

Submitter: Nicole De Graff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Chair Nosse and members of this committee.

My name is Nicole De Graff, and I drove up from Springfield to urge your NO vote on HB 2002.

In this state, parents have been demonized for wanting to make medical decisions for their kids or for seeking to eliminate sexually explicit books and curriculum like what was displayed in Churchill High school. We love our kids and know them better than anyone else.

And for the record, any child who is truly diagnosed with gender dysphoria--not simply self diagnosed, should get the mental health treatment that their parents and doctor deem necessary.

But stop assuming that every youth who is struggling with peer pressure, anxiety or self esteem issues needs puberty blockers.

When my daughter was 12yrs old, the principal of Marcola Middle School brought in a secret girls empowerment club. When I initially asked for more info, the principal was not forthcoming. They didn't have one for boys because she said "boys don't need that." It felt like they were targeting girls. It turns out that was true.

After the intro meeting, we decided my daughter would not attend further without our knowing what each one hour weekly session entailed. I was subsequently told my daughter would need to keep the meetings secret from us and sign a form to that effect. Not long after, nearly all the girls in my daughter's class self identified as lesbian. We pulled all our kids to homeschool and my daughter later said that the peer pressure to say she was a lesbian was strong.

I oppose HB 2002 for many reasons, including the extreme pro-abortion sections and repealing language criminalizing concealing the birth of an infant. But as a parent involved in my local schools, I'm asking for your support in my decisions to help my children grow and thrive. Stop telling me that I'm not supposed to be involved in my children's decision making on such significant, life changing issues.

I am speaking out for parents who are tired of efforts to drive a wedge between them and their children. Please vote no on HB 2002. Thank you.