

Submitter: Arthur W  
On Behalf Of: Gender questioning patients  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2458

As a father of a daughter in danger from this dangerous transgender identity trend, I ask you to oppose this bill.

My daughter never had issues with her gender growing up. But after struggles to fit in socially and make friends, a relatively early and difficult puberty, and isolation pushing her to spend more time online... she was pulled into a world of social media influencers trying hard to convince her that if she isn't a perfectly feminine girl and if she feels awkward in her body, then she may not be a girl at all. And if she's even questioning her gender, then she is definitely trans.

These influencers hide and deny the medical consequences; glorify the euphoria one will feel after transitioning; criticize hetero & "cis" people; vilify parents; and encourage people to be secretive & even leave their parents for "glitter families."

Good exploratory therapy could help, but it is impossible to find in Oregon because the law & culture conflates good exploratory therapy with the bad "gay conversion therapy" of the past. In old "conversion therapy," people tried to forcibly make people not be gay.

That old gay conversion therapy was bad. But therapists today who want to question where a new gender identity is coming from are not trying to "convert" anyone. But today good therapists are afraid they will be persecuted for asking their "gender" clients any questions.

I want to add that sexual orientation is completely different from gender identity. Being gay also does not require a heavy medical burden, but a medicalized trans identity does come with a heavy burden on the body and mind.

Good therapy should be allowed to help a person discover why they feel the way they do; what social and interpersonal influences have affected them; what other traumas may be present in their past; what strategies exist to deal with depression & anxiety; and how to come to accept their bodies...not conform to various identity labels and jump onto a pathway of drugs and surgeries to fit in.

Expanding the conversion therapy ban to all ages does not help our current crisis...our current crisis is an absence of good exploratory therapy.