

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

As written, this bill conflates too many different perspectives and topics and should not move forward. For the purpose of this testimony, I am primarily speaking about "gender affirming" care aspect. I am a mental health therapist that has been practicing in Oregon for over 25 years, primarily with teens and young people. Our current culture has produced an unscientifically high number of young people who are identifying as the opposite sex. Unfortunately, they have also been presented with surgeries and hormone injections without proper vetting by the medical professionals who are supposed to be safeguarding them. More and more are regretting the surgeries and chemical and hormone injections, and we are seeing the lawsuits begin. Some recent examples of lawsuits include:

- Jay Langadinos in Australia ("hormonal therapy, a double mastectomy, and the removal of her ovaries and uterus between the ages of 19 and 22")
- Camille Kiefel in Oregon (double mastectomy)
- Chloe Cole in California ("off-label use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and a double mastectomy")
- Layla Jane in California ("puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and a double mastectomy at just 13 years old")
- Keira Bell in the UK (puberty blockers at age 16)

There are several issues that this bill would create. By forcing insurance companies to provide these medical services, every citizen will pay for this with increased premiums, when many families are already struggling in today's economy. Having OHP provide these services means those expenses come out of taxpayer's pockets. These are procedures that are rife with complications and often create lifelong medical patients.

The other aspect that I will address is that of people who regret their surgeries and hormone and chemical injections. They are often the forgotten or ignored in this. Will insurance companies also be responsible to address their medical needs? Which brings me to the liability of those medical professionals who fast track individuals into "gender affirming care." This bill takes away the rights of the medically injured to sue those who have harmed them. In addition, it keeps medical professionals from having to be accountable. They can harm minors and young people and not have to answer for it. The fear of litigation makes us all think twice about our decisions. This is healthy, and medical personnel in this position SHOULD be thinking twice. Amnesty from litigation is not granted in any other medical procedure, and these procedures have the least amount of research to back them up. The state has no standing to take this right from vulnerable youth who are not fully capable of making lifelong decisions of this kind.

There are many other issues with this bill: minor availability to abortion without parental knowledge or consent, the destruction of parental rights, no limits on abortion up to full term are among the most egregious. There are many aspects of this that are a sex trafficker's dream. The vast majority of Oregonians DO NOT agree with this. I strongly urge you to vote "no" on SB2002.