

Submitter: Linda Farrington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am a retired Emergency & Recovery Room nurse, with six grown children+ six granddaughters. This bill brings up several serious concerns for me.

1. Right of every child to explore the why's and wherefores of their feelings and behavior. Life is complicated and multiple influencers in a child's life push them this way or that way. Please allow them the freedom to choose what goals they want to set for their life.
2. Right of every parent to direct the upbringing of their children. We know our children the best and we don't want the state dictating the values that we pass on. Narratives that say religion -or strong family beliefs are harmful are not substantiated with real data.
3. Right of every person to live according to their deeply held religious beliefs and be protected from the State dictating my values.
4. Right of every person to make a change in their life. Choice is true freedom, which is what America has always stood for.
5. The ethics of permanently medicalizing a self diagnosed condition with a 85% desistance rate is very poor.

The data is clear that:

A --Binary truth in every cell is eternal, neuroplasticity of brain, brain not mature until 25 years old. children evolve

B --Cited research found to be sloppy and presumptuous, New research and data refute prior claims

C --Activism is real, big money is involved, honest medical opinion was cancelled; vocabulary reframes truth but doesn't change the facts.

D --The American Psychiatric Assoc, the Am Psychological Assoc, the AMA, etc. are professional guilds, not scientific organizations. Their governing bodies are small, general members don't get to vote; leaderships and committees are susceptible to ideological influences. In 1973 the American Psychiatric Association deleted homosexuality as a disorder from the diagnostic manual. 4 years later, Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality showed 69% of psychiatrists did not agree with the decision. MD opinion was canceled.

E --Most children with GD have a history of other mental health diagnosis that predate gender dysphoria. Suicide increases AFTER gender affirming therapy because we have sold them a lie- that everything will be fine if they just become someone else. It is heart breaking.

E -- 80-85% of minors with gender dysphoria grow out of it naturally if they are not "affirmed".

F -- We already have systems in place to protect children from truly abusive parents,

or unethical therapists. This ban is unnecessary.

Society has taken away the color of kids lives. They are afraid to act too boyish or too girlish in case someone assumes they are trans. We no longer allow a wide range of behavior to show because society has determined that differences that we used to call personality are now called, "sexual identity". We push sex onto children encouraging them to explore the numerous identity possibilities because "sexual identity is fluid" - anatomy means nothing. And when a child questions who they are, like almost every child does at some point, adults label them and fast-track them as transgender rather than letting their insecurities play out. This is true even though there is plenty of evidence confirming most kids grow out of these feelings. Why the crystallizing label if sexual identity is FLUID? Not to mention that these are minor children and GD is self diagnosed! Yet, because powerful, rich organizations like SEICUS, Planned Parenthood, and Advocates for Change have made "gender affirming care" the law of the land to benefit themselves, these children don't get a chance to think twice about it. They lose their childhoods and their future health and they become patients forever. It is heartbreaking.

Please VOTE NO on HB 2458!

Thank you for reading my comments.

SOCE reduces suicide: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3729353>,

Research refuting old claims: <https://cmda.org/evidence-opposing-therapy-bans/>