

Feb 11, 2023

Testimony:

I am mental health provider, licensed for 12 years since 2011. My current Kansas license is Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor #2430.

I am deeply concerned about the legislation in Kansas that attempts to restrict medical care for transgender people under 21. Medical services related to Gender Dysphoria are standardized within the physical and mental health fields. Gender Dysphoria is an official medical diagnosis. The WPATH Standards of Care, Volume 8 is a primary, well-established authority on transgender medical treatment. Medical services for transgender youth and adults are repeatedly endorsed by the [American Medical Association](#), the American [Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#). The proposed bills run counter to current medical and mental health evidence and will result in unnecessary pain and harm to constituents.

Transgender and gender expansive people do not generate threats to society. Being transgender may seem "unnatural" for cisgender people yet is very natural for a transgender person. It's appropriate to offer care and affirmation for gender diverse people as they engage in healthcare settings with authenticity.

I have seen positive outcomes in 100% of transgender clients who sought related medical services over the course of my career (approx 60 clients). I would be happy to provide additional, de-identified information about treatment. Several well-regarded Kansas institutions, like the Children's Mercy hospital system, also provide profession care for transgender youth as well as the average Licensed Professional Counselor.

I respectfully encourage you to deny SB12 and promote the wisdom of individuals, their healthcare team, and social support systems.

Thank you for your time,

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