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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement on Idaho HB675 Criminalizing Gender-Affirming Health Care

The U.S. FGM/C Network (“The Network”) is concerned to see the passing of HB675 in the Idaho House of Representatives. This legislation would amend the existing law in Idaho that bans female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) to also include a ban on gender-affirming health care, including puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy for Trans youth.

The Network’s main priority is to protect girls from FGM/C. We are disheartened to see the current legislation that does just that being hijacked for purposes to target and discriminate against vulnerable youth. Gender-affirming care for Trans youth and FGM/C are not the same and we firmly believe that these two very important issues should not be linked through legislation.

In addition, the amendments proposed through HB675 are against The Network’s [values](#). The Network operates on a clear set of values, including tolerance. We believe in approaching ending FGM/C and differing opinions with understanding, empathy, and sensitivity to prevent discrimination, targeting, blame, and shaming of individuals or communities.

We call on the Idaho State Senate to vote against HB675 to ensure that the legislation remains focused solely on protecting young girls from FGM/C, as it was originally intended to do.

About The Network

The U.S. End FGM/C Network is a collaborative group of approximately 150 members including FGM/C survivors, civil society organizations, foundations, activists, policy makers, researchers, healthcare providers, and others committed to promoting the abandonment of FGM/C in the U.S. and globally. To learn more about our work, please visit endfgmnetwork.org.

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