

Submitter: Anonymous Parent
On Behalf Of: Parents of Transgender and Non-Binary youth
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2002

Honorable Legislators of the State of Oregon,

I oppose House Bill 2002. I would like to focus on the transgender elements of this bill. A large portion of our society have accepted two things that 5 to 10 years ago the majority of us never would have believed.

1. That a man could actually become a woman, a woman can actually become a man, and there is such a thing as a non-binary person.
2. That children can make very important decisions at very young ages. That they are capable of knowing, as a child, how they will want to live/believe as an adult, even though many of us have drastically changed our minds about the protectory of our lives over the years since being a teen.

What has changed that convinced us of those two things? Was there a big scientific discovery that proved something genetic, not mental, causes transgenderism? Has the premise that children are fully capable of making their own decisions replaced the belief they are not capable until their brains are developed fully? Has it been proven that similar conditions, such as anorexia nervosas and cutting, are totally a mental condition/social contagion but there is something distinctly different about transgenderism that puts it in another category – not genetic/but not mental? And why does it seem to affect more affluent countries and seemingly not affect others at all; and why do the numbers keep growing exponentially?

There is a lot of social pressure about this subject. Nobody, including me, wants to be considered hateful or bigoted, for not accepting children/young adults who are uncomfortable in their bodies as truly transgender. But we all want to do what is best for those children/young adults who are caught up in what seems to me, because of the steep uptick in occurrences, a social contagion. As a society we need to, I believe, stop and think about why things have changed so drastically in recent years from what we believed for thousands of years before.

Being a moderator of a group of thousands of parents of trans and non-binary children, I see patterns and commonalities that I will share with you.

1. In a group where most do not affirm their children in their trans identity, there has NOT been one reported suicide, but there have been MANY stories of desistance. (The studies about suicide are poorly conducted with high rates of 'lost to

study' and my real experience with 3,300+ parents prove otherwise, plus the actual most accurate study from Sweden proves suicide actually goes up after transition.)

2. Many of the occurrences of trans identification happened during or just after the Covid shutdown while children were home – isolated, sometimes not monitored, and on their computer for hours at a time.

3. Many of our parents have been, in the past, very left leaning, non-religious, and LGBTQIA+ allies, but when their children came out as trans knew there was something off and now fight to inform others of this trend affecting our children.

4. Most of the parents had very typical girly girls and boyish boys until these thoughts popped up suddenly overnight. This is often what caused the skepticism on their part about accepting this for their kids.

5. Many of our parents recognized other conditions such as ADHD, Autism, BPD, OCD, anxiety, depression, etc. in their children long before they settled on this ideology. The truth is many of their children think changing from their biological sex is the magic bullet that will cure all the other conditions/uncomfortableness. This is one reason otherwise very progressive parents are questioning it.

So, I am convinced any bill that furthers this ideology, without seriously questioning why it is occurring and what made us all to drastically change our thoughts about such fundamental ideas as sex/gender and a child/teen being able to have informed consent, is not in our children's best interest.

Please vote no on HB2002. Thank you.