

Submitter: Linda Farrington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

I strongly OPPOSE House Bill 2002 because it strips parents of their rights to parent their child and protects the health providers that are intent on pushing a dangerous, ideological agenda that is not based on any science or fact.

There has been an incredibly sharp increase in gender dysphoria diagnosis, 170% increase in the last few years, 1400% increase in the last decade. And now there is a similarly sharp increase in de-transitioners (a few in 2018 to 43,800 in Jan 2023) who are telling a heart breaking story of being prematurely labeled, and medicalized and traumatized. They have become patients-for-life and often with mutilating scars, weakened bones, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, etc.

Gender Dysphoria (GD) is a feeling. There is no test for it like an infection. And we know that children's feelings change and are very impressionable. This bill has NO AGE LIMITS for abortion or gender transition treatment that can occur WITHOUT parental knowledge or consent. Children are put in charge of their own health care and diagnose their own condition. Even depressed adults are not expected to do this.

"Gender Affirming Care" (GAC) actually means the opposite- that no differential diagnosis is allowed to be considered before rushing a child into permanent, life altering, treatment to cosmetically change how they look. With GAC these kids have no way to process their trauma. This despite the fact that 85-90% of the time those feelings resolve by the end of puberty. This defies all the best standards of medical practice and is especially concerning with the growing evidence of social contagion and media influence.

Statements made in support of GAC care unfounded and studies cited are low quality. WPATH (World Professional Association for Transgender Health) is an advocacy group, not a scientific organization, "pushing aggressively for worldwide acceptance of gender incongruence as a biologically-based variation of normal behavior." The recent pro-gender affirming therapy and pro-transition affirming therapy(GAT/TAT) position statements by several medical organizations are authored by or follow WPATH members and writings, not votes of the general memberships. The AMA, American Psychiatric Assoc and its Psychological equivalent are professional guilds, and others, are not scientific organizations.

Gender affirming therapy is not the international standard of care. Several countries in Europe who are ahead of the USA in "affirming" transgender youth have walked back their treatment plans to a wait and see approach.

Yet, rather than learning from them, or listening to detransitioners, we are continuing to torpedo into MANDATING this as policy and criminalizing anyone who does not go along!

Furthermore, this bill protects care providers who are providing dangerous drugs and treatment protocols from having any accountability for over treating or mistreating or poor quality work. And because it is done behind the backs of parents, these minor children, who are depressed, disconnected, and feeling bad about who they are, have no protection and no way to hold the people in authority accountable."

There are no long range studies to prove "Gender Affirming Care" is safe or effective or improve the lives of transsexuals, with many people remaining severely distressed and more suicidal after the operation. (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2004/jul/30/health.mentalhealth>). Transitioning is a long and expensive path with ongoing needs for cosmetic treatment that is not fair to expect taxpayers to pay for with no clear benefit.

These kids need to belong and be connected. They need to be affirmed for who they are biologically, that it is ok to be a boy or a girl just the way they are. Our personalities express themselves a million ways. Our gender is defined by biology and no amount of cosmetic surgery can change it.

There is no justification for saying yes to this bill. Please look out for the children and say no to HB2002