any vulnerable community — just to stay in the good graces of a lawless administration.

Sometimes countries face a moment like this — faced with a leader bent on destroying entire communities and instilling fear in those who protect them. The lessons of history tell us a leader like that doesn't stop at one community — after he's destroyed one, he goes after another, and another, and another.

These are the moments when you have to say “no.” We're in that moment, right now, in America. I have the power to say “no.” Today, I'm using it.