

Submitter: Dr. Richard Bosshardt
On Behalf Of: Do No Harm Action
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4088

My name is Dr. Richard Bosshardt. I am a board-certified plastic surgeon with 36 years of experience, a Senior Fellow at Do No Harm, a father of three, and a grandfather of seven.

I am here to testify in strong opposition to HB 4088A. This bill is a bold attempt to pull a veil of secrecy over the practice of gender-affirming care in minors in Oregon. Such care is already subject to confidentiality laws that protect personal, identifying medical information from being accessed by entities not directly involved in the care being rendered and so this additional protection is unnecessary. It is also essentially performative since the ambiguous wording of the bill makes it clear that Oregon cannot prevent the Federal government from overseeing Federal regulations and enforcing laws related to use of Federal Medicare and Medicaid funds.

Gender-affirming care in minors is a practice premised on an ideology that denies the biological reality and immutability of only two sexes. It stands on a foundation of weak to very weak evidence according to multiple systematic reviews, which are the highest form of medical evidence. While the evidence for benefit is essentially non-existent, the evidence for significant, life-long harm is strong and demands a halt to this practice and thorough examination of the medical evidence rather than uncritically pushing forward. Those who have testified in favor of HB 4088A on the grounds that gender-affirming care is necessary and life-saving are wrong as the available data shows that it is neither, and everywhere but in the US is being rejected as more harmful than beneficial according to available systematic reviews, e.g. the Cass Review, Department of Health and Human Services Reviews, the McMaster Study, and the WPATH Files. It has also been rejected by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons in its position paper issued on February 3, 2026.

Passage of this bill will prevent legitimate researchers from obtaining necessary data to study the lifelong gender-denying medicalization and surgical mutilation of confused, vulnerable children. It will hide this data from regulatory agencies charged with protecting the public from harmful practices. It will deny parents their indisputable right to raise and guide their own children and to know what is being done to them by outside agencies.

HB 4088A firmly positions Oregon as an outlier in promoting what is nothing less than medical and surgical experimentation on vulnerable children, which I am confident will one day be viewed as one of the darkest chapters in American medicine. Its purpose is to hide this from legitimate public and regulatory scrutiny. I urge you to

oppose HB 4088A.

Richard T. Bosshardt, MD, FACS