

Submitter: JP George

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

I've never met a parent who would not give up their very lives for their children. Without hesitation. But it even goes beyond that. Children are the most vulnerable among us. I feel like every sane adult has a protective instinct when it comes to children that they would not for another adult. So as a society we come up with laws and put them into effect to protect children. Laws to protect them from abduction. To protect them from predators. To protect them from abuse at the hands of parents. And to protect them even from themselves. We don't let kids drive until they are 15 and that's while accompanied by a licensed adult. We don't let kids consume alcohol or use tobacco/vape. We don't even let kids get tattoos for the most part. So why as a society would we let children make a life altering choice like receiving gender affirming care? We must put aside our personal differences and political ideologies and ask ourselves that very question. We have these laws to protect children because they do not have the mental and physical capabilities to protect themselves. Once someone is an adult and I feel in this instance eighteen is adulthood. They should be able to do what they want when it comes to gender affirming care. This is America after all. But whether it's government funded or not is a question the Oregon voters should decide. It needs to be on a ballot not in a committee and it needs to be that simple question. " Should Oregon tax dollars be spent on gender affirming care? " That should be the only way this is decided. I feel like a clear majority of Oregon voters would feel the same way. I see a lot of division in Oregon today. But I feel we all want to protect our children. Life altering choices should not be made by children. Thank you all for your time in hearing my testimony today. My sincere best wishes to all Oregonians.