

Submitter: Jeff Myers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Good day to you all. I am writing to express my concerns with this bill as written. I am specifically concerned about the extensive changes related to what is being defined as "gender affirming care" or "gender affirming treatment".

I believe this bill goes too far in supporting a type of care that is lacking research on achieving desired outcomes. Surveys are not a substitute for traditional research and evidence, and I feel those supporting this bill are relying far too heavily on surveys and research that relies primarily on survey data. I am not at all discounting that gender dysphoria is a real condition and that forms of gender affirming care may be the right solution. However, this bill appears to be pushing for this type of care as if it is as proven as taking ibuprofen for a headache.

Requiring insurance providers to cover experimental and unproven care/procedures will set a very dangerous precedent as well. Providers should be allowed to rely on high-quality evidence to determine if treatments achieve desired outcomes to determine if they should be covered. This could open the door to more and more demands of experimental, unproven treatments to be required, which in turn could not only lead to more harm but also skyrocketing healthcare costs.

Finally, I am concerned overall about the lack of parental control and oversight with respect to the care of their minor children. It is beyond ridiculous to allow minors to request and receive life-altering healthcare treatments without the involvement and approval by their parents or guardians. You all need to stop doing what you think is right or what your lobbyist friends tell you the community wants. You need to act responsibly and demand real evidence before proposing such sweeping changes. Thank you for your time and support in opposing this bill.