

Submitter: Ed Diehl  
On Behalf Of: Anonymous  
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I grew up in Oregon in the 1990s. When I was seven years old I decided I wanted to be a boy. I liked "boy things"- what society often deemed boy colors, clothing, toys, sports. I figured this all meant that I was a boy, so for a year I kept my hair short, wore boy clothes, and insisted everyone call me by a boy's name.

Thankfully, this was the 1990s and my parents saw this as a phase. If someone had come up to me and offered me a way to "become a real boy", I'm sure I would have jumped on it. The problem is that, at 7 or 8 years of age, I didn't know what I wanted. At fifteen I didn't know what I wanted. Heck, to be honest, at thirty I'm still growing and trying to figure out who I am. I wasn't capable of making such a big decision as a child, one that would greatly impact my future - I was a kid who needed my parents and society to protect me from harming myself. It's difficult for kids to see the consequences of eating too much junk food, let alone the long-term consequences of hormonal therapies and surgery. Now I am thirty. I am a woman. I am happy to be a woman and look back on that year of my childhood as just a kid being a kid.

But lately, I find myself thinking about the what-ifs. I shudder to think about what would have happened if I had grown up in a world where gender transitioning was not only readily available but encouraged from a young age. Where even if my parents were against it, there would have been doctors, school staff, and people all over the internet encouraging me behind their backs. What if I were on medications, had surgeries, and lived in a time where so many people celebrated my transition that even if I wanted to change my mind I would feel pressured to keep going for the attention? Looking at my life now, my health, my husband, and my own little children, I am so thankful I didn't grow up in that world. I could have missed out on the biggest blessings in my life. I wish no child would have to grow up in that world. Please, please, for the sake of the children, do not make that world a greater reality here in Oregon.