

Submitter: Kaseja Wilder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

As a therapist, I must state that banning therapeutic methods for adults is problematic, counterproductive and ties my hands as someone whose job it is to help people understand themselves. While individual expression (whether talking about sexual orientation OR gender identity) is vitally important, in today's current milieu, gender is extremely confusing and there are many people who don't feel safe coming to the table with good thinking because there is a lot of pressure to respond in a certain kind of way when it comes to supporting people who are gender non-conforming. Assessments of macro influences (sexism being the primary one, but capitalism and white supremacy have a hand in this too) are sadly lacking in much of the dialog. This is causing a lot of suffering. Those that are detransitioning are marginalized (their voices are not being heard) and they greatly suffering.

What is a detransitioned person you might ask? A person who decided they were trans and then changed their mind. A detransitioner may or may not have decided to medicalize their transition (surgery or hormones). Obviously, a person who has not medicalized their transition has an easier time in their detransition process. This bill overly promotes transitioning, which would be admirable if there wasn't such a price tag to medicalizing transitions. There are life long "side effects" of medicalized transitioning (including but not at all limited to infertility, bone loss, and emotional disorientation) that are often not well thought out or considered before transitioning and are well beyond the scope of most young folks (say an 18 year old, which is considered an adult) to understand the life long implications of such actions.

Further, this bill sets a lot of people (therapists, therapy clinics) up for lawsuits. Are you aware that Camile Kiefel (a woman who identified as trans, and is now identifying with her biological sex) is suing two of her therapists and two clinics that essentially fast tracked her gender reassignment surgery? This is a mess for everyone, and arguably, Camille Kiefel is suffering the most; the very kind of person for whom this bill is supposed to be supportive to. The input and dialog surrounding this bill is woefully insufficient: many voices are being marginalized or are not present at all when it comes to exploring the needs of gender non-conforming individuals. If you study what is happening in the UK, you will get a taste of the litigation that is being produced as the aftermath surrounding bills like this.

In support of people detransitioning, please do not let this bill pass.

Section 2 makes a declaration of emergency. I think it is a mistake to take immediate action when considering medicalizing gender transition. This kind of action demands well thought out, considered, careful exploration; the kind of exploration one does with a therapist that does not have their hands tied regarding what exploration means. This is not an emergency, and this legislation is not well thought out. I believe the person who wrote this legislation is wanting to support and protect trans people.

This is admirable. This legislation does not accomplish their goal. Please solicit more input from people who have extensively studied this issue on all fronts. They do exist. In support of good thinking, please do not let this bill pass.

If you take the time to study Buck Angel, a trans man who is clear about what it means to be a trans person, I think you will see that this legislation does not support clarity around what it means to be trans. Trans people deserve to have support while they consider this important, life changing course of action.

In support of the trans community, please do not let this bill pass.

This legislation confuses and conflates gender Identity and sexuality: To be fair, this kind of confusion is common in our culture. The reasons for this are complex: some are rooted in history, and some rooted in confusion around stereotypes