

# [***Transgender adults in red states fear for the next generation as political attacks accelerate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:69BX-2D81-F027-X01H-00000-00&context=1516831)

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Madeline Cass for NBC News

Ashley Swartz and Eli Rigatuso.

Ashley Swartz and Eli Rigatuso.

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A side-by-side image of Ashley Swartz and Eli Rigatuso.

Ashley Swartz, left, and Eli Rigatuso.

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Ashley Swartz at her farm in Malmo, Neb.

Ashley Swartz at her farm in Malmo, Neb.

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A side-by-side image a field of corn and of Ashley Swartz holding flowers.

Ashley Swartz at home in Malmo, Neb.

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Courtesy Allison Scott, Jessica Gritton

A side-by-side image of Allison Scott and Jessica Gritton.

Allison Scott, left. and Jessica Gritton.

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A country road in southeastern Nebraska.

A country road in southeastern Nebraska.

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Eli Rigatuso poses for a portrait in Omaha.

Eli Rigatuso in Omaha, Neb.

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Timothy D. Easley

Protesters hold signs in support of transgender rights in Frankfort, Kentucky.

People protest Kentucky Senate Bill SB150, which would ban gender-affirming care for minors, in Frankfort on March 29.

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AP, Lincoln Journal Star

A board in the Nebraska legislature shows the end of a debate on a bill that bans abortion at 12 weeks and gender-affirming care for minors. Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen holds a newborn at a ceremony for the signing of that bi.

The Nebraska Legislature voted 33-14 to end debate on a bill to ban abortion at 12 weeks and gender-affirming care for minors in Lincoln on May 19. Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen, center inset, signed the measure at a ceremony with his granddaughters, in black and light blue, on May 22.

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Madeline Cass for NBC News

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Madeline Cass for NBC News

Two images showing birds on a wire and chicory on the side of the road in southeastern Nebraska.

Growing up in Nebraska, Swartz says, the cost of hiding her true self was steep. She joined boys' sports teams and strived to be like her dad, a respected farmer.

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2023

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