

Steven Sepe

From: Alice Ellis <ace25799@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 4:07 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: H7884

My name is Alice Kasumi Ellis and I am a resident of Woonsocket, RI SSD50. I am testifying in opposition to H7884 which would ban any medical gender affirming care prescribed to Transgender and Gender non-conforming individuals under the age of 18.

As someone who is a Transgender Woman and was prescribed Estradiol(Estrogen) and Spironolactone, an anti-androgen at the age of 15 in conjunction with common medical practices for the treatment of Gender Dysphoria that is supported by every major reputable medical and mental health association for said treatment, this bill would be a violation of Medical Freedom and cause irreparable harm to Trans and Gender Non-conforming youth. In fact I would most likely not be alive today without receiving such treatment at that time in my life. What contributes to struggles with my mental health are not HRT or Puberty Blockers, but the exact societal stigma and bigoted language in this bill and others of its ilk that makes me feel alienated from society and afraid for my safety due to the constant harassment and violence I have personally faced along with that of my community.

Puberty blockers and Hormone Replacement Therapy have been extensively studied for decades and deemed safe to proscribe by dozens of reputable medical organizations and thousands of Biologists, Endocrinologists, and Physicians. Studies have shown a net positive outcome for trans patients who have been prescribed these treatments in regards to their mental health and general wellbeing. Doctors are already required to give patients information about any potential risks no matter how rare or minor, and this information is also required to be given to parents of those minor patients in order to get informed consent from both parties. The irony that this bill is being pushed by politicians who claim to care about "Parental Rights" yet would have the state intervene in a parent's ability to seek live saving medical care for their children is not lost on me, and should just further illustrate that this bill is part of a larger effort to strip healthcare and protections from transgender people, harm us through restrictions on care imposed by the state, and are designed to punish us for participating in public life as Transgender people of all ages.

This bill should not be allowed in committee, and may even be in violation of Federal law and open the state up to court cases by the federal government if it passes, I don't support my taxpayer dollars going towards pointless litigation in support of policy that is designed to further stigmatize an already marginalized and vulnerable community and attack their quality of life. Remove this bill from committee, and reaffirm our State's commitment to healthcare, equality, and individual freedom.