



Testimony of Catherine Gunsalus, Director of State Advocacy
Heritage Action for America
January 28, 2025

Supporting: House Bill 2071

Submitted to the House Committee on Health and Human Services

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in favor of House Bill 2071. My name is Catherine Gunsalus and I represent Heritage Action for America, a grassroots organization with two million grassroots activists nationwide, including thousands of Kansans.

Nearly two dozen states have already enacted laws prohibiting “gender-affirming” interventions for minors in most circumstances. Now is the time for Kansas to join them. HB 2071 not only prohibits these dangerous procedures for minors, but holds health care professionals who profit from them accountable by prohibiting professional liability insurance to cover damages for providers who use these procedures on children. The bill also requires professional disciplinary action up to and including the revocation of their medical license.

When a child is struggling with gender dysphoria, they need compassionate care – not experimental hormones and surgery.

Body altering procedures—such as cross-sex hormones and surgeries that remove or severely alter healthy body parts—cause irreversible damage that will impact children for the rest of their lives.

Here are a few facts:

1. After so-called “sex reassignment surgery,” boys and girls are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population.
2. Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood.
3. The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been extensively studied. But it’s already clear they can lead to infertility and other irreversible harm.
4. It is wrong to assume that everyone advocating for body-altering surgeries is “doing it for the children.” In fact, the truth is, providing these pharmaceuticals and surgeries has become a very profitable industry.

Body dysphoria, depression and anxiety, and the awkwardness of puberty are all real challenges that need compassionate care. We should not allow our **children** to be pushed into experimental surgeries and drugs by radical activist groups and the medical industry.

House Bill 2071 protects Kansas kids by ensuring that the consequences for profiting from experimental, life-altering procedures are serious. Please consider the future of these young people and protect Kansas' greatest asset, its future generation from an industry that would prey upon them at a time of confusion and weakness.

Heritage Action urges you to vote YES on HB 2071.

Catherine Gunsalus
Director of State Advocacy
Heritage Action for America