

Submitter: Alison Green

On Behalf Of: my daughter

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I write as the mother of a 14 year old girl who recently desisted from a "trans" gender identity.

"Conversion Therapy" encompasses any form of therapy that does not affirm a gender identity taken on by a young person. Banning this effectively bans any exploratory work on the part of the therapist to see if there are links between the adaptation of an opposite gender identity and underlying mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, or even an internalized homophobia that makes a young person more comfortable adopting the cloak of another gender in order to hide their same sex attraction. Young women experiencing puberty, and therefore typical discomfort with their changing bodies, are vastly overrepresented in this new cohort of so-called "trans kids". TikTok videos offer quizzes in which children are told that if they are uncomfortable with their bodies and don't fit in socially, they must be "trans".

When a young person is socially transitioned to an opposite gender identity, it later becomes difficult and traumatic to "undo" that. Not only that, but social transition creates pressure for the young person to take next steps to medically transition too.

I have lived this experience with my daughter who, under the influence of 'Trans Influencers' on social media, found that taking on an opposite gender identity gave her a sense of control over her life and "steps to take" to make her feel less anxious. What she realized after some time was that her actual issue was anxiety, not gender dysphoria, and that taking on the opposite gender identity did not solve her problems. Her therapist, before a so-called "conversion therapy" ban was instigated in Canada, was able to help her explore the WHY of her gender dysphoria and to uncover deeper issues that needed addressing. Now, under a so-called "conversion therapy" ban, that therapist would be breaking the law by taking a deeper approach to exploring gender dysphoria. My daughter drew picture of herself in art class with double mastectomy scars, and she may well have gone ahead with this irreversible intervention only to later regret it, had she not received deep and careful psychological support.

With the whistleblower Jamie Reed coming forward with her brave testimony regarding the lack of care and psychological evaluation offered at the St Louis Gender Clinic - <https://www.thefp.com/p/i-thought-i-was-saving-trans-kids> - we can see that already that there is a problem with the rush to transition gender questioning youth. A so-called "conversion therapy" ban will only make matters worse.

Chloe Cole is a brave young woman who received a double mastectomy at the age of 16. She now has returned to her birth gender identity and is suing the adult practitioners who put her on wrong sex hormones and did this surgery to a minor. She talks about how she did not receive adequate psychological support throughout this process. This could have been my daughter, had she not received the "gender exploratory" therapy that helped her uncover the deeper reason for her adaptation of a trans identity. ( Search Chloe Cole online to hear her story if you haven't heard it already ) .

While I support the ban on "conversion therapy" that attempts to stop people from being gay or lesbian, the idea of banning therapy that allows young people to explore more deeply the reasons for their gender dysphoria, before deciding whether to do anything permanent, is a disservice to young people. With this ban, therapists will be forced to participate in a profound social and psychological intervention that is "affirming" an opposite gender identity, without the chance to do their job as therapists with the proper integrity of exploring and asking questions. I can't express my opposition to this bill strongly enough, based on my first hand experience with this topic.