

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

As a woman, life-long Democrat, and mother of two formerly trans-identified teens, I vehemently oppose HB 4088 because it fails to distinguish between biological sex and gender when it comes to reproductive healthcare, conflating the latter with "gender-affirming" treatments. No amount of sex-trait modification procedures (from hormones to surgical interventions) can ultimately change our biology and patients cannot receive truly appropriate medical care if their biological sex is not explicitly considered in treatment. Your bill must prioritize biological reality over gender identity. Trans people should always be treated with respect, but so should biological women. Some spaces and situations need to remain safe for biological women - bathrooms, locker rooms, prisons and sports. While most biological men are good guys, including the vast majority of trans females, you cannot guarantee the physical safety of biological women in bathrooms, locker rooms, and prisons if access is not based on biological sex. Please look at the incidents of biological women being raped, assaulted or murdered in bathrooms, shelters and prisons by a trans woman. In addition, scientific research shows that biological males will always have an advantage over biological females in sports, regardless of whether or not they are still producing testosterone or went through male puberty. Trans girls and women participating against biological females puts biological girls and women in physical danger of being hurt (not to mention, reduces their access to fair play and opportunity in sports that Title 9 is meant to promote). Please look at the medical research coming out of the UK (Cass Report) and Finland if you will not put stock in the HHS report on "gender medicine" for youth; the systematic reviews from all these places keep coming to the same findings - there is no medical research of strong quality that supports medicalizing trans-identified people, especially children. And yet there is plenty of evidence that shows a range of serious medical consequences for taking cross-sex hormones - infertility, serious cardiological issues, incontinence, loss of sexual function, to name a few. The ability to access cross-sex hormones and sex-trait modification surgeries should be reserved for adults only and offered only after rigorous informed consent procedures. Oregon owes it to its citizens to make decisions based on scientific data of the highest quality as well as to enable itself over the long-term to track with accuracy, based on biological sex, the impacts of cross-sex hormones and sex trait modification surgeries so that it can provide its citizens with the most reliable information for decision making. HB4088 will block public health researchers for seeking this data as well as patients seeking information on which to base their personal medical decisions. Oregon owes it to its citizens to require rigorous informed consent and follow-up studies. HB4088's non-cooperation clauses could block probes into regret or harm from sex-based medical procedures, putting children and adults in harm's way. When I grew up, Free to Be You and Me

was a popular children's book and record. In it I learned that as a female, I could like trucks and want to be a fireman and still be a female. Please don't let an ideology, a belief system, based on sexist gender stereotypes be the driving force behind Oregon citizens not receiving the best medical information and care available because it's not based in science and fairness to biological females.