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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am a mother of a trans identifying daughter. My daughter came to this realization at the age of 20, There was literally no indication of any body or gender dysphoria until she went to college and then came home during the pandemic. There was however prior mental illness in her history including temporary psychosis and extreme anxiety and obsessive thoughts. None of these were ever related to gender or anything of that kind. Upon her realization that being another gender is her true self and the answer to all her problems I quickly learned that there is one and only one "correct" way of therapy. Immediate and absolute affirmation of the trans identity. There are almost no therapists for adults to discuss any other issues and discover if the one and only answer to all life's problems is the attempt to change your sex.

Both me and her father love this child as much as any parent does. We are not bigots or transphobes. We are life long liberal democrats that have never voted Republican. There are many many other mothers and fathers in my situation. This trans explosion did not exist even ten years ago and it is especially an astonishing sharp rise among girls.

What changed? The internet. I have to wonder if a child or adult with dysphoria of any kind finds their "answers" and identity by googling their pain if that is a true diagnosis.

We know that is what our daughter did. We know that is what many of our children do. They are on devices that give them all the answers. They are not getting any mental help at all and now you want to make it illegal to discuss anything. Anyone that says the word trans is now magically and forever trans.

We learned that the internet teaches children and young adults that if they question ANYTHING about gender it must mean they are trans. This young people believe this and it gets reinforced by their peer groups and they hijacking of reality that is happening in our educational institutions. They are being told it's easy to change your sex when that is a lie. It is impossible to change sex. "Gender affirming care" means meaning things including life long medical interventions. surgery, and possible sterilization. Even after a few months on testosterone many of the effects are forever. For some it is life saving but for some it is life destroying. There are zero long term studies on the affects of "gender affirming care". Life is long. Children and young adults have no perspective on this. Their brains are not even fully developed.

Children and young adults and all adults need mental health services not a needle with cross sex hormones as the only answer. That is what this bill is saying. There is

only one answer and only one kind of person.

The definition of conversion therapy has been perverted here. Licensed therapists with years of training are not trying to "turn" trans people into non trans people. They are trying to help their patient understand what is most needed to lead the best life possible. This one size fits everyone is not a model for any kind of health care that I have ever heard of.

The definition is incorrect. Words have been turned into weapons here. We must get a middle ground back. Trans rights are human rights indeed. So are the rights of people that may not be trans and may ultimately suffer from trans identities that were formed by means that are not stable and will not serve them for their entirety of their life, Medical procedures done to their one and only human body are forever. Therapy is not the same level of permanence at all.