

# Trump health nominee called for ‘corrective care’ for trans youth

**Brian Christine, an Alabama urologist, talks common sense.**

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President Donald Trump’s pick for a top health post has called for transgender youth to undergo “corrective care” instead of transitioning and has repeated conspiracy theories about the covid-19 pandemic, according to a Washington Post review of his podcast and radio appearances.

Brian Christine, a 61-year-old Alabama urologist, would succeed former U.S. assistant secretary for health Rachel Levine, who [made history](#) during the Biden administration when she became the highest ranking openly transgender federal government official.

The assistant secretary oversees a broad portfolio of public health programs, including the surgeon general’s work. Unlike most of his predecessors, who led government agencies before ascending to the job, Christine, who is well-regarded in his medical field, has no government experience. Levine had been Pennsylvania’s top health official.

Christine is the latest in a series of Trump [picks](#) for key health roles who have nontraditional backgrounds. He would serve as a top deputy to Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

In the medical world, Christine gained prominence for his expertise in sexual health, including surgical procedures to treat erectile dysfunction. In the world of politics, Christine unsuccessfully ran twice for local and state office and often donated to Republican causes, including more than \$8,000 to support Trump’s 2024 campaign.

Christine needs Senate confirmation to join the Department of Health and Human Services. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has yet to schedule a hearing.

The Post’s review of Christine’s appearances on podcasts and radio shows, most of them local or low-profile, and 2022 campaign videos found that in recent years he often challenged mainstream medical views on transgender care and the coronavirus pandemic, sometimes in ways bordering on the conspiratorial.

Christine repeatedly said gender dysphoria is a real condition, once comparing it to addiction. But he said children experiencing dysphoria should undergo corrective care, such as intensive counseling or “pastoral care,” rather than affirming care supported by major U.S. medical organizations to align their physical development with their gender identity.

“They want to affirm what they think in their head. I think it’s damaging. I think it’s wrong,” Christine said in a [2023 interview](#). “The transgender agenda of the left is using these little girls and little boys as pawns.”

In other podcasts, Christine described that [agenda](#) as one that challenges traditional gender roles, family and religion.

Levine, in contrast, has defended gender transition care for youth as safe and medically necessary. In a 2023 post, Christine said “Masculinity is being attacked” in reaction to a headline about Levine’s support for young people receiving gender transition care.

Brandon Wolf, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group, said the Senate should reject Christine.

“Brian Christine has a long history of spreading dangerous disinformation about transgender people and endorsing practices that do real harm to children,” Wolf said. “His nomination is an affront to the groundbreaking leaders who have served in this crucial role and an insult to the communities he has thrown under the bus.”

On podcast appearances, Christine said he does not offer transgender care to his adult patients, but materials first reported by the [Wall Street Journal](#) show his practice advertised doing so.

As recently as 2017, the biography on Christine’s personal website said his practice treated erectile dysfunction in patients who “have undergone female-to-male gender reassignment.” That year, his practice listed that treatment among offered services in an [advertisement](#) in an LGBTQ+ magazine in Atlanta that featured Christine’s name and photo.

Christine did not return a request for comment. The White House released a statement attributable to Christine that said: “I have never treated transgender ‘men’ for sexual dysfunction, either with medication or surgery. I have never performed a surgical ‘transition’ of a man or woman. I have never prescribed hormones to a patient with gender dysphoria or to aid in ‘transition.’”

“I am not a specialist in transgender care. I do not offer treatment to patients diagnosed with gender dysphoria. I actively, as a urologic expert, supported the Alabama legislature’s efforts to pass into law prohibitions against the chemical and surgical manipulation of children and adolescents for the purpose of ‘gender affirming care.’”

Lesa Bowman, who was listed as a patient liaison in the ad, told The Post that Christine never offered such care.

Michael Koslin, a friend, fellow physician and former patient, described Christine as a welcoming doctor.

“He’s conservative in his political views, but he’s practiced a form of urology where he deals with people from all different genders and ideologies on their own sexual orientation,” Koslin said. “He’s very open in how he treats people.”

Christine held leadership positions in associations of urology and sexual health providers, where he developed a reputation as a doctor who pioneered public communication through YouTube videos and performing complex procedures, such as the use of inflatable penile implants for incontinence and sexual health. Christine has most recently practiced at the Urology Centers of Alabama.

“He’s a good strong, upstanding doctor,” said Steve Wilson, a fellow urologist who mentored Christine in surgical procedures. “Maybe he’ll be a good sounding board for RFK.”

Christine tapped into his expertise making high-quality medical videos to create a YouTube channel for his political ambitions. In interviews, Christine described how his Catholic faith shapes his life, including his approach to medicine and opposition to abortion. **He joined a group of doctors who demonstrated outside the U.S. Supreme Court during oral arguments for the case that led to justices overturning *Roe v. Wade*.**

Christine often cited his religious views during his primary challenge to a Republican state senator in 2022 and brief run for the Jefferson County commission in 2023.

“He is a strong conservative,” said Mike Bolin, the commissioner who won the race after Christine dropped out and endorsed him. “He’s not somebody who is going to be a rabble-rouser. He’s far too bright and far too nice to be like that.”

Several people who know Christine said his nomination came as a surprise because he had not expressed interest in national politics and government. The White House did not respond to a request for comment on why Christine was selected and made no public statement about the pick. HHS did not respond to a request for comment on what Christine’s responsibilities would be.

Christine often criticized the government response to the pandemic and suggested there were nefarious motives at play.

He said there was [“no question”](#) the pandemic was used to influence the outcome of the 2020 election, noting changes to election rules to make it easier to vote outside of polling places. He suggested financial elites including billionaire George Soros, “multinational large corporations and conglomerates,” and the World Economic Forum — an international advocacy organization — benefited from small businesses closing as a result of shutdowns.

“Now was there a worldwide concerted effort to close small businesses and to force them out of business? I don’t know if there was, but it looks mighty suspicious to me,” Christine said on his [podcast](#) in October 2022. “Clearly there were a lot of small businesses that were hurt by the way that this health-care concern, the pandemic, was weaponized and how it was treated by our government and by bigger business.”

He offered mixed assessments of the coronavirus vaccines, saying that he received his initial shots but not boosters and that he thinks they make sense for some people, including the elderly. He opposed coronavirus vaccine mandates.

**“Right now, it’s a vaccine. What’s it going to be down the road?,” Christine said in an [interview with another local candidate](#). “I don’t trust government.”**

If confirmed by the Senate, Christine would serve in the position held by Brett Giroir in the first Trump administration. Giroir played a central role in the pandemic response, serving as the testing czar.

During his campaign for the Alabama Senate, Christine offered a much different assessment of what the government’s role should be during a pandemic.

“There may well be another pandemic at some point,” he said on his [podcast](#). “We the people are not going to let the government lead us, guide us and control us as we have.”