

To the Kansas Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

Holding a public office requires integrity, character, and conviction. It is a position of service. Service to the people you represent; those you advocate for. **SB12** is a bill that will allow you to advocate for some of the most vulnerable people in our society; our children. Studies (including from MIT, Univ. of Rochester Medical Ctr, and others) show that the human brain does not fully develop/mature until the mid to late 20's. How then, can children as young as 10-12 be considered mature enough to make decisions that will change their bodies - and their lives - permanently? Doctors who agree to perform gender reassignment procedures on children are not helping them. They are, in fact, taking advantage of them. They are not considering the fact that these children do not yet have the cognitive maturity to understand the long-term consequences of these choices. This should not even be an available choice for children (those under 21 years of age). As public servants, serve the future public. Make the right choice. **Support SB12** and protect the future generations of Kansans.

Brenda Smart, Hutchinson, KS

<https://hr.mit.edu/static/worklife/youngadult/brain.html>

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=141164708>

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=1&ContentID=3051>