

Submitter: Linda Middlekauff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

To the Members of the House Mental Health & Health Committee:

I am writing in strong OPPOSITION TO HB 2002. It's a very long bill, and some have referred to it as an omnibus bill, one which is so long and has so many issues addressed in it that NO LEGISLATOR CAN POSSIBLY SPEND THE NEEDED TIME TO DELIBERATE THOUGHTFULLY ENOUGH ON EVERY AREA ADDRESSED TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ON IT.

Please keep in mind that there are so many areas in this egregious bill which are very alarming, but I am very concerned especially about medical autonomy being given to teens in both the areas of reproductive health and gender dysphoria.

Giving teens medical autonomy in any area of health care would put them in the position of being extremely vulnerable to manipulation and coercion by well-meaning professionals who may not know the underlying circumstances of the young person in front of them. Such pressure may also be promoted by others who have a political agenda in mind rather than what's best for the individual requesting such care.

Parental permission is required in almost every other medical decision for valid reasons. Teens have neither the emotional maturity nor the awareness to ask questions about the benefits, risks, or alternatives to the procedures used in both reproductive & gender affirming care. We now know that the brain does not stop maturing until at least age 25.

Such important medical decisions made by teens who are not intellectually mature enough to make them without parental involvement, such as consenting to an abortion, mutilating surgery, or the taking of gender altering hormones will cause irreversible damage.

It is irresponsible to "fast track" a bill which so seriously jeopardizes the physical & mental health of teens. Please vote NO on passing HB 2002 out of committee.

Thank you,  
Linda Middlekauff