

Submitter: Anonymous Parent

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

This bill proposes something remarkably radical. It asserts that a 15 year old child should be able to consent to future life compromising medical interventions – without the knowledge of and over the objection of his or her parents – simply because the child has been persuaded of the advantages of such interventions by a provider. What could possibly go wrong if it should become law?

As a society we still have not recovered from the opioid epidemic that kicked off a couple of decades ago when providers persuaded a large number of adults that their lives would be improved by taking new drugs that had been “proven” safe and non-addictive. Last year in the continuing disastrous fallout of that innovation another 100,000 Americans died of opioid overdoses. How much worse would it be if 15 year olds were able to seek out and consent to fentanyl prescriptions without parental oversight? What might you or a good friend have done at 15, given such an opportunity?

Supporters of this bill presumably think there is a world of difference between transgender medical interventions and addictive analgesic drugs, but such confidence may be misplaced. In both cases a powerful demand that was previously unsuspected came into existence only after medical innovation created new possibilities, and advocacy groups evangelized them. Perhaps innate opioid addicts have always existed in all cultures at constant rates, living out their lives in secret discontent, and it has only been the innovations of Bayer and Perdue Pharma that allow so many to now live as their true selves.

Yes, it's inevitable that some small number of parents will make bad decisions on behalf of their own children. But here's the critical point: there's much larger scope for danger in allowing interested volunteers to make bad decisions on behalf of many other people's children. And that's exactly what this provision of this bill will enable.

Please vote no.