

Submitter: Vajra Ma

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

This amendment, HB 2458, to remove protection from children and teens under age 18 is unconscionable.

I oppose it for two reasons:

1) It violates the rights, ethics and responsibilities of therapists: This bill, which conflates sexual orientation with gender identity, would make it near impossible for therapists to question patients' complex reasons for wanting to pursue "transition." There is no "conversion therapy" crisis. What we have is a crisis of blind "affirmation" with life-altering consequences. This amendment restrains therapists from doing what they are ethically required to do which is to explore root causes and possible co-morbidity issues with a patient who is making life-changing decisions, in this case as regards "gender identity" and "transitioning".

2) More importantly this bill violates the self-evident rights of children and teens: This amendment exposes children and teens under the age of 18 to being unduly influenced to make life-altering decisions they are not equipped to make. We don't expect a child to make decisions about who to marry or what line of work they will pursue in life, so why would we expect them to make a life-altering decision to "transition", a decision which includes body damaging drugs and leads to life-long medical dependency? Puberty blockers interfere with brain and bone development and increase the risks of stroke, diabetes and more. Wrong-sex hormones destroy the capacity to reproduce, that is, they sterilizes children and teens. It is unconscionable to enable children to make major decisions, the ramifications of which they are incapable of comprehending.

You need to consider the many de-transitioners who gravely regret their "transition" and now must live with irreversible damage to their bodies. You don't hear about them in mainstream media because there is a blackout on any views other than blanket acceptance of "gender identity" ideology. Why a blackout? Follow the money. A good start is www.the11thhourblog.com. There is a mountain of evidence outside the mainstream media blackout and you as are legislators are responsible to educate yourselves when making laws. Please educate yourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vajra Ma
Oregon resident