

Submitter: GIGI LARUE

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Hi- I am a Democrat, pro choice and I voted for same sex marriage. Fours years ago, my depressed anxious teenage girl decided she was "really a boy". With no history of this in her past of any kind and a suspicion that it was a mask for other issues, we opted to find her a therapist who would not blindly affirm this identity crisis but would ask relevant questions as to WHY. We were hung up on multiple times, told she would kill herself if we didn't affirm and ignored by nearly thirty therapists. We finally found a woman who deals with body image and addiction issues. She began the sessions with my daughter and was unsure about if she was "really" transgender. She was unsure about our assertions that this was a coping mechanism shared by thousands of other girls and boys the world over. Her psychiatrist was the same and, after several sessions, both of them concluded that she WAS likely part of the larger social contagion cohort and THANKED us for giving them the resources and information to understand that there is a greater issue at play. Had they affirmed her, she would likely be on hormones and binding her breasts in preparation for a double mastectomy, neither of which has been proven to have long term benefits. Forcing therapists to affirm only, which is what these types of anti conversion therapy laws do, compromises their ability to do their jobs and it impedes on their first amendment rights.

My daughter is gay and there is no world in which I want her "talked out" if that, but did you know that large percentage of trans identified kids without any interventions grow up happy and healthy gay and lesbian adults? So, what you are proposing IS conversion therapy of gay kids. Ask Kai Shappley's mother why she transitioned her effeminate boy.

Telling a masculine girl that she is "really a boy" or an effeminate boy that he is "really a girl" because of the clothes and toys they choose is PROFOUNDLY homophobic, sexist and regressive. Gender is not sexuality. Gender Identity is a belief that is being medicalized without proper research or oversight. This bill will simply rob this growing cohort of kids of therapeutic resources that might help them find radical self acceptance instead of become a lifetime medical patient. Please look to the 6 European countries that have either restricted or reversed their stance on Gender Affirming Care for minors and Adolescents. Please read the account of the St Louis whistleblower and see what this "care" really looks like. Go to <https://www.detransawareness.org/> and read the stories of kids that were blindly affirmed. Regret is a real and growing problem. Please vote no if you care about gay and lesbian kids.