



# Rachel Levine

## Politicizing Public Health

President Biden’s nominee for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) assistant secretary, Rachel Levine, has an alarming track record of prioritizing a radical LGBT agenda and partisan politics over public health. While serving as Pennsylvania’s secretary of health, Levine, a biological man identifying as a woman, has advocated sex changes for children and adolescents and failed to competently manage Pennsylvania’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, Levine should not be entrusted with the powerful position of HHS assistant secretary.

### Levine Advocates Gender Transition for Children

- Before being appointed Pennsylvania’s physician general, Levine sat on the board of [Equality Pennsylvania](#), a statewide LGBT rights group.
- Prominent LGBTQ groups from around the country have [backed](#) the nomination, a good indication of where Levine stands on family and sexuality issues.
- Levine’s views on gender preference and transition among children are particularly alarming:
  - A professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine, Levine has given lectures since [at least 2012](#) on how to perform sex changes and gender conversion therapy on children.
  - Levine has openly encouraged parents to let their children *choose* whether to be a boy or a girl, [advising](#) adults to “try not to force them one way or [the] other” and instead follow the lead of children as young as five or six.

- Levine has repeatedly advocated for children to choose whether to be male or female, obtain hormone blockers, and begin transitioning into the opposite sex early in life. Levine spoke extensively on these matters in a [2017 speech](#) at Franklin & Marshall College:
  - “For prepubertal children,” Levine said, “they might present in different ways. They might present at school in the gender they were identified at birth, or they might present as the other gender, or they might be more gender-fluid.”
  - Levine recommends—and has reportedly administered—puberty blockers once children reach the “young adolescent” stage. Levine described prescribing puberty blockers and cross-sex hormone injections to children who expressed anxiety about the natural process of puberty.
  - Levine explained that the current protocols for gender-dysphoric youth involve prescribing puberty blockers during the first stages of puberty, and then introducing cross-sex hormones between the ages of 14 and 16 after continued counseling. Then, around age 18, the patient may undergo surgery. However, Levine noted that there are exceptions, suggesting that certain circumstances permit performing surgical procedures even on patients under the age of 18.
  - Levine said doctors could “accelerate” the process when dealing with “street kids” who come into clinics without their parents. Levine went so far as to say that in such cases, doctors may skip puberty blockers altogether and go straight to cross-sex hormones for adolescents aged 14-16 or perhaps even younger. Most modern medical ethicists condemn such practices.

## **Levine Failed to Protect the Vulnerable During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

- Levine infamously [forced](#) COVID-19 patients out of hospitals and into nursing homes and long-term care facilities, exacerbating the spread of the virus to the elderly and infirm, among whom it proved to be most lethal.

- Instead of taking responsibility for his incompetence, Levine [downplayed](#) this criticism, arguing that such policies were a necessary response to the pandemic and that COVID-19 was already present in those facilities.
- At the same time Levine was pushing such deadly policies on others, Levine's mother [was quietly removed](#) from a nursing home early on in the pandemic.

## Levine Has Other Extreme Positions

- Levine released a statement [denouncing](#) a 2016 Pennsylvania bill that would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks (the current standard was 24 weeks), calling it punishing for women.
- Levine supported a [policy](#) that used the pandemic as an excuse not to inspect abortion clinics.
- According to one [report](#), Levine intends to overturn and restore Title X funding for abortions.
- Levine [accused](#) the religious freedom protections contained in the Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate of being "immoral and unethical" and [called out](#) the Trump administration for supporting such protections.
- Reportedly, Levine [will attempt](#) to rebuild the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, which has been a [vehicle to promote](#) anti-family sexual ideologies and foist them upon young people. The program is also [one of the top sources of federal grants for Planned Parenthood](#).

## Levine Is Unfit and Unqualified for a Position within HHS

If the Pennsylvania nursing home scandal wasn't enough of a red flag, Levine has made many questionable judgments, including recommending that Pennsylvanians take up [sexting](#) or subscribe to a pornography service like OnlyFans in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Levine's radical views on family and sexuality, ineffective and hypocritical response to COVID-19, and poor policies and judgment calls should be disqualifying. Levine is unfit for the influential position of HHS assistant secretary.