

Submitter: Josephine Leguin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Gender medicine is untested and unproven. The existing law, ORS 675.850, already makes it difficult for parents to find appropriate help for their children. Parents contact me in anguish, stating it's been impossible to find a therapist willing to explore the underlying reasons for their child's sudden transgender identification. Adolescent therapists are currently operating under pressure to steer clear of anything that could possibly be deemed so-called "conversion therapy." But the traditional approach of watchful waiting, which gives teens time to discover themselves without making life-altering decisions, results in desistance rates approximating 90%, as the process of going through puberty, coming to terms with one's sexuality, and finding one's place in society, naturally resolves gender dysphoria.

The proposed amendment would make this situation worse by depriving vulnerable adults, as well as minors, of comprehensive treatment for underlying issues such as sexual trauma, which can drive the desire to be rid of sexual body parts. This bill declares a state of emergency. But there is no emergency of "conversion therapy" happening right now in the state of Oregon, and you will be hard pressed to find anyone who has truly been harmed by a therapist gently questioning their thoughts and choices. Oregon's true emergency is the lack of proper exploratory therapy for distressed, vulnerable young people. This legislation will make that worse. Vote No on HB 2458.