

Regarding House Bill 2458:

Before passing this bill, please consider the relationship between therapy and the rising number of detransitioned people. Many detransitioners are public with stories of regret about their medical interventions, and their feelings of betrayal by the medical and mental health professionals who offered only unquestioning affirmation, rather than the opportunity to explore other causes for their suffering. This bill, if passed, threatens to criminalize the type of therapeutic exploration that might have helped these detransitioners identify root causes of their dysphoria, such as sexism, internalized homophobia, and trauma. This bill, as written, even threatens to punish a therapist's decision not to write a green-light letter for surgery, should the client choose interpret that decision as "attempting to change gender identity, including attempting to change expressions of self."

Please do not pass a bill that has the potential to criminalize the point of therapy, which is growth through exploration—not blindfolded affirmation.

Please consider that impeding therapists from helping adult clients think critically will lead to more transition regret.

Please do not pass a bill that forces therapists to act as unwilling marketers of extremely profitable and potentially harmful surgeries and medications.

Speaking as a lesbian, please do not treat sexual orientation and gender identity as synonymous. People who identify as homosexual are not being targeted for irreversible surgeries and life-long medicalization.

Please do not pass this bill under the false pretense that the right of adults to seek the therapy they choose, and the right of therapists to help adult clients explore the social forces that may shape their relationship to themselves, constitute an emergency.

As a lesbian, gender nonconforming woman, and staunch supporter of bodily autonomy for trans people and all people, I ask you not to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Paige Ott