



Thompson Family 2018 Newport, Or.

**TESTIMONY OF HEATHER THOMPSON  
REGISTERED DEMOCRAT IN OREGON FOR 23 YEARS**

HB 2458 Opposing this Bill that Prohibits practice of conversion therapy by certain professionals.

Chairman Representative Rob Nosse, Vice Chairs, Ranking members and Distinguished members of the House Committee:

My name is Heather Thompson, and I am here representing loving parents from all over Oregon and America. The last year 2022 I have been involved in supportive parent groups online and weekly face time groups of parents with Transgender children. One group has grown from 650 members to 3300 in less than 6 months.

My days consist of counseling and support in times of crisis management for parents of gender dysphoric children. The confused and hurt parents whose stories can be at the beginning of their children's gender dysphoria to many years in this gender dysphoric journey. The sorrow of hearing these parents dealing with their children's rebellion void of all reasoning is heart breaking. These are loving and caring parents that want only to support their children's wellbeing and safety.

My story is that of deep sorrow. My son Dale Jeffrey at the end of 2020 went to a Halloween party and dressed up with other guy friends as raver girls. They all took psychedelic mushrooms. At the party were two new girls that had just started hanging out with my son's guy friends. The girls told my son how amazing he looked as girl, and he must be TRANS. My son came home looked up trans on his computer. The computer told him you feel anxiety, your trans, you feel like no one sees you, your trans, Trans is the answer to all your problems. Two weeks later he tells me in his room "I may Be Trans". Now I'm from Tampa Florida grew up with street smarts. My hairdresser at 21 years old ran the local drag show in Tampa. I sang in a Burlesque group for 2 years; I know that lifestyle. I am not a naïve prudish person. Although my son and my house never consisted of any of that form of lifestyle other than some hippies and a few gay friends. I mention this because when I asked him to seek help and really investigate the reason why he was feeling this way, he called me Transphobic. From that day on I was the enemy.

The story of complete shutdown shut off is the common narrative. I called my son's Dr and Three therapist the next day to search for counseling. They all treated me like I needed to just be on board and gave me the script of "Would you rather have a dead son than an alive daughter?" I said, "neither as my son is not suicidal nor has, he ever been."

Having this situation enter my family has been eye-opening. At the time in 2020 I was unaware that children can access HRT without their parents' consent. I had no idea that a patient could self-diagnose with no investigation/diagnosis of the discomfort they are experiencing.

Currently my son is struggling mentally, financially, and physically. He moved out of my home and lives with one of the girls from the Halloween party. Dale is addicted to gaming, a virtual reality world that he plays 8 to 12 hours a day. My son has agoraphobia, insomnia, and depression which none of his counselors/therapist address. Before his Trans ideas he had none of these mental

instabilities/comorbidities. He barely speaks to his father and me. We make serious efforts to communicate and show him love every chance we get. Most therapist do not treat gender dysphoric patients in fear of repercussions from this type of law being in place. Currently the only therapist seeing gender dysphoric patients are affirming and lack extensive training in body dysmorphia, OCD, and Trauma therapy. I plead to all the Representatives and Senators to allow therapist to practice the way they were trained.

As I personally continue to educate myself in college focusing on Body dysmorphia and OCD, I can see red-light issues regarding the current Transgender policies. I am driven to involve myself in many groups bringing updated information on Transgender studies and treatment plans to the masses. I am authoring research papers on the effect of social media in the minds of children. This will be an ongoing issue of the utmost importance as we will see the repercussions of the gender experiment in the coming years ahead.

In my hopes of sharing my heart-breaking story with the Oregon elected officials, we will all come to a common understand of sensibility. In the hundreds of stories, I have read of children desisting, some with permanent damage and some without. I encourage each Representative and each Senator to research and learn from these stories. Please take great trepidation in limiting counselors and therapists from treatment methods that deal with comorbidities issues, before affirming gender dysphoria.

Thank you for your time,  
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