

# **Writer's Memo: "Analyzing Health Disparities of Trans Masculine Populations with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome"**

*Easton Brundage*

I first wrote this paper for my Women's Studies Capstone course during the semester that I was both diagnosed with PCOS and started hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Both processes were tumultuous with expensive doctor's visits, many tests, and constant bloodwork all while I faced consistent barriers from medical providers who created unsupportive and at times transphobic environments. As an aspiring academic, I scrutinized much of what these providers told me when I could not make sense of it, and I turned to medical research journals to clarify the information they provided. I found that much of the information providers told me during appointments was based on misconceptions or outdated and disproven research studies. My experience was not unique; rather, it was part of a large systemic issue of transgender health disparities seen throughout the medical institution.

Birthered from my experience navigating the healthcare system, this research paper is a defense of trans masculine people's bodily autonomy. Despite extending beyond my experience, I value the opportunity to share a trans story as a trans author. Too often, cisgender researchers maintain power over trans stories, and thus neglect to confront pivotal components of deep-rooted transphobia throughout their work. I hope that this paper explains the depths of transphobia not just in the gynecological system but throughout the medical institution. To healthcare providers, I hope this paper serves as a warning of the abundant misinformation surrounding trans healthcare that is incorporated into the medical system. To trans masculine readers, I hope this paper creates a visibility that is missing throughout much of the field of gynecology. There is still a long way to go, but I hope papers like this show that there are tangible steps to improve the current state of medical transphobia.