

Dear House Committee, Honorable Chair and Co-chairs,

My name is Lisa McCall, of Stayton, OR. I'm a constituent of Rep. Diehl. I'm sending this statement to voice my opposition to hb2002.

Despite having a degree in Biology and working in the medical field for seven years, those are not my qualifications for speaking on this issue. But first, my thoughts.

The human brain is not fully developed until sometime in the 20's. Some studies put it at age 30.

Executive skills--reasoning and problem-solving skills--cannot possibly be adequate for a child to make a decision as life changing, physically and emotionally, as transition therapy. I would, thus, advocate for such decisions to not be made until at least age 21, realizing that some will feel that an 18 year old adult should be able to make their own decision. That would at least leave it until they can make the decision as an adult. However, there is a precedent in the tobacco laws for waiting until 21 for some health-related decisions.

What is really offensive to me about the bill is the attempt to remove parental rights. Parents have the inalienable right to guide, direct and protect their children. And to make decisions related to their health, both physical and mental. I am also appalled that the bill removes the ability for professional counselors to urge caution, restraint, or "waiting" even when they judge that a child is making a hasty decision due to treatable anxiety, depression or stress, or even the normal struggles of adolescence. This bill would endanger children, both the abortion and the gender reassignment aspects. Re. abortion: it would allow a pedophile to continue abusing and raping a child. Not to mention that it is a procedure with serious risks--up to and including death of the mother. (And always death of the baby.) Re. gender reassignment surgery, I've heard too many stories of regret, depression, and suicidal thoughts in transitioners, including deep sorrow over losing the ability to procreate, that is, to have one's own children. And all surgeries carry risks. So, even simply looking at the medical side, please don't give this power to school officials and others to make medical decisions with risks for complications up to and including death.

Please, let's not create a generation with a large percentage of boys and girls entering adulthood having given up the ability to have children before they really understand the consequences. Which includes their permanent sterilization.

I am concerned, as well, about the ability inherent in these issues to decrease birth rates to unsustainable levels. To cause a decline in population, to weaken our state, to weaken America. With similar effects on a larger scale if applied globally. At least in the West, as this is not allowed in China and in other nations hostile to the West.

As this committee is concerned with the health and welfare of Oregonians, I implore you to use discernment--distinguishing right from wrong, wise from foolish. I urge you to NOT advance this bill. Please do not allow the mutilation of our children while concomitantly removing the loving support, nurturing presence, and involvement of parents.

I see there is an attempt to put this forth as an emergency, which is, I feel, simply an attempt to forgo the normal wait time for regular legislation. This should cause alarm to Oregonians. Motivations are suspect when an issue as important as this is rushed. We've not had such laws in America before this time in history, so pushing the time and calling it an emergency seems unwise.

My qualification, referred to earlier, are that I am a thinking person with common sense who can see the repercussions of this, in children's lives, and in society at large, and which have already begun manifesting themselves. I have eyes to see the testimonies of those who transitioned and regretted it--who will regret it for the rest of their lives. I am a mother and grandmother who is familiar with the capriciousness of children and of adolescents experiencing teen "angst". And I have a mandate to rescue those who would be lead down a dangerous, risky road without the knowledge or consent of those who know and love them most. And I am a constituent, and citizen of the state of Oregon who cares about other Oregonians.

Thank you.

Lisa McCall