

Submitter: John Di Paola

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Children and minors are not capable of independently making a decision for gender change interventions. Diverting their trust away from their parents, guardians or loved ones to engage in irreversible actions they are incapable of understanding (risks, benefits, and long term consequences) is unacceptable in a free society.

In routine medical interventions whether simple or complex, it is required that any patient of any age be advised of risks, benefits, and alternatives or the provider of these services could be engaging in malpractice and be sanctioned or sued for circumventing the requirement of informed consent if it should result in harm.

School teachers are not trained or qualified to competently counsel children on healthcare matters and are not sufficiently aware of, or involved in the cultural and psychosocial environment of a particular child to act as a parent to that child.

The legislature should be focused on assuring that our schools provide education in vital skills for students to survive and thrive - reading, writing, math, and critical thinking for which teachers are sufficiently trained and qualified. Given the shameful status of our schools ranking in the lowest decile in the country for graduation rates and competency in reading, math, and science; our educators need to get their house back in order.

It is shameful that any of us, no matter what our personal philosophies and values might be, would send a conflicted, uneducated, unprepared child out into the world when we could refocus our priorities and prepare our children/grandchildren to thrive.

I am strongly opposed to HB 2002.

Thank you.