

**From:** Andy Peitsch <apeitsch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 3:17 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Fwd: H778 Testimony

Dear Representative Donovan, and members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Andrea Peitsch, resident of Rhode Island, long time democrat voter. I am writing in support of H7884, RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN DESERVE HELP NOT HARM ACT.

I believed I was transgender for a period of time, in the midst of a mental breakdown, in 2018-2019. I was approaching 40 years old at the time. I was suicidal and went to Thundermist for professional help. I ended up thinking I was transgender, and quickly got on testosterone after two weeks of being seen there.

In reality I was very depressed, not thinking clearly, and looking for an escape from my depression by becoming a different person. Everyone around me could tell I was not mentally sound, and it is even written in my medical chart that it was not ideal timing for me to start a gender transition as I was very depressed and considering inpatient care.

They allowed me to start anyway. One of the doctors, Jason Rafferty, gleefully suggested that I start taking Lupron, as it would block all the hormones in my body. I can't imagine why he thought this made sense for an adult, but he seemed very excited about the idea. Note that he and Michelle Forcier are now both named in a lawsuit by another woman who was being treated there at the same time as I was.

All of this is to say, that if a fully grown adult can be vulnerable to an identity crisis of this magnitude, what chance do children, teenagers and young adults have, when they are being told they could be born in the wrong body if they don't match outdated sexist stereotypes?

I am writing in the sincere hope that people will slow down and think before causing any more harm to vulnerable children, AND adults who may be experiencing a mental breakdown similar to what I went through.

Thank you,

Andrea Peitsch  
South Kingstown, RI

On Apr 7, 2024, at 7:23 PM, Andy Peitsch <apeitsch@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Representatives,

Good afternoon, my name is Andrea Peitsch. I only just now learned about the bill you introduced, 7884. I am so happy to see it. You would not believe the ordeal my family and I have been through the past five years. I would to tell you all about it, it's a long story.

Would it be possible to schedule a phone call? I might try to make it to the hearing tomorrow.

Andrea  
(401) 594-6370