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From: Doreen Ciancaglini <docdoreen@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 8:47 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: House bill 7884

I am writing in support of House Bill 7884.

I have been a pediatric physician for 28

years and in that time have cared for many patients with various forms of mental health issues including anxiety, depression and eating disorders. In very recent years, gender dysphoria and transgenderism have emerged as mental health issues presenting in pediatric patients. Since it is a fairly new health issue in pediatric patients, studies re: treatment and therapies are still emerging. There is also a great deal of controversy surrounding this subject. Questions and concerns abound with regard to hormonal treatments, sex re-assignment surgeries in minors, and the ethics and medical efficacy surrounding them. Unfortunately, in America, children are still able to be given puberty blocking hormones and sex re-assignment surgeries have not been made universally illegal. At this time, England, France and other European countries have banned these treatments for minors, as the risk and harm to children have been studied and outweigh the benefits. Also multiple children who have "transitioned" have now regretted this decision and are detransitioning, having found out that sex-changing treatments and surgeries did not help their depression or anxiety but rather caused irreversible harm.

The reasons for the recent increase in these cases are multifactorial and include changes in culture mores, and social media influence on children who often have unfettered access to the internet.

I believe that it is harmful for a minor child with identity confusion to be treated with puberty suppressing hormones and/or sex-reassignment surgeries. Embarking on this path, a child may have lifelong multiple surgeries, repeated hormone therapies with untoward side effects, some of which may include cancer. If a child is confused, depressed or suicidal, what would benefit them is to first address the root cause of these issues, not attempt to change their gender. Unfortunately, there are multiple utube videos made by transgender individuals of all ages touting transitioning as an option for identity confusion, depression and anxiety. The medical community must examine thoroughly its approach to gender identity dysphoria in children. Children are subject to great changes in growth and development physically and psychologically and to permanently altar their bodies prematurely is not sound medicine. Rhode Island ought to put children first, & not let unproven risky therapies take place any longer.

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