

**Benedict College
School of Education and Health and Human Services
Social Work Department
SW 437 01- Race, Ethnicity, and Health**

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Assignment Name

Moreau, J. (2018). Trump administration 'exacerbating' LGBTQ health care discrimination, report says. *NBC News*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/trump-administration-exacerbating-lgbtq-health-care-discrimination-report-says-n894151>

The Article talks about the injustices that are systemic in the healthcare systems of the Trump Administration which has made it harder for LGBTQ people to receive the medical attention and treatment they need. Such injustices exist all across the world and in every aspect of public and private service as the LGBTQ community fights and struggles for its right to exist as humans who are worthy of being treated in the same manner as other individuals, but what makes this particular injustice so problematic is that this injustice is not just born out of an individual but are rather manifestations of systemic policies that have been introduced by the Trump Administration in the short time it has been in power.

Medical professionals who refuse to see or treat them due to their sexual orientation or who use harsh and abusive languages towards the community are just two of the most commonly faced instances of discrimination that they face, an issue which is made all the more unjust due to the fact that these people are also worthy of the healthcare facilities and treatments as the rest of the world regardless of what one's personal opinions maybe about the community. The Hippocratic Oath exists for this very purpose and is supposed to remind doctors that their foremost duty is to provide medical assistance to any person regardless of whomever they might be. Due to the fact that so many medical providers refuse to see or treat the LGBTQ community, the people have to drive a huge distance for basic medical assistance and care which makes the process quite difficult for them.

While such instances of medical providers refusing to treat LGBTQ, community are quite clearly personal choices, the fact remains that in over 37 states in the United States, there are no laws that prevent the LGBTQ community from being discriminated against. Rather than taking action against such a systemic injustice and reverting it, States have gone in the Opposite direction and in 2016, Tennessee and Mississippi introduced laws that allow

service providers to refuse to treat LGBTQ community based on their religious and worldviews. Such policies and instances drive a belief in the minds of the LGBTQ community that they are unequal and somehow do not deserve the same level of medical assistance as the rest of the country which is severely problematic as they then do not seek medical assistance which can put their and the lives of their loved ones at risk.

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The issue is not just limited to just access to healthcare but is part of a larger wave of discrimination against the LGBTQ community. As a proud member of the LGBTQ community, this situation at hand frustrates me! While the issue has always remained a polarizing aspect of public policy, there were some very big steps taken towards addressing the problem when Obama was in charge. The rise of the far-right nationalism and white supremacists under Trump have also targeted the LGBTQ community as they believe that the community goes against the natural order of things or their religion. Such rising homophobia and transphobia has led to increased acts of aggression against the community and has created a sense that all the previous legislation and policies that were enacted to protect the community are no longer in place. As such, there is a need to start a social justice campaign in order to correct this wrong and to reveal the systemic inefficiencies which allow for discrimination and aggression against a whole community.

The biggest ethical issue I can see with bringing attention to the cause is that whenever the issue of LGBTQ community are discussed in the mainstream media, it leads to a severe backlash in the mainstream discourse where people feel that they have the right to a valid opinion and to stop a community from attaining the rights that they already have just because they might feel differently than them. The issue remains that despite one's personal beliefs, no one is allowed to discriminate or show aggression towards any other citizen of the country otherwise, as per our criminal justice system, the crime is committed against the State

not just one person and the victim can pursue legal action. So by bringing the issue in the limelight and social justice action on the issue could exacerbate the discrimination that the community faces currently which is why the action must be taken in coordination with what the people themselves want, rather than the community taking the step for the LGBTQ people.