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I am opposed to HB 2002 because it significantly interferes with parental rights and gives liberty to teenage bad guys (like I was) seducing young girls. Minor-age children receiving transgender care without parental permission can trap those with autism into the incorrect gender.

### **Back Story**

When I was in my mid to late teens, I wanted two things from girls. Having relations with them was paramount. This scoundrel did not care after the fact. Indeed, another conquest. If abortion was available to high school girls without parental permission, how many more hearts would I have ripped from their chests because **I would have then told them that no one would know** if you become pregnant. Persuasive I was and off the hook, too! Responsible behavior would not darken my door!

Vote "No" on HB 2002 could save a young girl by providing a hedge from the wolves.

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Gender Affirmative care may seem compassionate at first glance. We know children can make horrible decisions because their brains are underdeveloped. But what about those who have autism, those who cannot always navigate troubled waters? Several recent studies show a disproportionate overlap of autistic people and Gender-diverse people:

"People who do not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth are three to six times as likely to be autistic as cisgender people are, according to the largest study yet to examine the connection. Gender-diverse people are also more likely to report autism traits and to suspect they have undiagnosed autism." (source: <https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/largest-study-to-date-confirms-overlap-between-autism-and-gender-diversity/>).

Those with autism can be persuaded to believe they are not cisgender. I have a friend in prison in another time-zone. He has high-level-functioning autism. He was on a medication that had a side effect that developed his large man-boobs. My slender friend bound them because of his fear of physical abuse from other inmates because he believed his breasts made him a more enticing target for prison rape. Because of his autism, he realizes that he could not effectively negotiate these difficult situations when the targeting begins.

The guards told him he must be a woman to have such large breasts. Having autism, he had concluded that he must be non-binary because the guards told him so. His autism allowed him to believe what non-autistic people would not have believed. When I later asked him about this new identity, he said he is not transgender but is a man. I asked him why he had used them/they pronouns. He said he believed what the guards told him, and since he was not a woman, he chose the non-binary pronouns. My friend believes the guards were acting without malice. However, his autism would hide the guards' motive if they were maliciously jesting.

Chloe Cole, a famous detransitioner who is publicly opposed to adolescent gender transitions, also is autistic.

If my friend and Chloe could be persuaded to confusingly believe something they are not, what other vulnerable groups would be impacted?

In a recent article, TLC reality star Jazz Jennings is still uncomfortable in the body produced by surgery and hormones. She said that she has struggled with mental health issues. After eight season, four surgeries, and multiple hormone therapies, she said, "I just want to feel like myself. All I want is to be happy and feel like me, and I don't feel like me, ever."

I strongly urge "NO" on HB 2002 to protect our most vulnerable Oregon residents.