

Submitter: Sofia Elias

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I have both personal and professional experience regarding gender and sexual identity exploration. This bill as written clearly allows for appropriate intervention from qualified professionals. There are many young people suffering due to lack of acceptance, often by their own parents and communities. Affirming care does not equate with approving hormones, surgeries and medication without proper counsel and full discussion of all the documented pros, cons, risks and benefits. And it does not mean anti-religious beliefs either. It does mean that no one gets to make a moral judgment on a person's self-identification.

Please, help our youth be treated with great care and respect by believing and validating their experiences, and by taking appropriate time to determine the best course of treatment for each individual.

Thank you