

# SCOTUS conservatives skeptical of arguments on transgender ban

BY LINDSAY WHITEHURST  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court heard the most high-profile case of its term on Wednesday, weighing Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming health care for transgender minors.

Similar laws have been passed by other

conservative-leaning states. Challengers say they deprive kids of treatment they need, while the states defend them as protecting minors from life-changing decisions.

The conservative-majority court appeared ready to uphold Tennessee's law. It comes against the backdrop

of escalating push-back to transgender rights, notably from President-elect Donald Trump.

Here are some takeaways from the arguments:

### WHAT DID KEY CONSERVATIVE JUSTICES SAY?

In the arguments on

Wednesday, five of the court's six conservatives seemed skeptical of the argument that the ban on gender-affirming care for minors is discriminatory.

Two key conservatives, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett, repeatedly challenged the arguments from lawyers challenging the ban.

Roberts questioned whether judges should be weighing in on a question of regulating medical procedures, an area usually left to state lawmakers. Barrett sounded skeptical of the administration's argument that the law discriminates because of sex.

Conservative Justice

Neil Gorsuch was notably silent, asking no questions.

The court's other three conservatives seemed to favor Tennessee. The three liberals largely backed the challengers, with Justice Sonia Sotomayor highlighting the risks of suicide among kids with gender dysphoria.

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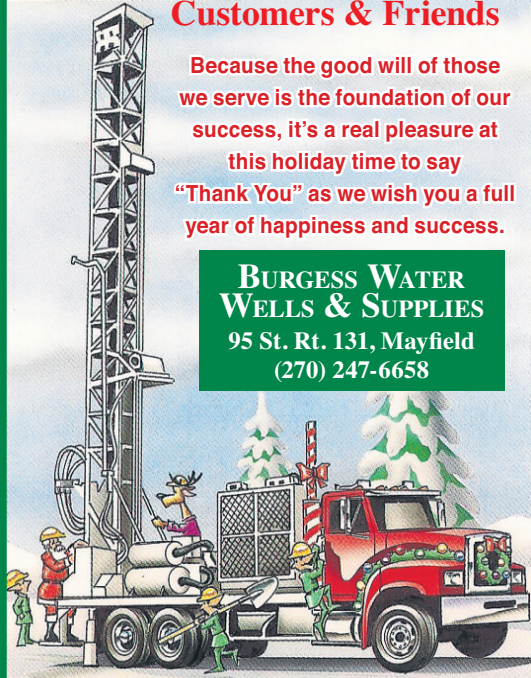


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