

Submitter: Beth Morey
On Behalf of: Children's Mental Health
Committee: House Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care
Measure: HB2002

I Oppose HB2002.

Changing one's gender or obtaining an abortion (as far into the pregnancy as 40 full-term weeks of baby development here in Oregon) is not something a minor's not yet fully developed brain has ability to process. Science about brain development suggests that most people do not reach full cognitive maturity until age 25. One needs a mature brain to make a weighted decision that evaluates choices, and processes consequences.

Consequences that could include suicide later after these irreversible decisions become unrelievable regret. I submit to you the worry we have of suicide in pregnant youth, or youth in their gender development, will increase exponentially on the other side of allowing these choices without full cognitive development.

We live in a state that deems one immature to buy a gun before age 18, or make sound decisions about alcohol purchases before age 21. Surely it is logical to compare the decisions of abortion and gender maiming similarly. Surely, permanently removing one's genitals requires brain maturation.