

Submitter: Ryan Hassan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4088

This bill protects medical care and keeps medical decision making in the hands of patients and their doctors. Reproductive and gender affirming health care is lifesaving and far out of reach for most people who need it, and attacks on it are based in ignorance and fear. Most gender affirming care is with hormone therapy, a temporary and reversible therapy which has been well studied and regularly used in children for decades for other medical indications already, and which can improve children's quality of life over their lifespan. As a pediatrician, I care for many children who require access to gender affirming care, and each and every one of them knows that this is the care they need, as do their parents. The government has no right to make it harder for children to get the medical care that they need.

The science here is clear: Trans people are real. Gender affirming care saves lives and is safe and effective. Lack of access to gender affirming care leads to increased mental illness and associated complications including death. The medical community has clear data and guidelines informing the care we provide to our patients, and the whims of political demagogues and bigoted activists should not play a role.

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