

“Going on Offense” — Claim Citations

The receipts behind the memo's top hits — assembled for HRC's follow-up (July 14, 2026), kept as the standing internal reference. Every source verified against the original.

CLAIM: “Spent over \$220 million calling transgender people ‘rainbow haired freaks’ and blaming them for mass shootings”

The spending figure

- Washington Post reporting on AdImpact cycle data (Casey Parks, Nov. 2024): Republicans spent nearly \$215M on network TV ads attacking trans people — excluding cable and streaming, so the true total runs higher. (Truthout summary of the WaPo report, 11/5/24)
<https://truthout.org/articles/republicans-spent-nearly-215m-on-tv-ads-attacking-trans-rights-this-election/>
- NPR on the same AdImpact data (11/22/24): \$222M on anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ ads vs. under \$29M on the Democratic side.
<https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2024/11/22/nx-s1-5188573/transgender-gender-affirming-care-trump-abortion-hyde-amendment>
- NPR on placement (10/19/24): 30,000+ airings, concentrated in NFL and college football broadcasts.
<https://www.npr.org/2024/10/19/g-s1-28932/donald-trump-transgender-ads-kamala-harris>

Number rules: \$215M (trans-specific, network TV only) and \$222M (anti-trans + LGBTQ combined) are two slices of the same AdImpact dataset — they overlap almost entirely and must NEVER be summed. One-figure formulations: “more than \$220 million” (TFA standard) or “nearly a quarter-billion dollars.” If challenged on “JUST about trans people,” fall back to “more than \$215 million.”

The quote (Don Jr., The Megyn Kelly Show, Sept. 11, 2025)

△ **Precision: his exact words were “some rainbow hair freak doctor” — aimed at providers, not trans people. Pair the clip with the line he aimed at trans people themselves, from the same appearance: he couldn’t name a group “including probably like al Qaeda and the Taliban” that is “more violent per capita than the radical trans movement.”**

- The Advocate write-up of the appearance.
<https://www.advocate.com/news/trump-jr-transgender-terrorists>

The mass-shootings blame

- NBC News, March 2023 (Nashville): the right blames gender identity, not guns.
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/right-blame-gender-identity-not-guns-nashville-shooting-rcna76969>
- Washington Post, 3/30/23.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/03/30/nashville-shooting-transgender-shooter/>
- PolitiFact, 9/9/25 (post-Minneapolis “pattern of violence” claims).
<https://www.politifact.com/article/2025/sep/09/trans-people-mass-shootings-gun-violence/>
- FactCheck.org, Sept. 2025.
<https://www.factcheck.org/2025/09/few-mass-shooters-have-been-transgender/>

The last two double as rebuttal data: trans people are ~1% of the population but ~0.17% of mass shooters — underrepresented.

CLAIM: “Threatened to defund hospitals if they continue to provide care to their transgender patients”

- Fierce Healthcare: HHS moves to cut federal funding to hospitals over gender-affirming care for minors.
<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/regulatory/hhs-moves-cut-federal-funding-hospitals-over-gender-affirming-care-minors>
- STAT News (12/18/25): CMS proposed rules would bar facilities providing gender-affirming care to minors from Medicare/Medicaid participation.
<https://www.statnews.com/2025/12/18/transgender-care-hospitals-trump-cms-rules/>
- STAT News (2/5/26): 40+ hospitals have curtailed care under administration pressure.
<https://www.statnews.com/2026/02/05/hospitals-stop-gender-care-minors-trump-administration-pressure/>
- STAT News (5/13/26): DOJ subpoenas suggest a criminal probe of children’s hospitals.
<https://www.statnews.com/2026/05/13/gender-affirming-care-minors-doj-subpoenas-suggest-criminal-probe/>

CLAIM: “Wasted over \$100 million taxpayer dollars in just a couple of months enforcing restrictions on transgender people”

- NBC News: the administration terminated more than \$125M in LGBTQ health research funding — 270+ NIH grants pulled mid-study under the “transgender-related” cancellation letters, most within a few months in spring 2025.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/trump-administration-axes-125m-lgbtq-health-funding-upending-research-rcna199175>

- Science (AAAS) on the termination wave — documents that transgender research was the explicit target, down to studies in mice.

<https://www.science.org/content/article/new-nih-grant-terminations-target-transgender-studies-even-mice>

The voiced claim (“over \$100 million”) sits under documentation of “more than \$125 million,” so there is cushion built in. Precision flag: the \$125M spans LGBTQ health research broadly — no published figure isolates trans-only grants at the \$100M+ level. The trans tie rests on the stated basis of the cuts (NIH guidance singling out “transgender issues”; cancellation letters invoking the executive order barring federal recognition of transgender people).

⚠ LEGAL STATUS (updated 7/21/26 — supersedes the “found unlawful” shorthand in the 7/14 email): District courts did rule against the terminations — D. Mass. (Judge Young, 7/2/25, arbitrary and capricious under the APA) and D. Md. (8/1/25, equal-protection and ACA §1557). BUT the Supreme Court stayed those orders in August 2025 and allowed \$783M in DEI-linked grant terminations to proceed, while leaving the vacatur of NIH’s internal guidance intact. The litigation is unresolved — do NOT voice “illegal” or “unlawful” in any external or paid-media use. “Wasted” / “pulled mid-study” remain fully supported.

- Lambda Legal on the D. Md. ruling (8/1/25).

https://lambdalegal.org/newsroom/glma_us_20250801_court-blocks-nih-effort-to-terminate-research-grants-relating-to-lgbtqi-health/

- NPR on the Supreme Court stay (8/22/25).

<https://www.npr.org/2025/08/22/nx-s1-5510061/after-supreme-court-ruling-on-nih-funding-uncertainty-remains-for-many-scientists>