Pride Month 2020

A Reflection from Vice Provost Tim Holbrook

From 2013 to 2015, while at the University of Chicago, Tim Young, administrative vice president in charge of developing health care practices for transgender patients, was a focal point of attention. A few days after the Supreme Court’s landmark 2015 decision to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, immediately calling into question Trump administration’s direction of transgender health policy, Tim and his team were on the front lines of developing a new set of guidelines for health care providers. The fact is, these rights for trans folks in Georgia were nothing new, but now the Supreme Court’s decision gave them a stronger legal underpinning.

This was the start of the “dizzying” period that followed, as a string of Supreme Court decisions ensured the progress of LGBTQ+ rights, from marriage equality to the 2020 election. But as we approach Pride Month 2020, we must always recall, particularly at this moment in history, that progress can be rolled back, as we see in the recent rollback of health care protections for transgender persons. A few days later, the Supreme Court extends federal law to include gender identity, immediately calling into question the Trump administration’s position on health care for transgender persons. A few days later, the Supreme Court extends federal law to include gender identity, immediately calling into question the Trump administration’s position on health care for transgender persons.

In 17 short years, we’ve gone from criminals, to being able to be married, and now protected by federal law. This progress is almost dizzying. But we must always recall, particularly at this moment in history, that progress can be rolled back, as we see in the recent rollback of health care protections for transgender persons. A few days later, the Supreme Court extends federal law to include gender identity, immediately calling into question the Trump administration’s position on health care for transgender persons. A few days later, the Supreme Court extends federal law to include gender identity, immediately calling into question the Trump administration’s position on health care for transgender persons. A few days later, the Supreme Court extends federal law to include gender identity, immediately calling into question the Trump administration’s position on health care for transgender persons.

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