

Submitter: Kristen Stevens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

My topic for today is centered around a powerful political ideology driving significant social change and that is trans rights and gender identity. For the record I am not transphobic and I support civil rights for transexual/transgender people and medical transition for adults. I would like for you to consider these two questions at this time; do you believe a child can consent to sterilizing themselves by twelve or thirteen? Do you believe a child can decide they don't want to have kids for the rest of their life?

As the UK moves to ban children transitioning due to an uprise in children seeking transition services we must ask ourselves some hard questions concerning our children and what we're doing to address a surge in anxiety and depression among youth. It is estimated that more than 4% of middle school students identify as transgender. And in the last decade more than 2% of teenage girls now identify as transgender with no childhood history of gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria is defined as a symptom associated with other comorbidities such as depression, anxiety, stress, and substance use disorder. Historically, gender dysphoria affected young boys beginning around age seven. It was addressed with caution and many years of psychological analysis so as to make the best medical decision concerning the patient. Today, you can walk into Planned Parenthood with any psychiatrist prescription and receive puberty blockers. We are talking as early as 10 or 11 for some children on a case-by-case basis. The perception one has of one's self is deemed to be unquestionable and feelings based despite future complications or consequences. Two detrimental effects of long term hormone therapy is permanent infertility as well as loss of sexual sensation. Affirmative care or conversion therapy is not for every child who displays gender diverse behavior and by the time they reach puberty about 75% of children who display it will identify with their assigned gender at birth. Obtaining hormones and surgery with little to no medical oversight or safe guards in place is quickly being recognized as a medical scandal and cash cow for those who endorse it. Amid the controversy and outright corruption it is the children who suffer. And we the adults must take responsibility and be held accountable for our actions.