

2/8/23

Dear members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee,

I am writing on my own behalf as a pediatrician to support SB 12, known as the Child Mutilation Bill, which is scheduled to have a hearing Tuesday, Feb 14th. This bill is not about prohibiting medical and surgical approaches to help children with ambiguous genitalia or chromosomal abnormalities that affect sexual differentiation. It is about prohibiting the widespread use of drastic hormonal and surgical procedures being used to treat adolescents with gender dysphoria.

Although the views expressed in this written testimony are my own, these views are shared by many physicians and parents throughout the state of Kansas. This cannot be a surprise to any of you.

Interfering with the development of a child has lasting consequences that will outlive the doctor's visits and the operating room. The physicians, the surgeons, and the medical establishment don't have to live with injured and frustrated development. They get paid. The child and her family do. The friends and the school environment have to.

In our country, through the support of the healthcare institutions that employ them, there are physicians who are prescribing hormones to arrest the development of boys and girls. There are surgeons cutting off the breasts of otherwise healthy teenage girls. They are surgically removing their uteri and ovaries. They are removing the testicles and penises of healthy boys. They are surgically disfiguring labia to appear like a crude penis. All because they question who they are.

What are we doing?

Do we not know who we are?

You and I have a duty to protect and strengthen the children and adolescents in our midst. Our duty is to help clear up confusion, walk with our little ones, and steward their development. Children should be allowed to develop into mature adults without losing a part of their bodies because they wonder about their identity as girls or boys. They too will grow into women and men capable of great responsibilities like you and me.

Please, outlaw the practice of using hormonal puberty blockers to stop development and surgical procedures to confuse outward appearances in otherwise healthy boys and girls. These procedures harm the children and the families they claim to help. They also harm our communities by physically diminishing our teenagers at the height of their development. These procedures keep children who are wrestling with questions about who they are from resolving those questions. They ultimately punish these children and their families for having these questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Bauer, MD.

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District 10