

PROJECT 2025

UNDERSTANDING ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR LGBTQ+ ELDERS

Project 2025 outlines a conservative policy agenda that threatens the rights, health, and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ older people.

Throughout its over 900 pages, Project 2025 paints a vision of an America that would be devastating to LGBTQ+ people, BIPOC communities, women, immigrants and asylum seekers, educators, children, and elders, to name a few groups. From aging services and supports to housing and healthcare, the policies it proposes will put older LGBTQ+ people in significant danger.

To keep our constituents informed, SAGE has outlined some of these policies and the effects they would have on LGBTQ+ elders.



ACCESS TO AGING SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Project 2025 would undo federal regulations ensuring that LGBTQ+ elders are receiving aging services and supports by barring any mention of sexual orientation and gender identity in laws, regulations, and grant funding opportunities.

- 1** | It would harm trans elders by ignoring their gender identity as a matter of policy, grounding policy in a binary view of gender assigned at birth.
- 2** | It would roll-back access to aging services and supports like Meals-on-Wheels by barring the collection of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data in surveys like the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants, which measures the effectiveness of the Older Americans Act (OAA) in reaching the most at-risk elders. The OAA funds critical aging programs like Meals-on-Wheels, transportation assistance, and senior centers.
- 3** | It would put LGBTQ+ elders at risk for facing discrimination by aging service providers who will be empowered to deny services to LGBTQ+ elders and use their religion as a license to discriminate under so-called “conscience protections.”
- 4** | It would hurt LGBTQ+ elders who rely on chosen family members for care by undercutting the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers and promoting traditional definitions of family.
- 5** | It could bar grant conditions that require grantees to form partnerships with LGBTQ+ organizations like SAGE.



HEALTHCARE AND MEDICARE / MEDICAID

Project 2025 would put LGBTQ+ elders at risk for discrimination when receiving healthcare by rolling-back the Affordable Care Act's non-discrimination protections as well as those provided by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

- 1** | It would put trans elders on Medicare and/or Medicaid at risk by eliminating support for gender affirming care.
- 2** | It would harm transgender veterans by barring the Veterans Administration (VA) from providing gender affirming care.
- 3** | It would put traditional Medicare at risk by, among other things, favoring Medicare Advantage.
- 4** | It would diminish the health of LGBTQ+ elders across the nation by barring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from collecting sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data and by abolishing the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.
- 5** | It would have a chilling effect on medical research around LGBTQ+ health needs, including sexual wellness and HIV prevention.
- 6** | It would threaten visitation and partner decision-making rights in healthcare by centering "traditional" definitions of family.



HOUSING

Project 2025 would expose LGBTQ+ elders to housing discrimination and other forms of discrimination.

- 1** | It would call on federal agencies to stop interpreting sex-based non-discrimination protections to include protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
 - 2** | It would undercut housing policies that help LGBTQ+ elders by pushing “traditional” marriage and rolling-back any other initiatives that help LGBTQ+ elders find welcoming and affordable housing.
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Beyond the harmful policies that we’ve outlined above, Project 2025’s language degrades the LGBTQ+ community and would negatively impact the mental health of LGBTQ+ elders.

It refers to LGBTQ+ people – especially the transgender community – as “child predators,” “pornographers,” and “exploiters of women.” It calls for the imprisonment of anyone who makes or shares trans-affirming content and demands that LGBTQ+ affirming librarians and educators be registered as sex offenders.

There is a long history of those hostile to LGBTQ+ humanity and equality using similar degrading language and relying on discredited tropes about protecting children. Many elders will remember the Briggs Initiative, a 1978 California ballot initiative that would have banned gay and lesbian people from working in schools, as well as anti-LGBTQ+ celebrity Anita Bryant’s “Save Our Children” campaign.

Opponents of LGBTQ+ rights continued to use similar inflammatory rhetoric throughout the AIDS crisis that was a formative experience for so many of today’s LGBTQ+ elders. They are now using this same approach in Project 2025.

LGBTQ+ elders, who already face daunting challenges as they age, are at serious risk of being deeply hurt by Project 2025’s toxic policy proposals and hateful language.

