

I am writing this letter in opposition to House Bill 2002, especially the portion that deals with "Gender-affirming treatment." My name is Dr. Guesly Dessieux. I have been practicing medicine in Stayton, Oregon as a Family Physician for more than 15 years.

Currently, many of our laws do not allow children and young adults below a certain age to engage in certain activities because of the permanent damage that can be done to their brains and bodies. We know they do not have the maturity level needed to make all their own decisions and so we as adults protect them. But now you are proposing to pass a law that would allow minors, without parental consent, to obtain certain procedures, services, drugs, devices or products that can have life-altering repercussions and do permanent damage to their bodies and minds. What is even more concerning is that the Oregon Health Authority is indicating that "medically it is safer and easier to conduct surgery earlier, before secondary sex characteristics are fully developed." That is highly concerning and dangerous. Such handling of a young person's body could be catastrophic. It also does nothing to address their mental health which is leading them to want to take such actions.

Multiple European countries who had been progressive in gender affirming care have changed their approach and their views after significant research. Furthermore, the majority of children with gender dysphoria grow out of it. If we do not think young adults are responsible enough to drive, drink alcohol, smoke, or vote, why do we assume they are responsible enough to make a decision that would have life altering and irreparable consequences, especially when neuroscientists have agreed that most people's brains continue to develop until their mid 20s and some even into their 30s . How then can we expect young adults or youth to make decisions when we know that they are not ready and mature enough?

This bill, if passed, would cause significant damage to the children and youth in our state and would also impose a significant burden on our healthcare system. It's just an unbelievably bad idea and I would ask what ulterior motives are involved for the adults. Why can't we just let our kids be kids growing into adulthood naturally as we were allowed to do?