

Submitter: amy stoll

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

To Whom it May Concern

I strongly oppose the passing of HB 2458. My personal story cannot adequately convey in words how much harm this bill can impart. I am a parent of a formerly trans identified child. My now 19 year old daughter, identified as male for 6 years. She desisted a year ago without having medically transitioned and she thanks me for not letting her medically transition. She had been insistent, persistent and consistent about her trans identity throughout those 6 years (which is often the threshold for medical transition). Had I taken her to a gender clinic she would have transitioned medically. I however knew that she had multiple comorbid diagnosis such as depression, anxiety, eating disorder, adhd, and is adopted. Most people don't realize that over 50% of trans identified children are adopted. It makes sense, it is very challenging to understand your identity when you are adopted. Throughout this period of time, I always sought out the appropriate mental health care for my child. I do not consider it conversion therapy when a therapist does a deep dive on where the trans identity originated. In fact, it takes a great deal of time to work through these issues, time that no one is truly taking in the therapy world right now because a therapist could be professionally ostracized just for asking about identity other than to affirm. In our family, our child dressed as she pleased, identified as she pleased and that is fine. But there is no way a young person can truly understand the impact of medically transitioning and becoming a lifetime medical patient. We love our daughter and would've accepted and loved her as a male had she decided that as an adult. Watchful, waiting therapy is not conversion therapy! If this bill passes it will tie the hands of therapists and they will not be able to provide the life saving therapy struggling children and young adults need. I am a huge proponent of appropriate therapy and it is essential. Lawmakers should not define conversion therapy as anything other than affirmative care. Please consider my experience with my child who went through a great deal of therapy with professional, caring, and kind therapists who did not try to convert her, they did however support her to find herself in whatever form that evolved.