

To the Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care:

Chair Nosse, Vice-chairs Nelson & Goodwin,

Thank you for your attention to HB 2002. I vehemently oppose this bill and hope you will consider my statement when you decide how to move forward on this legislation.

HB 2002 is an all-out assault on the unborn, youth and queer/questioning people in Oregon's LGBTQ population. Not only does this legislation clearly ignore scientific evidence of desistance rates in transgender-identifying people, it lumps together the topics of abortion and transgender therapy in a careless way which will permanently damage or end the lives of Oregonians.

First, the Q population is likely the largest contingent of the LGBTQ as more and more people find themselves questioning their sexuality or gender identity. By removing any age requirement for therapy so long as a guardian or adult consents to treatment for the minor – we are creating a scenario whereby confused and often-traumatized youth are ushered into medicalized treatment and lifelong damage to their physical bodies.

Those who have questioned or will question their gender identity must have resources, protection and a vote of confidence from wise adults to hold space for their process of self-discovery. HB 2002 clearly shows us that in a one-sided, progressive approach to sexuality and identity, LGBT identification is the only path forward. *LGBT identity must not be the only option for those who question.* We must not rush to medically transition children – when a vast majority of children who present with GD will desist by adulthood. Of those whose dysphoria persists into adulthood, most will desist when comorbidities and trauma are addressed. The “wait and see” method is effective and ought to be widely considered as best practice. In light of its efficacy, the question must be asked, why are we rushing to medically and surgically alter children who self-identify as transgender? When so many children who are diagnosed or self-diagnose as gender dysphoric or transgender present with multiple comorbidities, why are we ignoring external factors, ACE's and childhood experiences in favor of using chemicals or surgical procedures to alter children for the rest of their lives?

How are we helping children? How are we protecting them? **This bill is a clear example of the negligence of the medical and legislative powers-that-be who will ignore scientific data in favor of a cultural narrative which abuses and exploits the pains and experiences of LGBTQ-identifying people.**

Secondly, the parent-child trust relationship is the most sacred bond between human beings. This bill launches an all-out attack on this relationship, not only through progressive and ridiculous gender policies and concessions for insurance coverage, but also through the attack on the unborn as it includes broad, sweeping language supporting abortion. If anyone wondered how a “sanctuary state” is created for out-of-state abortions and gender therapy, this is how a legislative body does it. By limiting consequences for doctors who perform genital mutilation on children and requiring insurance agencies to cover therapies and abortions, we are making an attractive environment for people who come from other states in search of these services. Liberal lawmakers will tout this as a worthy cause – while ignoring the impact on families, individuals and the unborn in the states where these services are not

lawful. The consequence of these actions is clearly not a consideration for lawmakers. The fallout from this will affect generations – but I do not believe this is called into account when legislation like this is written and introduced.

You will hear testimony in support of this legislation which heralds the achievements and strides we've made as a culture and scientific community to support gender-queer and abortion-seeking individuals. This proponent testimony fails to address the nuance of the formation of sexuality. It also fails to address the children who are murdered in the womb by progressive abortion laws like this.

Please do not let HB 2002 pass from this committee. Vote no on HB 2002.

David Reece

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