

Date: Jan 24, 2025

Bill : HB2071

Proponent: Do NO harm and Not using tax payer funds for such harm

Name: Patricia DeDamos

Representing : Self

To: Chairman Carpenter and committee members

Dear Committee of Health and Human Services:

I firmly believe we all agree in protecting vulnerable citizens: young, mentally challenged, and elderly. I strongly oppose allowing minors under 18 or possibly 21 to decide on sex change treatments *and* using taxpayer funds for such procedures. Children lack the maturity to make these life-altering decisions and do not grasp the potential long-term consequences. There are better ways to spend tax funds for health care. As of this testimony 26 states that have passed bans on gender-affirming care" for minors.

A 2023 study: Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust in the United Kingdom; found that **a significant proportion of children who experience gender dysphoria outgrow it** and true gender dysphoria is a relatively rare.

Society and common sense restricts many activities for those under 18 due to their developmental stage, it is inconsistent to allow them to make decisions about something as serious as 'gender affirming' treatments, and medication for life. There needs to be punishment for *mutilitating* children who are not old enough to vote, buy alcohol or cigarettes, sky dive, get a tattoo, or travel on an aircraft without a parent. If we acknowledge that children aren't ready for certain responsibilities, how can we possibly justify allowing them to decide on something as serious and permanent as changing their sex?

Doctors who have abuse patients in their 'care', are well documented:

1. *Larry Nassar*: A former USA Gymnastics team doctor who was convicted of sexual assault after **hundreds of women and young girls** accused him of abuse under the guise of medical treatment.
2. *Christopher Duntsch*: A neurosurgeon from Texas who was nicknamed "Dr. Death" due to his record of botched surgeries. Duntsch was accused of harming 33 patients, among whom two died due to his actions. He was eventually convicted of aggravated assault in 2017 related to his malpractice.
3. *Kermit Gosnell*: A former abortion provider who was convicted of murder in 2013 after it was discovered that he had performed numerous late-term abortions **and** killed several newborns who were born alive during the procedures.

Doctors who abuse patients should be punished!

Using public funds for these surgeries would mean that every taxpayer, regardless of their personal beliefs, is forced to contribute to a procedure they might fundamentally, morally, and ethically disagree with. Furthermore, given the limited resources available for health care, and the added cost with yearly inflation I believe it's more prudent to allocate these funds towards treatments for life-threatening chronic conditions or general health care services that benefit a larger number of people. We need to prioritize our spending and ensure that we're making the most effective use of our resources, rather than funding controversial procedures that many taxpayers object to.

Thank you for supporting the protection of children in our State!

Sincerely,
Patricia DeDamos