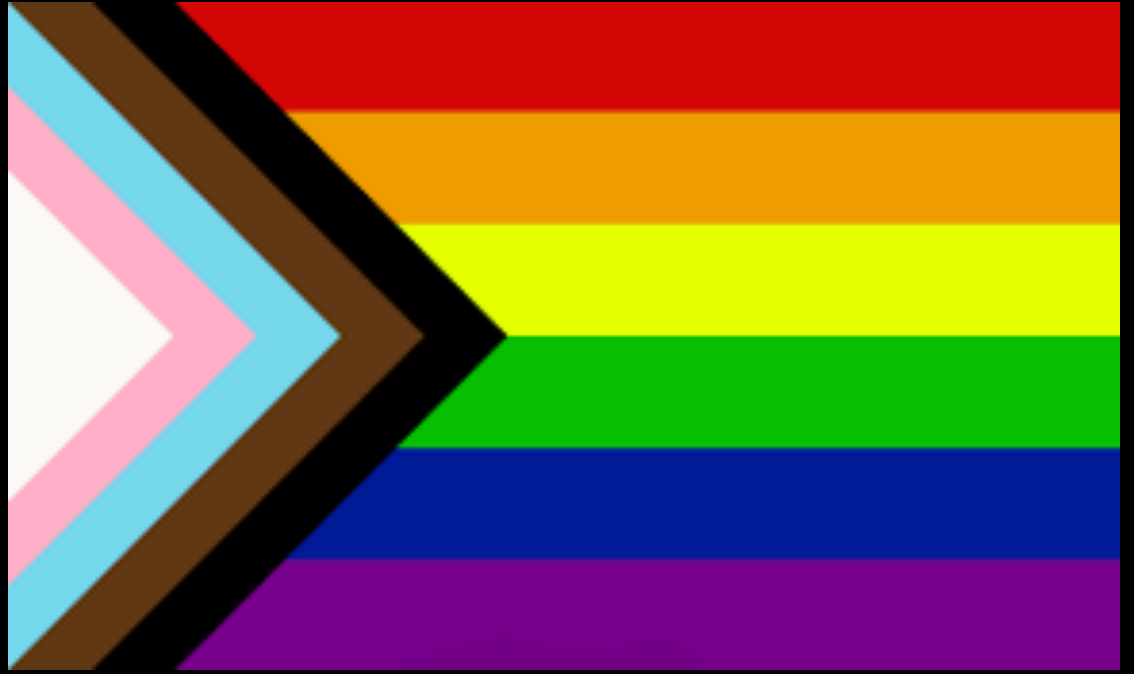


My Gender Journey



Presented by Natalie Moncada (She/They)

11/7/2023

Contact info:
emoncada37@ucla.edu

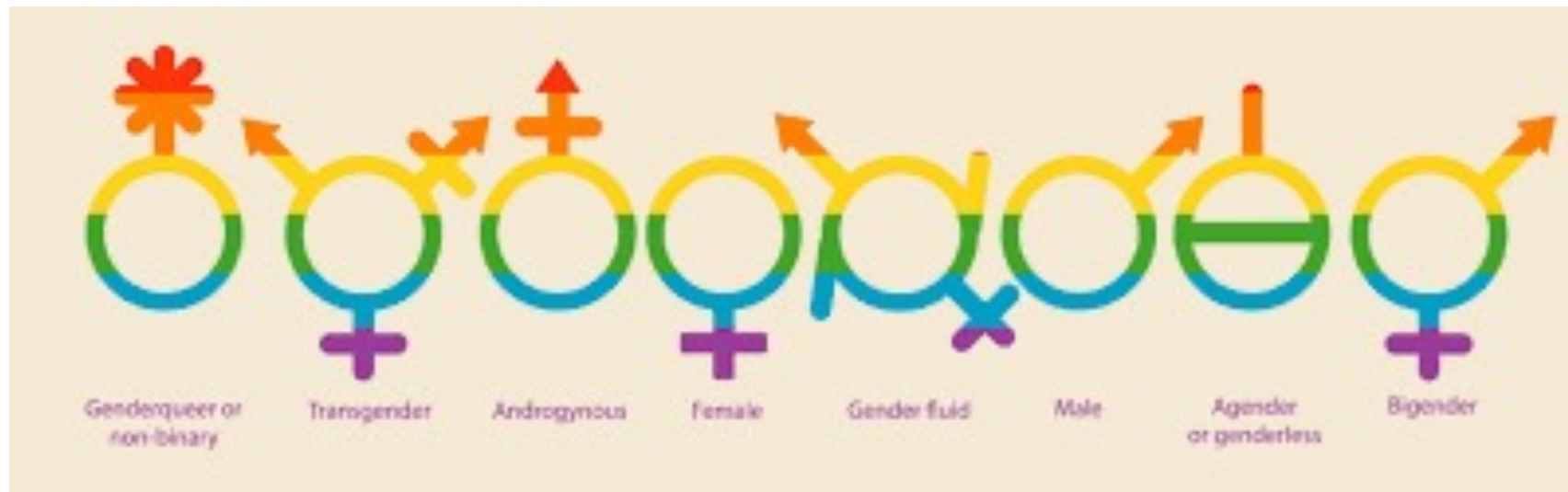
Who is she?

- Mexican immigrant
 - Born in La Barca, Jalisco
- Moved to the US in 2001
 - Wichita, Kansas
- Started undergrad at UCI in 2014
 - This would be the start of my gender journey
- Graduated in the summer of 2019
- Started grad school (UCLA) immediately after undergrad (oof)



My gender journey

- Started by using they/them pronouns in undergrad
- Most of my growth came during covid
- Started to work through a lot of other issues
 - Deconstructed a lot of social structures
- Started to explore with “women” clothes



The birth of my confidence

- Exploring myself helped me feel more connected
- The depression and darkness that engulfed me started to break
- I started to walk with my head held high



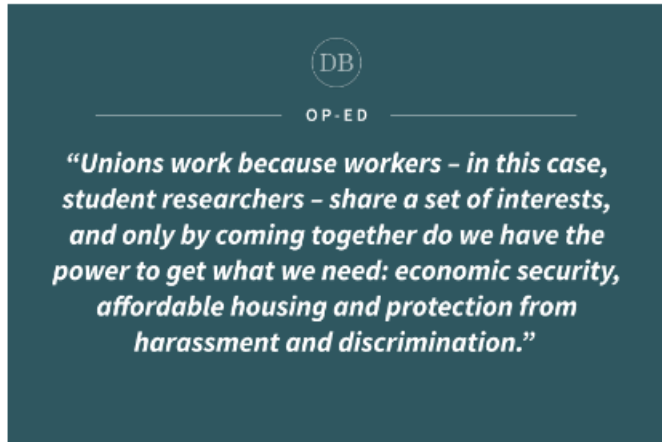
Unionizing graduate students



- I gave speeches about my gender journey
- Started to get more involved with Student Researchers United (now 2865)
- Became elected to represent graduate students at the bargaining table



Using my platform to advocate for LGBTQ rights



COMMUNITY | May 12, 2021 2:38 p.m.

Op-ed: UC student researchers union would protect LGBTQ+ rights, ensure adequate wages

As a graduate student researcher in the Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Physiology graduate program at UCLA, I spend my days studying sleep. Recently, I've been spending my nights working on another project important to me both as a worker and also as a person who has begun transitioning from male to female: forming a union for student researchers at the University of California.

By [Natalie Moncada](#)

- I shared my story in OP-EDs
- Helped to change the language in our contract to be more inclusive
 - Ensure that LGBTQ rights were protected

Unionizing Gave Me Hope — and Made Me Feel Like a Human Being

BY
NATALIE MONCADA

JACOBIN

Safety concerns in a growingly hostile environment

- What does this mean for queer people?
- Growing fears can lead to worsening mental health

◀ **PRESS RELEASES**

For the First Time Ever, Human Rights Campaign Officially Declares ‘State of Emergency’ for LGBTQ+ Americans; Issues National Warning and Guidebook to Ensure Safety for LGBTQ+ Residents and Travelers

Increasing number of anti-LGBTQ bills

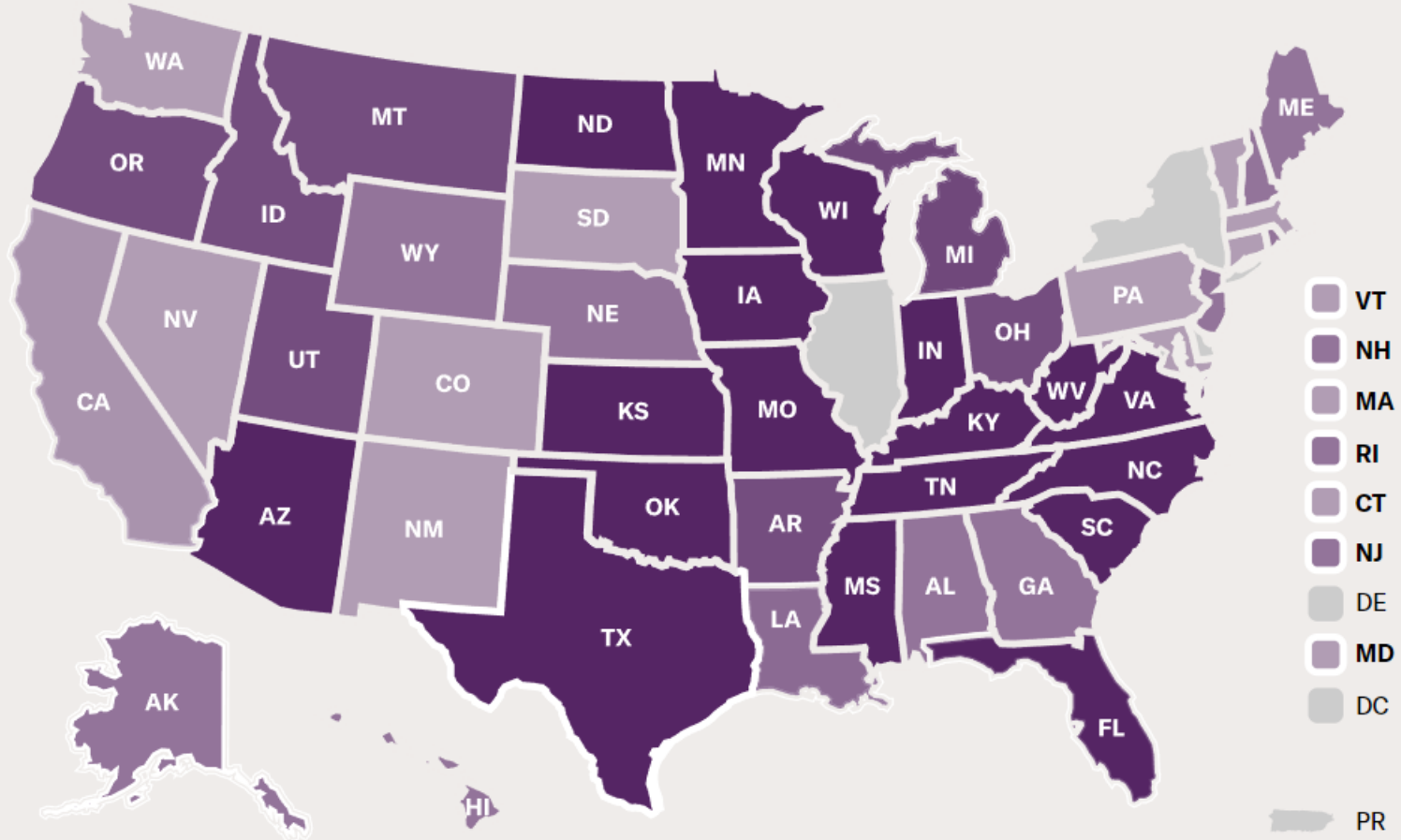
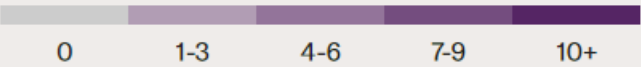
2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACLU is tracking **506** anti-LGBTQ bills in the U.S.

Choose a state on the map to show the different bills targeting LGBTQ rights and take action. While not all of these bills will become law, they all cause harm for LGBTQ people.

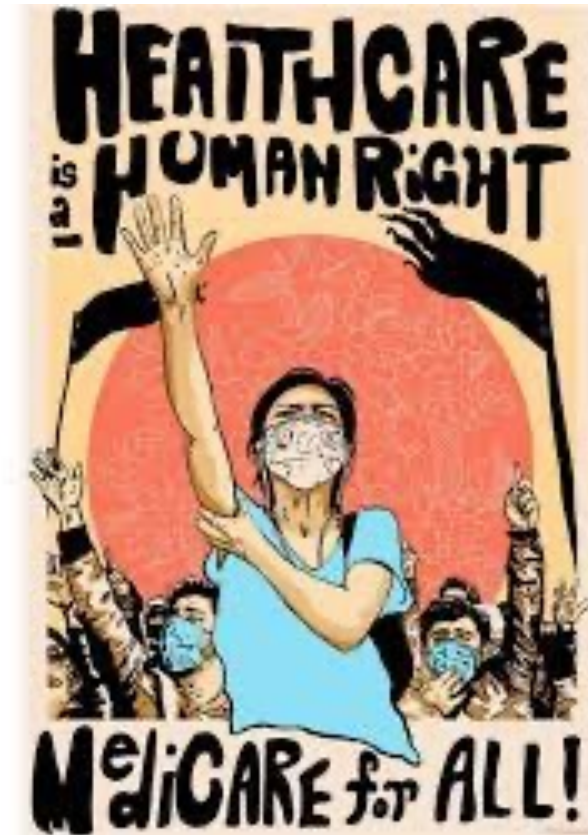
[View past legislative sessions.](#)

Bills per state



How is healthcare affected?

- Trans youth are not able to access the care that they need
- Prevents insurance and Medicaid from covering gender affirming care to people
- Block funding to medical center that provide gender affirming care



What does this all mean?



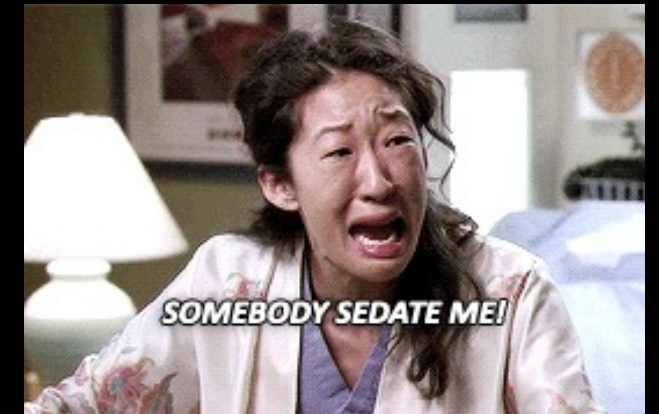
LGBTQ+ AMERICANS FIGHT BACK: A GUIDEBOOK FOR ACTION



- Limits where someone can live
- Negative impacts on mental health
- Increases the need of activist and advocates
- Limited access to healthcare

Personal story on why trans youth need access to gender affirming care

- Puberty can be so scary
- Imagine yourself being forced to grow into someone you do not want to be
- What thoughts go through your mind?
- A future is forced on you
- The illusion of free will breaks



An unimaginable future

