

House Health & Human Services

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HB26-1087 Safeguard Minors from Sex-Altering Interventions

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Zoe Roberts Against themselves	<p>Please vote no against this damaging legislation. Doctors, families, and most importantly individual youth have the right to make choices about their body. These types of procedures and decisions are NOT made lightly; youth who may be going through normal questioning and changes in their life should be met with open arms - but changes like puberty blockers are not taken lightly and these types of matters should be legislated by Medical professionals, not our government. As an LGBTQ adult, I know many peers who would have benefitted from earlier intervention, but it was not available. There are transgender people of all ages, it is not a fad, and it is not dangerous.</p> <p>To those who believe in "traditional" ideas of gender and sexuality are welcome to keep those beliefs; but personal freedom is a value we all share; and I say transgender youth must be granted that same freedom. I can share from experience in the LGBTQ community: way more lasting damage is being done to youth who are dismissed, bullied, and denied access to healthcare - than those who are provided access to healthcare that supports their identities. People do not just one day decide they want to change their gender to follow a trend and then do so the next day. It is a lifetime of struggle, in a world with people like those co-sponsors of this bill, who believe that transgender people are unnatural or wrong, to still choose to transition despite the backlash.</p> <p>I support my transgender community, and I ask all those who stand up for human rights to oppose this bill. Thank you.</p>

<p>Kirsten Roberts</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Children should have the right to have input on their body. Puberty blockers only delay puberty to give them more time to make decisions regarding their gender. This bill does not account for intersex children or children with medical conditions where puberty blockers or other gender affirming care can help them in other ways in addition to affirming their gender.</p> <p>In addition, suicide rates in transgender children is sky high, but studies show that this has a significant drop when they have access to gender affirming care, and even more so when their family is supportive. Keep children safe and alive by keeping their access to medical care available. Pro life stances should include the lives of transgender children.</p>
<p>Shaela Smith</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>"think of the children!" they say. I'm thinking about them for sure. two days ago I got a story in my inbox from Erin In The Morning, a news source I follow. this story revealed that the British government had messed with numbers to try and hide the amount of transgender children who had committed suicide in 2022 after their government cut off care. I'm thinking about those children as I write this testimony. Passing this bill will lead directly and indirectly to children dying. Every year I go to various events for the annual Transgender Day Of Mourning. We read so many names out, all of them dead. don't give us more names.</p> <p>these poor kids who are being allowed to avoid the catastrophically life-changing event called puberty. when you become an adult and then decide to transition, there is often nothing you hate more than the fact that you went through puberty. that's the irreversible thing. kids aren't required to go through therapy and get multiple signed letters and consent of their parents to go through puberty because it's what their body would do anyways. the moment a kid says "hey wait, I'm not sure that I want to grow breasts, or have my Adams apple drop, or other things", the world freaks out. isn't the point that kids are too young to know exactly what they want? letting them get puberty blockers (which are almost entirely reversible) and wear different clothes to school</p>

	<p>while they figure themselves out is them saying they want to put it off while they make sure</p>
<p>Jeany Rush For themselves</p>	<p>TO: HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE RE: HB26-1087 SAFEGUARDING MINORS FROM INTERVENTIONS TO ALTER BIOLOGICAL SEX 2-17-26 SPONSOR: BOTTOMS FROM: JEANY RUSH, OUTRAGED CONSTITUENT COLORADO VOTE: YES YES YES WE NEED THIS</p> <p>27 STATES HAVE BANNED BUTCHERY OF CHILDREN/MINORS WHETHER GENDER DRUGS, SURGERIES, MENTAL GROOMING.</p> <p>OUR PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED EXECUTIVE ORDERS A YEAR AGO BANNISHING THESE BARBARIC AND GROTESQUE PROCEDURES ON MINORS! WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IRREVERSIBLE PROCEDURES TO OUR CHILDREN!</p> <p>“By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:</p> <p>Section 1. Policy and Purpose. Across the country today, medical professionals are maiming and sterilizing a growing number of impressionable children under the radical and false claim that adults can change a child’s sex through a series of irreversible medical interventions. This dangerous trend will be a stain on our Nation’s history, and it must end.</p> <p>Countless children soon regret that they have been mutilated and begin to grasp the horrifying tragedy that they will never be able to conceive children of their own or nurture their children through breastfeeding. Moreover, these vulnerable youths’ medical bills may rise throughout their lifetimes, as they are often trapped with lifelong medical complications, a losing war with their own bodies, and, tragically, sterilization.</p> <p>Accordingly, it is the policy of the United States that it will not fund, sponsor, promote, assist, or support the so-called “transition” of a child from one sex to another, and it will</p>

	<p>rigorously enforce all laws that prohibit or limit these destructive and life-altering procedures.â€”</p> <p>THE SUPREME COURT UPHELD LAW IN TENNESSEE RESTRICTING SEX TRANSITION TREATMENTS FOR MINORS.</p> <p>Protections in this bill include parents who disagree with the butchery, right to sue for harmed and recourse 20 yrs., & defunds all of these mutilations, mental, chemical, physical. This needs to include schools, counselors, doctors, clinics, hospitals who sterilize, butcher , groom children! It is my opinion anyone doing these surgeries, drugs to kids should be in jail for life, or get a Death Penalty! NO CHILD CAN GIVE INFORMED CONSENT. THIS IS IRREVERSIBLE MUTILATION CRIMES! LOVE THE COURAGE OF THIS BILL TO STAND FOR KIDS! LEAVE THOSE KIDS ALONE</p>
<p>Maija Noyd Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is cruel and inappropriate. There have been many studies that have showed that having access to gender affirming care is LIFE SAVING and significantly decreases trans youth suicide rates. This bill is an overreach that would create an unsafe precedent that wouldn't allow youth to have access to medical or behavioral health care. As a therapist, this bill shows the lack of care this administration has for queer and trans youth. There is empirical research that shows how vital this care is for youth and that it is life saving. I urge you to vote against this bill, if you claim to care about and want to protect youth then you cannot support this bill. Youth will die from losing access to this care, from losing safe providers who care about and want to see these kids thrive. Trans youth deserve to have access to care, to grow old, to be authentically themselves. This bill will only cause more harm.</p>
<p>Madeleine Gillman Against themselves</p>	<p>I write to express my full opinion against this bill. This bill puts young people and their health providers at an alarming risk for simply trying to access and provide life saving healthcare. It is well documented that queer youth are at an extremely elevated risk of committing suicide, and a large part of this elevated risk is due to unsupportive environments. For a young person, having one accepting adult in their life can reverse their risk of committing suicide down to national levels for all youth. This bill is dangerous and an outrageous governmental overreach to remove autonomy from young people and their treatment</p>

	<p>providers. Threatening to punish healthcare providers that follow industry standard levels of care is reckless and unconscionable. Gender affirming healthcare saves lives and this bill, if passed, would cause unspeakable harm to young people. Personal beliefs have no right to influence policy when the data is clear that gender affirming healthcare saves lives, and that providing gender affirming healthcare has no risk to the health and safety of those that seek care.</p>
<p>Margaret Snyder Against themselves</p>	<p>I am a social worker in Durango, CO and have spent a large portion of my career working the local crisis line and providing emergency behavioral health services to our area. I've treated a large number of youth who experience suicidal thoughts and have attempted suicide due to gender dysphoria and their fear of discrimination. This bill would put these youth at further risk of harming themselves and would lead to an increase in death by suicide in this vulnerable population. I STRONGLY urge congress to vote no on this house bill and instead provide support and care for Colorado kids in a nondiscriminatory manner. Literal lives depend on access to gender affirming care.</p>
<p>Josh Johnson For themselves</p>	<p>Chair and members of the committee,</p> <p>The fact that we are even debating this issue should give all of us pause. Many families across Colorado are deeply concerned that our state is moving too quickly on policies that have permanent, life-altering consequences for children.</p> <p>These are not temporary decisions. The medical interventions being discussed can permanently alter a minor's body and future. Once done, they cannot be undone. As lawmakers, your first responsibility is to protect those who cannot protect themselves.</p> <p>In recent years, public trust in government and major institutions has declined. Parents are asking reasonable questions: Are these treatments supported by long-term evidence? Are adequate safeguards in place? Are we certain that vulnerable young people</p>

	<p>are being protected from making irreversible decisions before they are mature enough to fully understand the consequences?</p> <p>There are also legitimate concerns about financial incentives within modern healthcare. When powerful pharmaceutical and insurance interests are involved, transparency and accountability become even more important.</p> <p>This bill is not about politics. It is about protecting children, restoring trust, and ensuring that Colorado families come first. We should err on the side of caution when it comes to permanent medical interventions for minors.</p> <p>I urge you to pass this bill and demonstrate that Colorado stands firmly with families and with the long-term well-being of our children.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p>
<p>Ingrid Moore</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>I strongly oppose this bill.</p> <p>The bill overrides the expertise of medical and mental health professionals, along with families, by prohibiting these providers from performing surgeries, prescribing hormones or puberty blockers, or providing affirming therapy to minors for the purpose of altering their biological sex characteristics. It has been proven that children with gender dysphoria benefit mentally, emotionally and physically from getting the care they need.</p> <p>I ask, why do legislators feel they are at all qualified to take this decision away from those who are best suited to make these decisions? They don't belong in the conversation.</p> <p>PLEASE VOTE NO ON THIS BILL.</p>
<p>Cody Cerise</p> <p>For</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Cody Cerise and I am writing to please urge you to VOTE YES on HB26-1087!! This bill is a wonderful protection for minors!</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>Children who are dealing with gender dysphoria or other related mental illness are not mature enough to make such life-altering decisions when their brains are not even fully developed! This bill would protect children/minors from making adult decisions that have more consequences than they can imagine. This bill also protects parental rights by protecting parents who are trying to help their child without medical drug intervention. It protects parents who seek other care that would be based on religious or personal convictions. PLEASE VOTE YES!!</p> <p>Thank You!</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Cody Cerise</p>
<p>Amy Diamond</p> <p>Against</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>I am a mental health professional here (psychiatric NP) with 19 years of experience in psychiatric nursing. I am unable to testify in person today, but am listening to the committee, representing myself.</p> <p>Transgenderism is NOT considered a mental illness. Our guidelines are clear on this. What is considered a mental illness is the distress that can accompany the discrepancy between one's body and sense of identity and/or one's gender identity and one's social environment.</p> <p>We support dignity and autonomy in identity formation because that is what helps kids become well-adjusted adults. We abide by evidence-based standards and guidelines, because that is what has been demonstrated to facilitate health and happiness.</p> <p>Please reject this harmful bill and vote NO.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

	<p>Amy Diamond, BA, BSN, MA, MSN, APRxN, PMHNP</p>
<p>Susan McDonald Against themselves</p>	<p>Confusing a society into thinking a man can be pregnant is a red flag that we have lost all common sense. We do NOT have the time or money to focus on these cultural issues any longer. Keep medical decisions out of politics, keep the focus on middle class keeping their homes, their privacy and get their tax dollars back from shady bankers. We are now in survival mode. Stop being distracted from protecting our air, water, soil and middle class. Thank you!</p>
<p>Susan McDonald For themselves</p>	<p>Iâ€™m âœforâ€ protecting minors from major side effects. When their brains are fully developed they can choose for themselves. Again we donâ€™t have the time or money for these cultural issues any longer, we are being distracted from the corruption. We donâ€™t have much time left to save our privacy, our identity or our freedom. Men cannot have babies. Can male dogs get pregnant? Crazy talk!</p>
<p>Roy Eappen For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Dr. Roy Eappen. I am a board-certified endocrinologist from Montreal, a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the American College of Physicians, and the American College of Endocrinology. I am an assistant professor of medicine at McGill University, although my testimony today is neither representative of my university nor group affiliations. I am a member of the LGB Courage Coalition and am speaking today on behalf of Do No Harm Action in support of this House Bill</p> <p>The number of kids and young adults transitioning in the last few years has skyrocketed. And while the Dutch protocol -- the original standard of procedure when treating gender dysphoria -- called for extensive psychological evaluation before transition, those safeguardsâ have been cut way back in North America.</p> <p>In recent days we see that many medical professionals are expressing the same level of doubt as I do. The American Society of Plastic surgeries has recommended that these treatments not be undertaken until age 19. the AaP and AMA both have said they broadly agree with these changes. As I have written before there is no consensus on these treatments. The UK and , many of the</p>

	<p>Scandinavian countries are also severely cutting back on these drugs and surgeries. The Cass report and HHS both show very low evidence of benefit and lots of possibility of harms like decreased bone density, infertility and even issues with brain function. The recent \$2million judgement in NYC is further evidence of the fact that this is not reasonable care. These procedures and medications should not be used before age 19 as now the American Society of Plastic surgeries , the AAP and AMA now admit.</p> <p>I urge the members of this Committee to support this bill.</p>
<p>Elizabeth Cerise For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to please urge you to VOTE YES on HB26-1087!! This bill is a wonderful protection for minors! Children who are dealing with gender dysphoria or other related mental illness are not mature enough to make such life-altering decisions when their brains are not even fully developed! This bill would protect children/minors from making adult decisions that have more consequences than they can imagine. This bill also protects parental rights by protecting parents who are trying to help their child without medical drug intervention. It protects parents who seek other care that would be based on religious or personal convictions. PLEASE VOTE YES!!</p> <p>Thank You!</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Elizabeth Cerise</p>
<p>LINDSAY POST For themselves</p>	<p>I support HB26-1087 and I ask that you move this to a vote and vote yes!</p> <p>Children are not allowed to drink, smoke, or even get a tattoo until the age of 18. Why are we allowing them to alter their bodies and make this irreversible choice? We need to protect them from these decisions. When they are an "adult" at the age of 18, they can choose for themselves.</p>

	<p>There are way too many mental health issues with kids that are confused. This is part of growing up. Please don't allow kids to mutilate their bodies. We need to protect kids!</p> <p>Thank you Representative Bottoms for writing this bill.</p> <p>I SUPPORT HB26-1087</p>
<p>Peyton Post For themselves</p>	<p>I support HB26-1087 and I ask that you move this to a vote and vote yes!</p> <p>Children are not allowed to drink, smoke, or even get a tattoo until the age of 18. Why are we allowing them to alter their bodies and make this irreversible choice? We need to protect them from these decisions. There are too many suicides and mental health issues from kids that have made this choice too young and regretted it.</p> <p>I SUPPORT HB26-1087</p>
<p>Michaela Collins Against themselves</p>	<p>I work as a community mental health crisis counselor. Everyday I deal with youth and adults who have experienced severe neglect, trauma, abuse. I work with individuals who have been so hurt that they only comfort they get at times is physically harming themselves, turning to drugs and alcohol, or wanting to kill themselves. I work with many clients who experience suicidality and maladaptive coping skills because they have to hide who they are. I work with Queer and Trans people of all ages who have had increasingly poor and abusive experiences due to the lack of access to affirming care. This bill will increase the suffering and likely the death rates of the people that so desperately need affirming care in their lives. This piece of legislation is a mistake and is hurtful. The negative consequences of this bill are far too high. More youth do not need to die because they are not able to receive the care and support they need.</p>