

My name is Anita Bartholomew and I'm writing to oppose HB 4088.

I'm a resident of Oregon and the author of the new book [*Sacrificial Lambs: A Liberal Reporter Exposes How the Progressive Left Harms Children in the Name of Gender Ideology*](#) (Pitchstone Publishing November 2025).

Sacrificial Lambs is the result of a multi-year investigation into what happens when people, including small children, are indoctrinated into an ideology with no basis in science or common sense—and when governments treat the ideology as if it must be protected at all costs, even to the detriment of its population. And yes, as the subtitle states, I'm a liberal. Have been all my life. But as a reporter, my first allegiance is to the truth. And the truth is that gender procedures rival lobotomies as medical scandals go. One day, no one will want his or her name associated with any bill that makes it easier for the gender industry to get away with perpetrating what should be crimes on a dis informed public, and especially, on vulnerable young people.

In researching *Sacrificial Lambs*, I spoke to countless kids, young adults, and families. All were psychologically and physically harmed by this ideology. Some have had their bodies maimed and their lives shortened due to side effects of the drugs and procedures, and they mourn their lost body functions and body parts.

We need MORE information in order to help them, not less. Yet, HB4088 would shield gender specialists from accountability and hide data about their actions from both researchers and the public.

Hiding and obscuring the facts isn't new to those who champion gender procedures.

In researching this bill, I read what the Oregon Health Authority said was an incomplete "... [review of evidence](#) related to health outcomes for gender-affirming treatments" by the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC).

The report, though never completed, was a blatant attempt to twist the evidence, not to review it. As just one example, when it covered "Death from suicide or suicide attempt," it ignored a [Finnish study](#) that found three times the rate of suicide among people who got gender surgeries compared to people who identified as transgender but did not get surgery.

It also ignored a Swedish study that showed that those getting gender surgeries were [19 times more likely to commit suicide](#) than the general population.

It painted a rosy picture of cross-sex hormones and mastectomies in minors as "beneficial," and "likely beneficial," when there's zero good evidence of that and when unbiased systematic reviews found gender procedures appear to do more harm than good.

But the flawed analysis, poor as it was, didn't figure into the calculation of the Oregon legislature, which passed House Bill 2002 in 2023 before the report was completed "to require broad coverage of medically necessary gender-affirming treatments when prescribed, "in accordance with accepted standards of care."

There is nothing “medically necessary” about so-called “gender-affirming treatments,” and there are no actual “standards of care.”

In [leaked documents](#), members of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), which promulgated what it calls “standards of care,” admitted that these “standards” were based on politics, and on attempts to get insurance payments for the procedures, not evidence.

Oregon has for too long reflexively put gender ideology ahead of science, ethics, and common sense, and in this bill, it attempts to keep the public and researchers uninformed by shielding data about this scandal from view.

It’s long past time for openness. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons just came out [against gender procedures of any type on minors](#).

[The American Medical Association](#) has followed suit on gender surgeries for minors.

The tide is turning on one of the greatest medical scandals in history. Don’t stand in the way of access to the evidence in Oregon. It won’t be politically expedient in the near future, even if it looks that way today.

Reject this bad bill. Thank you.