

Submitter: Margaret Anderson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

To Whom it May Concern,

As a nurse practitioner and primary care provider, I support many aspects of this bill. Teenagers have sex whether adults like it or not. It is important they have contraception access to prevent pregnancy. As a mother, I wish more for my son than to be a teen parent. He deserves more than that and I want more for him. Parents may have objections to sex in their teenager, I get it I do. However, most of their reasoning does not change what teenagers are up to or what they're thinking in the moment.

In terms of contraception, my only pause for concern is regarding 15 year olds making decisions regarding sterilization treatments. It's one thing if the teenager is transgendered, but even for cisgendered kids, that's a permanent decision. Hormones, IUDs, implants- all temporary. Sterilization not so much. Though in my experience, most providers would decline to sterilize someone so young.

Regarding care for transgendered children. I hope this committee takes true evidence and statistics into consideration. Many of those opposed to this bill are writing out conspiracy theories or their opinions like they are facts. I highly doubt many of them have ever met or known a transgendered person in their entire life. Gender minorities are at a high risk of suicide. Transgendered kids already feel they are not in the right body. Discouraging them from being who they are, is telling them that their existence is wrong. Transgendered people have always existed. Children understand gender at young ages. Many transgendered people will tell you they knew they did not identify with their assigned gender very early on. We can do better towards transgendered kids and teenagers. If we truly support our children and their health, we have to support ALL children and teenagers. Not only by supporting coverage for hormones, but also through requiring insurances to cover gender affirming surgeries.

Many have written in their testimonies about transitioning regrets or parents forcing their children to change genders. This is not only inaccurate but absurd. Many stories of those who "regret" their transition are from those who were not supported by their loved ones or community. For those making these comments on their testimonies, I recommend these citizens get off facebook and get back to real life. And perhaps stop doing their "own research" when many have not even taken a statistics 101 course to assess or interpret scientific data.

Finally, as a health care provider, I do like the aspect of the bill where people can be

jailed for 364 days for interfering with health care procedures. In this country, we are obligated in health care to keep health information private. Citizens should be supported in obtaining their health care privately. While I support the first amendment, we also have freedom to not be assaulted or harassed for doing what we personally deem is right for our bodies. Despite what I believe, I do think this clause could potentially cause a 1st amendment issue. However, I would support the state going to court to defend the bill.