

Submitter: Rhonda Pederson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Three years ago, just before the pandemic hit, my 13 year old daughter had been struggling with feeling like she did not fit in and was diagnosed with anxiety. She began seeing a therapist to help her sort through her feelings and hopefully find herself.

During a visit, my daughter shared how her peers only referenced Christianity and the Christmas holiday and my daughter felt that other holidays needed to be mentioned on the school calendar. At this point, our therapist asked her if she was instead questioning her gender and not religion or others religious beliefs. My daughter appeared perplexed by this question and the session wrapped up. At our next session, my daughter shared that maybe she was questioning whether or not she may be gay. The therapist suggested that she, a 13 year old, begin attending a LGBT+ support group at a local university and that it might be helpful if she put a dry erase board on her bedroom door so that we would know what name she would like to use each day.

At no time prior to these conversations, did my daughter ever indicate any discomfort with her gender nor did she identify as anything but female.

From that point on, and thanks to a gender affirming/grooming therapist, my daughter has been struggling with gender dysphoria and body dysmorphia. She now wished to have her breasts removed and would like to begin hormones that cause irreversible damage.

We quickly cut ties with that initial therapist but the impacts made on a very impressionable child have been life changing. That therapist took away the opportunity for my daughter to grow into a strong, non-gender conforming young adult and instead boxed her in to a regressive gender ideology.

By removing a parents rights to seek out a non-affirming therapist, you are subjecting an entire generation to a lifetime of anguish and medication dependency, which apparently is exactly what the advocates are hoping for-keep putting money in the drug companies pockets no matter what the damage.