

My name is Joyce Guerin, a native Oregonian, a mother, a grandmother. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

*and I am against HB 2002*

I would like to know if minors are allowed to attend/testify at this hearing. I could not find any information regarding this question. If they are not allowed to attend/testify, is it because they are not deemed old enough to comprehend the proceedings? Is it because they are not educated enough to comprehend the context used? Not wise enough to comprehend what is being said here today?

Children in Oregon are not able to drive legally until age 16, vote until age 18, marry until age 18, join the military until age 18, or buy alcohol until age 21. All of these by law to "protect" our children who we deem irresponsible at an immature age. But according to introduced HB 2002, are old enough to comprehend life altering medical procedures and give their permission for these procedures to be performed on themselves.

I would like to cite from a manuscript for an author of "Law of Human Behavior" 2019. "All countries distinguish between minors and adults for various legal purposes. Recent supreme court cases concerning the legal status of juveniles have consulted psychological science to decide where to draw these boundaries. The research has been conducted largely in the US and other Western countries. To the extent that lawmakers look to research to guide their decisions. The study examines two psychological phenomena relevant to legal questions about adolescent maturity: 1) COGNITIVE CAPACITY - WHICH UNDERGRIDS LOGICAL THINKING, and PSYCHOSOCIAL MATURITY - WHICH COMPRISES INDIVIDUALS ABILITY TO RESTRAIN THEMSELVES IN THE FACE OF EMOTIONAL, EXCITING OR RISKY STIMULI. 5227 individuals were studied 50% female, 50% male, ages 10-30, from 11 countries. They found that COGNITIVE CAPACITY REACHED ADULT LEVELS AROUND AGE 16, AND THAT PSYCHOSOCIAL MATURITY REACHED ADULT LEVELS BEYOND AGE 18. THEREFORE THEY ARGUE THAT PSYCHOSOCIAL MATURITY PLAYS A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE IN DECISION MAKING."

I would also like to cite US Supreme Court case Roper v. Simmons 2005,"that abolished the juvenile death penalty for 16 and 17 year olds stating that people younger than 18 lacked the PSYCHOLOGICAL MATURITY to be responsible for their crimes." If they lack maturity for crimes committed, surely they lack maturity to make life altering health decisions."

Why are you in such a hurry to pass laws that affect our children? Isn't family unity and safety a priority in this situation? Or does that not matter anymore, do you as adults not have the psychosocial capacity to make sound decisions? Do we as parents/guardians not have the right to protect our children as we see fit? OUR own children, not yours, not the governments. OURS.

Please take some time to slow down, take time to do some research at least, before passing laws that can be so detrimental to our children, our families, our place as human



beings on this planet. Think about how HB 2002 will affect children and families as a whole, not just mine, but yours, your neighbors, your friends, not just now but in the future.

In conclusion, it is our responsibility as adults to protect our children from harm from others and from themselves, as they lack the maturity to protect themselves.

Some decisions can cause irreparable damages,  
HB 2002 ~~THIS~~ IS ONE OF THOSE DECISIONS!

