

Submitter: Ed Diehl
On Behalf Of: Anonymous ROGD Parent
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2002

I oppose House Bill 2002. I am the parent of a daughter who, along with multiple friends and classmates, declared a trans identity during the Covid 19 lockdowns. Within months, her mental health declined rapidly and she developed an eating disorder. She was also diagnosed with ADHD and Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and exhibits some autistic traits. All the medical providers that we've worked with so far, including her pediatrician, have affirmed her gender identity immediately and without question even though she had no history of gender nonconformity and did not exhibit any discomfort with her sex before she started high school. We found out more than a year later that the school socially transitioned her without our knowledge or consent, which is what we believe triggered the eating disorder. Our pediatrician later, privately, told us that she believes being "trans" is just a fad but she affirms because it is recommended by AAP due to the risk of suicide. At the time, I did not know that the suicide risk is greatly overstated, based on low-quality surveys, and may be 19x higher post-transition. Getting adequate support for her eating disorder and other co-morbidities has been incredibly challenging. As soon as she shares her non-binary label, providers immediately assume that pushing her to transition, even though she herself does not want to take blockers or hormones, will solve all her problems. This is magical thinking, of course, not medicine. We struggle to find providers that will focus on treating the eating disorder first, even though anorexia is known to carry the highest risk of mortality (up to 20%). None of the doctors or school administrators or teachers ever tried to point out that feeling odd in your body is like a rite of passage and is normal in adolescence.

I urge you not to pass this bill. Our children deserve to be treated with love, empathy, and respect. They deserve health care that is based on evidence, not ideology. Please follow the lead of other, more progressive countries such as Finland, Sweden, and the UK, and ask the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a systematic review of the evidence.