

Dear Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee,

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern and dismay about Senate Bill No.12 and the disastrous impact it poses for transgender people under the age of 21 and for the transgender community as a whole. I am opposed to Senate Bill No. 12.

As an individual concerned for the medical health and wellbeing of transgender individuals, I support gender affirming care. Senate Bill No. 12 does not support gender affirming care. Gender affirming care is a critical and lifesaving component in improving a transgender person's quality of life and has been repeatedly endorsed by major medical associations as necessary.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health has stated that, "When gender affirming medical treatment is provided with a standardized multidisciplinary assessment and treatment process, thorough informed consent, and ongoing monitoring and psychosocial support, the rate of regret of gender-affirming medical treatment commenced in adolescence has been observed to be very low and the benefits of treatment in adolescence are potentially greater than the benefits of gender-affirming treatment commenced in adulthood". This sentiment has been echoed by my own experience as I have found transgender people, both over and under 21, to have high levels of identity integrity.

A person's medical decision should remain between that person and their medical team, free from any legislation restrictions. Any and all efforts to the contrary are the antithesis of freedom and are a gross overreach by our government.

This proposed bill is cruel, uninformed, discriminatory and runs counter to current medical evidence and will undoubtedly result in unnecessary pain and harm to the very constituents it claims to protect. I am in opposition to SB 12.

Linda Singer
12 February 2023

Dear Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee,

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern and dismay about Senate Bill No. 12 and the disastrous impact it poses for transgender people under the age of 21 and for the transgender community as a whole. I am opposed to Senate Bill No. 12.

As an individual concerned for the medical health and well being of transgender individuals I support gender affirming care. Senate Bill No. 12 does not support gender affirming care. Gender affirming care is a critical and life saving component in improving a transgender person's quality of life and has been repeatedly endorsed by major medical associations as necessary.

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Avis Smith
10 February 2023

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Kara Smith
Kansas Resident

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

I'm a lifetime Kansas resident and a member of the queer community, writing in to protect the mental health, spiritual and emotional safety of my loved ones, community members, and found family, and their access to appropriate medical care and rights to privacy and bodily autonomy. You're going to hurt people with this bill, you're going to kill people with this bill, and you aren't going to protect anyone. Please don't pass it.

The treatment for young children and transgender children already doesn't involve anything permanent, maybe a change of clothing or hairstyle or letting them pick what name they want to be called until they're old enough to be making decisions on their own about what to do with their bodies.

This bill won't prohibit anything but keeping people from receiving safe, proven medical treatment, that's already very difficult to access in the state. Adults who can do things like go to war and fight for our country are apparently not old enough to decide what to do to their bodies, according to this bill.

Hormone therapy saves lives. It allows people to make their bodies comfortable for them to live in. I've watched friends transform from depressive, shy people who barely go outside to happy, healthy, blossoming people who can't get enough of life because of hormone therapy and this would take that away from some of them for years, for no good reason.

Allow all people and their doctors the freedom and privacy to make decisions that are safe and healthy for them. If you won't do that, if you must pass bigoted laws with no basis in medical fact, at least place the age lower, at 16, the age at which people can consent on their own, or at 18, and don't prohibit grown adults from making decisions with their doctors about their bodies that are proven to help.

Thank you for your time, and please consider respecting the freedom and privacy of transgender people and their doctors.

Dear Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern and dismay about Senate Bill No.12 and the disastrous impact it poses for transgender youth under the age of 21 and for the transgender community as a whole.

I am opposed to Senate Bill No. 12.

As an individual concerned for the medical health and well-being of transgender individuals, I support gender-affirming care. Senate Bill No. 12 does not support this care.

Gender-affirming care is a critical and lifesaving component in improving a transgender person's quality of life and has been repeatedly endorsed by major medical associations as necessary.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health has stated that "When gender-affirming medical treatment is provided with a standardized multidisciplinary assessment and treatment process, thorough informed consent, and ongoing monitoring and psychosocial support, the rate of regret of gender-affirming medical treatment commenced in adolescence has been observed to be very low. The benefits of treatment in adolescence are potentially greater than the benefits of gender-affirming treatment commenced in adulthood". This sentiment has been echoed by my own experience as I have found transgender people, both over and under 21, to have high levels of identity

integrity.

A person's medical decision should remain between that person and their medical team, free from any legislation restrictions. Any and all efforts to the contrary are the antithesis of freedom and are a gross overreach by our government.

This proposed bill is cruel, uninformed, discriminatory and runs counter to current medical evidence, and will undoubtedly result in unnecessary pain and harm to the very constituents it claims to protect. I am in opposition to SB 12.

JOANNE SOMERVILLE
708 72nd St
Kansas City, MO

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Mary Stallard
resident

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

As a teacher in a KC metro area private middle school, I have had a handful of students begin the process of transitioning to the gender with which they connected. This process has always been handled with great care by the families and the school. There is much conversation shared with faculty regarding the families stance as well as the child's doctor's notes. The process is just that, it is long and thoughtful. In all instances I have watched that student come into their own, in each case I felt it was a positive situation and I felt comfortable that the families were doing everything in their power to get the help medically and emotionally that their struggling child needed.

In 2020, my brother came to our family to tell us that his oldest, my wonderful nephew, had begun to transition over the pandemic. It was interesting to me, how open I was to this as a teacher with my students, but when it was my FAMILY, my heart dropped. I wasn't phased because I didn't think it was the right thing to do, or that they had made a drastic decision. My heart dropped because I knew what these people that I care so deeply for would have to face.

Let me tell you a little bit about my brother's family. My brother and sister in law are college graduates and high achievers in their individual occupational fields. They spend their free time volunteering in the community and with their children's activities. They have raised two of the SMARTEST, kindest young people that I know. I have watched my niece change from a quiet, reserved child to a college student who is being tapped to be on various university committees, engaged in social activities and excelling at new hobbies she loves. Looking back, I see the discomfort that was felt as a boy, weight gain, isolation, and discomfort. Now I see my niece as quite simply, a lovely person who has so much good to offer.

I tell you about my family because it is important to know that everything they have done for their daughter would have followed their trusted doctor's suggestions. The fact that people in government are able to flat out LIE about this process with children is terrible. At the most basic

level, they are wasting our time and money to create laws that doctors are already following globally via a common set of guidelines agreed upon by MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS. These guidelines have existed and over time have only become better suited to children and their psychological and medical needs. I find it more than troubling that these people in congress somehow think they know better than highly trained doctors. I wonder if they had a family member come down with a serious illness and a law in Kansas somehow stopped them from seeking medical advice if they would feel good about that? Likely not, though this is what they are doing to these families that are only doing their best to support their children.

I know if you compared the numbers of the children this affects to the number of children you could help by talking about hunger, mental health, homelessness, education, your time and energy is much better spent in these areas. Quite frankly, what you are doing is bullying for the sake of your base and I will remind you, the people of Kansas are good, moderate people who care about their community. I believe pursuing this bill would be a huge mistake.

please see section 1

please see section 1

Senate Public Health and Welfare

SB/HB #12

Opposition / Support Testimony

February 13, 2023

Dear Honorable Chairman/Chairwoman Senator/Representative and Members of the SENATE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE,

This letter is in regards to SB/HB #12

I am writing this letter in regards to the SB#12, The Ending Transgender Surgeries on Minors Bill. I can't believe that we have to have testimony on a subject such as this. I thought these atrocities were ruled as unlawful and a crime against humanity after WWII at the Nuremburg Trials and the Nazi's were hung for their crimes. These crimes included experimentation on human beings so horrible that the victims had a hard time retelling their unimaginable experiences. This is what these Transgender Mutilations remind me of, Nazi Experiments against the Jews. The Nazi's would take body parts and switch them with different people to see if it would work and if it didn't kill them then they would contract infections and illness not to mention the lifelong scars of the brutality. The scars were not only physical but mental. God created us the way he wants us to be. There are only two genders, a man or a woman, a boy or a girl. Anything else is a product of society and grooming by those who are confused and not confident in their own skin. In my opinion LGBTQ, etc. have no business raising or teaching any child anything because it always will be grooming. Children have the right to be children as long as they can and not be burdened with adult issues. Transgender issues are adult issues. We all have the right to choose many things in our lives, but children are not old enough or wise enough to make adult decisions. That is why they are raised by their parent/parents until they are 18 years of age. Sometimes that goes longer because of college and other factors that affect becoming independent such as finances. Transgender surgeries and puberty blockers are life altering decisions. I have raised children and I have grandchildren

and I know that they are not mature enough or know enough to make those decisions until they are of legal age. I also know that when they go through puberty that they sometimes feel “quirky”, unconfident, out of their norm, sometimes emotional, but these are normal changes that “teenagers” experience as their bodies grow and change. This is not a sign that they are Gay. Parents are supposed to be the ones to keep them safe and make the right decisions so they grow up as productive adults. When they are old enough to leave the “nest” a parent hopes that what they have taught them for the last 18+ years will be instilled and they will do the right things. All parents should want the best for their children. Going along with this trend of LBGTQ by allowing or encouraging these mutilation surgeries or damaging puberty blockers is not looking out for the best welfare for your child. In my opinion you are no different than the MAD SCIENTISTS IN THE NAZI PARTY. I thought we were not supposed to repeat history. I thought that we had learned from the past. I feel we have not if we allow these mutilations of children. If an adult chooses to do this they can because they are of legal age and by law can make their own decisions, but a minor must have parental permission for any medical procedure. Are you ready to live with yourself if your child is allowed to do any of these things and something goes wrong or when they get older they change their mind and can't reverse these mutilating procedures. Whose fault will it be? It will be the fault of the one who is of legal age and the one who is supposed to keep them safe and sound. It will be YOU THE PARENT WHO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

I would appreciate your support/opposition to SB #12

Sincerely,

Mary Stang

A Taxpayer, A Lifelong Resident of Kansas and Sedgwick County, A Natural Born Citizen of America, A Proud Mother and Grandmother of Boys, and an Informed Precinct Chairwoman of Sedgwick County, Kansas

Senate Public Health and Welfare

HB/SB Number #6

Proponent/Opponent Testimony

February 10, 2023

Dear Honorable Chairman/Chairwoman Senator/Representative and Members of the SENATE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE,

This letter is in regards to SB/HB #6

I am submitting my written testimony in opposition to ANY FORM OF CONTROL OR SUPERVISION OF ANY AGENCY OR GOVERNMENT WHO TRY TO GO AGAINST MY CHOICES FOR MY HEALTH OR MY LIFE. IT IS MY LIFE AND ALWAYS MY CHOICE. It was suggested that we be respectful and kind, but I feel that anyone that wants to be repressive in any way towards me or my family does not deserve respect or kindness. Respect is earned and until I see a good reason to give respect and kindness I REFUSE TO DO SO. I do not give either one when it is not earned. I am blunt and I am to the point because candy coating does not work with dictators. In reading this proposed bill I am beginning to wonder if I am still in the USA or has it become a sideshow to CHINA or NAZI GERMANY. The last I knew I was still in America and we still have the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the CHOICE that God gave us when we were created which can not be revoked by any man or woman on this great Earth. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights was written and NOT TO BE TAMPERED WITH OR CHANGED AT ANY REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS WILL. IT IS NOT UP FOR DISCUSSION EVER. For me and my family we only answer to God and God would never force a bioweapon or compliance to any tyranny of any kind on any of us. My body, my being and my soul are not for sale or anyone's property and never will be. This is my LINE IN THE SAND. These are the morals , principles and values that I stand and defend and will until my last dying breath. It is only God's choice when that day comes.

Since the day I was born I have always questioned everything and have had every reason to feel this way. I have witnessed what the MEDICAL INDUSTRY has done to people I personally know. I have witnessed the Government make decisions that have not been for the good of all, but more for the pockets of those in charge, now blatantly out in the open. This is across the board in the government and the medical industry as well as many other industries. I have provided examples below of several instances where the MEDICAL INDUSTRY has overstepped their bounds and made decisions for individuals that knowingly harmed them without any regard for them as a human being with choices and rights. THIS SHOULD HAVE NEVER HAPPENED AND IT IS THE REASONS WHY I DO NOT TRUST ANYONE IN THE MEDICAL FIELD AND NEVER WILL.

1. My parents were a product of their doctors who only wanted to put them in CARE HOMES AND LEAVE THEM THERE. My Father had to tell their doctor that he needed to stop talking like that because they would never go to a care home that abuses the elderly and the horrible conditions they have witnessed with their own two eyes. (My Grandmother was neglected and abused by the staff at a Catholic Care Home in Wichita, Ks) My sister and I had to go to the appointments with them so they would not be so bold in saying these kinds of statements to them. My sister even had to inform their doctor that she would report him to the MEDICAL BOARD if he continued with this kind of rhetoric.
2. When my Mother was diagnosed with liver cancer her doctor who was the top cancer doctor in Wichita, Ks told me in front of her that she was too weak to handle the cancer treatment and looked at me and shook his head letting me know she was going to die. Not giving my Mom or her family time to digest this and decide what Mom wanted to do, so she gave up and died a year later.
3. When they discovered my Mom had diabetes she had to be put in the hospital immediately. For years Mom told her doctors she did not feel well. The doctors did all kinds of tests and x-rays except the test that would have found the cause which was diabetes. Mom's ancestry was Native American. This is one of the nationalities that have a great deal of diabetes in their heritage and should have been the first test given. Instead they wrote on her chart she was a hypochondriac. That was just the start of the unacceptable care her doctors and their staff gave my Mom.
4. Dad had FAMILIAL PARAPLEGIA and had to be in an electric chair. It took years for them to figure out what he had and then they tried to treat him with a procedure like Christopher Reed was doing without knowing what it would do to my Dad's legs. It made them worse. What killed my Dad was his doctor who decided after 30 years of being on the same dose of Coumadin which was working they raised the levels which thinned my Dad's blood to unsafe levels. Why? No reasons. The electric chair they had just given him was a new model and he was the TEST GUINEA PIG. The chair did not have a safety break on it, so it took my Dad sailing across the room, bashing his body into furniture along the way. In the hospital My Dad bled to death and even though he had a DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER they did it anyway while he died slowly. My sister and I had to make the decision to take him off oxygen and we knew at that point he was already gone and had been ever since they put on the breathing tube.
5. My grandson and my nephew have both been diagnosed with different levels of Autism. I believe they got it from the required childhood injections, specifically the HEPATITIS B shot at birth and the MMR vaccine. These injections are part of the mRNA gene therapy, nanotechnology that is also in the Covid 19 vaccinations. This technology is new and hasn't been tested properly. The public is being used as LAB RATS which goes against NUREMBERG CODES. The Covid vaccines which were not properly tested are now causing death and serious injury/illness and I have lost many elderly clients due to complications and injuries caused by this untested purposefully made Covid Death Jab. The Covid vaccine is manmade not a live virus which is the way vaccines were made in the past such as Polio and the MMR when I was young. This vax is nanotechnology and gene therapy created as a BIOWEAPON TO KILL OF THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION WHICH LIED TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AND THIS

WORLD. The drug companies responsible do not want to own up to what they are doing and have received impunity by our government and agencies like the FDA and the WHO and the WEF. NO RECOURSE FOR THE START OF MASS GENOCIDE. HAVE WE NOT LEARNED FROM THE HOLOCAUST WHEN WE ALLOW TOO MUCH POWER IN THE WRONG HANDS?

Along with the reasons I have mentioned above and the fact that America is a FREE COUNTRY AND WAS SET UP TO BE THIS WAY BY OUR FOREFATHERS I AND MY FAMILY CHOOSE AND WILL NOT COMPLY TO ANY TYRANNICAL RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH BY ANY REGIME OR TYRANT NO MATTER WHAT. IT IS OUR BODIES AND OUR LIVES AND YOU CAN NOT AND WILL NOT TRAMPLE ON EITHER OF THOSE NO MATTER WHAT YOU TRY TO THROW AT US. As a taxpayer and a citizen of this country I not only would appreciate your support/opposition of SB/HB #6 but I EXPECT IT AND DEMAND IT OF YOU ON THIS COMMITTEE. It is time you put the people in front of the money. It is time to realize who pays your salaries and who are your true bosses, THE TAXPAYERS OF THIS GREAT STATE OF KANSAS. It is time to stand up for what you know is right and stand against government and their agencies overreach in attempting to control what they can not control which is the FREEDOM AND CONTROL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I FOR ONE WILL NOT ALLOW IT.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

I would appreciate your support/opposition to SB/HB #.

Sincerely,

Mary Stang

A Taxpayer, Natural Born Citizen of America, Lifelong Resident of Kansas, A Proud Mom and a Grandmother and an Informed Precinct Chairwoman in Sedgwick County

Melissa Stiehler
Resident of Topeka, Kansas
Opponent Testimony of SB180
For the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

February 13, 2023

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience and perspective with you all regarding my opposition to SB180. I am a resident here in Topeka, Kansas, and a bisexual woman, born and raised in the Kansas City metro. I was the one of very few girls at my high school who was openly LGBTQ. While there has been a tremendous amount of conversation around bullying amongst students, there has been little conversation about the ways that anti-LGBTQ bullying is encouraged by adults.

I was part of the graduating class of 2007. If you don't remember the politics around the LGBTQ community in the 2000s, let me paint you a picture. This is during the debate of the Defense of Marriage Act and the policy of Don't Ask Don't Tell. Most of my neighbors had signs in their yards referencing these policies. The signs read "man + woman = marriage". This slogan was created by adults, targeting adult members of the LGBTQ community, but was often used to harass me. My peers would use it when the other girls assaulted me in the restroom, because they said they were afraid of sharing the restroom with a lesbian. They would use it to bully me out of the locker room, because they said they didn't want to change in front of me. Then, they would use it to tease me when I was being sent to the principal's office for not changing into my gym clothes, which we were all required to do. I was miserable. I felt so alone. I complained to the adults about the bullying but they said there was nothing they could do. I started skipping school so I didn't have to be tormented by my peers until eventually I was expelled for missing too many classes.

I'm sure this story sounds familiar, because those same attacks against me used over a decade ago have been renewed against trans women and girls today. What happened to me was bad, but what this bill does today is far worse. When elected officials were debating my humanity through laws and policy in the 2000s, at least they were attacking grown adults and it was their children echoing them to attack me. Today, you are debating a bill directly attacking trans children, as is shown by offering a legal definition of girls and boys based upon disproven and outdated science.

This bill doesn't just stop with childhood sports though, this bill expands segregation to domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, locker rooms, restrooms, prisons or other detention facilities, and more. If passed, this bill would lead to trans women, who are the most likely population to face physical and sexual violence, to not receive help from the organizations who support victims of violence, as these nonprofits couldn't possibly afford to offer statewide protection to their trans patients as an additional segregated population. It would require trans women, who are visibly indistinguishable from what you refer to as a biological woman, to serve prison time at an all male facility. It would require trans men with full beards to use the women's restroom, causing them to face incalculable threats to their safety if required to out themselves every time they need to relieve themselves in public spaces.

This is hateful legislation. I pray that you all don't have that kind of hate in your heart to pass this terrible bill, but every year a bill attacking children who may be different than your own gets a hearing. Every year, this legislature paints our trans neighbors as predators without any evidence. Many of you have supported legislation that implies people like me, members of the LGB+ community, are predatory too. But it's just not true. I and most Kansans believe that so long as it's not hurting anyone, the government should let people be. Just like you and I, trans Kansans are just trying to live- so let them be. I strongly urge you to vote in opposition now and every time legislation like this comes up. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dear Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee,

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern and dismay about Senate Bill No.12 and the disastrous impact it poses for transgender people under the age of 21 and for the transgender community as a whole. I am opposed to Senate Bill No. 12.

As an individual concerned for the medical health and wellbeing of transgender individuals, I support gender affirming care. Senate Bill No. 12 does not support gender affirming care. Gender affirming care is a critical and lifesaving component in improving a transgender person's quality of life and has been repeatedly endorsed by major medical associations as necessary.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health has stated that, "When gender affirming medical treatment is provided with a standardized multidisciplinary assessment and treatment process, thorough informed consent, and ongoing monitoring and psychosocial support, the rate of regret of gender-affirming medical treatment commenced in adolescence has been observed to be very low and the benefits of treatment in adolescence are potentially greater than the benefits of gender-affirming treatment commenced in adulthood". This sentiment has been echoed by my own experience as I have found transgender people, both over and under 21, to have high levels of identity integrity.

A person's medical decision should remain between that person and their medical team, free from any legislation restrictions. Any and all efforts to the contrary are the antithesis of freedom and are a gross overreach by our government.

This proposed bill is cruel, uninformed, discriminatory and runs counter to current medical evidence and will undoubtedly result in unnecessary pain and harm to the very constituents it claims to protect. I am in opposition to SB 12.

Rachel Strother
12 February 2023

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Linda Swim
Parent/Grandparent

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

I oppose SB12 as a short sighted and intrusive.

I oppose laws that insert government oversight into medical decisions.

As a state and country any laws of this nature have a deep history of harm.

I am the mother and grandmother of a transgender daughter and grandson. I have researched and dug deep into the science and heart of these issues. Any sort of medical intervention for children is never taken lightly.

I believe that having this law in Kansas is a fearful attempt to enforce a culture of sameness and compliance on our people. As a lifelong Kansan it is embarrassing to even consider that our legislators are considering such a backward action.

SB12 is bad law. It dishonors the medical profession. Thanks for considering my testimony.

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Ephren Taylor
Kansas Resident

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Ephren Taylor and I'm a Kansas Resident. This is important to me because I have family members that are some of my fellow classmates are trans. The purpose of my testimony is to bring light to the evil that would be done by passing this bill.

Freedom. It's what we all supposedly want right. What our founding fathers fought for. I happen to agree. There's a saying that goes your liberty to swing your fist ends where my nose begins. Or in other words if you're not causing any harm then I have no right to do anything to you. Especially not bring the state down upon you. But you know I get where this sentiment that the right has come from. The term degeneracy usually refers to a decline or decay in moral, cultural, or biological values. Certainly this is a sentiment that the right holds. They say there's this perceived degeneracy that's changing the fabric of America. And here's the evidence look at the left's gender ideology. There's another quote from a famously right-leaning politician. "We want to crack down on the cultural chaos in our midst, and we want to protect our people from the degeneracy that threatens it." Can any of you take a guess at whose quote this is. That's rhetorical don't answer. The answer is HITLER. We get that some of you don't want to keep distancing yourself from him but I'm here to make it clear some of you aren't that different. During the Nazi era, transgender individuals were arrested, imprisoned, and often forcibly subjected to medical procedures aimed at "curing" their transgender identity. When people think about Nazi Germany they think the concentration camps came out of nowhere. No incremental steps were taken before that point. First you demonize them in the media. Then you force them to the shadows. You don't allow anybody to learn about them in the schools and. Then you don't quite make it illegal for people to be themselves but you make it harder. Now this bill doesn't make it illegal to be trans you'll address that in another bill I'm sure. But this bill would make it illegal for many trans people to transition physically. Making it harder for trans people to be their authentic selves. Throwing our hard-working doctors in jail for doing their jobs. And for what because you disagree because you're disgusted. Who cares if you disagree with it like I said earlier if no harm

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Benjamin Terrill

Proud parent

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Benjamin Terrill, and I'm a normal dad of a normal 14 year old kid, with everything that goes along with that. We have our good days, where he's excited to hang out with dad running errands around town, and then we have the rest of the time, when he's being a normal teen.

The only thing that isn't normal is when we have to fight for his right to live a normal life. My son is a transgender boy; has been for the past four years. It's not something we chose for him. It's not something he chose for himself. It's just the matter of fact, that he's a boy and always has been.

This bill would prevent him from being normal. It would get in the way of decisions made between him and his doctors with the informed consent of his mother and I. Like a diabetic needs insulin to regulate their blood sugar, my son requires medication to regulate his hormones. A diabetic child is not abnormal and neither is my child. He just wants to live a normal life and this legislation would seek to take that life and liberty away from him.

Please don't stand in the way of my child and the therapy he needs to live his normal life.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge you to vote in opposition to restricting children from receiving necessary medical treatment.

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Holly Terrill
Parent

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Holly Terrill. As the parent of a transgender teenager, I oppose SB12 because it would allow politicians to take away parent right to make medical decisions for our children, disregarding the respected medical research and recommendations from our own medical professionals. As a parent, I want what is best for my child, and that includes making sure he gets the medical care he needs to live an authentic life.

Gender affirming care for youth primarily consists of access to mental health care and counseling, puberty blocker, and hormone treatments or hormone replacement therapy. All of these forms of medical care are safe and reversible. NO prepubescent transgender children are receiving gender affirming surgeries. This is a fact that supporters of this bill have chosen to ignore.

Governor Kelly recently stated that our North Star is to make Kansas the best place in America to raise a family. This can only be accomplished if we treat each of our community members, including our youth, with dignity and respect.

We cannot let this bill become a reality in Kansas. Our youth and their families deserve every opportunity to receive the healthcare they need and medical professionals deserve to provide medically necessary care without fear of criminal prosecution. Please do not allow ignorance and hatred to win. I implore you to please not pass this bill. Thank you for your time and for your careful consideration.

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Haley Thomas
Kansas Resident

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Haley Thomas. I am a resident of Kansas and ally to transgender people. I believe trans youth should be protected as 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. As someone who has struggled with suicidal ideation as a teen, I wish I had someone advocating for me, for my existence. It is up to our community to change this statistic! Transgender people DESERVE to exist and it is up to us, Kansans, to provide the space and medical care necessary. Gender affirming care is necessary and effective at saving trans youth lives. I do not agree with the government being able to make medical decisions for children, taking away parental right. Medical providers should be able to provide the necessary care without fear of being prosecuted, for simply doing their job and helping their patients. Gender affirming care for youth typically consists of access to mental health care and counseling, puberty blockers, and hormone treatments/hormone replacement therapy. All of these forms of healthcare are safe and reversible. It is incredible how radical politicians continue to spread misinformation in attempt to control young Americans. No politician should be allowed to meddle in medically necessary care, they are a politician not a doctor.

EVERY medical association including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Children and Adolescent Psychiatry support gender affirming care for trans youth, directly opposing bill SB12. AMA Board member Michael Suk said, "Gender-affirming care is medically-necessary, evidence-based care that improves the physical and mental health of transgender and gender-diverse people." So why should Legislators be in charge of making medical decisions? I believe accredited medical providers should be in charge of gender affirming care, not legislation. Gender affirming care should be an accessible option that is discussed solely between the medical provider, the patient and the parent.

Overall, this bill should not be allowed to become a reality in Kansas. I, and most Kansans, do not stand for it! We can be a better Kansas, a more United state, by listening and trying to understand our youth rather than trying to dictate how they should be developing. Passage of this bill would be detrimental, or possibly deadly, to many trans youth in Kansas. I am privileged as a cis-woman to not feel gender dysphasia, to not have to go through early adolescence feeling as though I'm in the wrong body, but that is not the case for many trans youth in Kansas today. Kansas youth, our children, deserve the chance to seek a sense of identity. Thank you for taking the time to read what I have written, I spent a great deal of time thinking about this topic and tried my best to convey my thoughts. Thank you again for considering my testimony.

Cited sources and if you would like more information on Gender Affirming Care:

<https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-reinforces-opposition-restrictions-transgender-medical-care>

<https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2018/aap-policy-statement-urges-support-and-care-of-transgender-and-gender-diverse-children-and-adolescents/>

https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Latest_News/AACAP_Statement_Responding_to_Efforts-to_ban_Evidence-Based_Care_for_Transgender_and_Gender_Diverse.aspx

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Alexis Thuston
Educator

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Alexys and I've been working in education for the past four years. I am unequivocally against this bill and what it will do to our students.

This bill will hurt students access to care they deserve. In addition, it will cause further harm to their mental health and personal well-being. The suicide rate for LGBTQ+ students is already too high. Kansas does not need to add an additional barrier to make this higher. If we want to actually support students that we need to listen to them and this is not what they want or need.

Again, for the safety of our entire community, we cannot pass this bill. I ask you to vote no.

Feb 12, 2012

Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

I, Dr. Kathryn Tolle would like to testify in opposition to the proposed Senate Bill 12. I am a licensed psychologist in the state of Kansas and though I do not prescribe medication nor perform surgery on anyone, I am generally asked to write letters in support of gender affirming care. I am considered a person practicing within the healing arts, which is mentioned at length in this bill. I have worked with the LGBT+ community since I started working as a psychologist. I have been serving the Manhattan community since 2011.

As a citizen of Kansas and member of the Manhattan community, I want to ensure we continue to provide state of the art medical care. This includes providing responsible treatment to members of the community in a manner consistent with the science and practice of medicine. The psychological community has established that people whose gender identity differs from the gender assigned to them at birth exist. Trans people exist. Children who are creative with gender exist. First and foremost, this bill denies that reality by assuming all children fit within binary gender norms and that helping them explore is a harm in itself. There are not reputable practitioners who share their view or who are performing their duties within the current guidelines of a practicing psychologist.

This bill asserts that denying access to gender affirming care is important to protecting children. Here is why I vigorously disagree with that assertion:

1. The bill would deny the ability to treat Gender Identity Disorder, a diagnosable condition. There is no clear rationale provided for this denial. In the bill there is mention of having mastectomies, hysterectomies, vasectomies, and all manner of medical procedures. There are NO DOCUMENTED CASES of a child having their penis or vagina removed. This bill seems to be a means of actually outlawing puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy, which can be extremely helpful to trans people in puberty. In fact, research shows that access to gender affirming care can help trans children reach mental health outcomes comparable to their cisgender peers (Toomey et al., 2022). This is especially promising given the higher levels of suicide rates within the transgender community. The bill itself is an invitation to deny access to care for a specific population, which is a form of discrimination/oppression. Discrimination and oppression have long shown to have deleterious effects on the oppressed group. Discrimination with the full support of the law is even more potent and damaging.
2. This bill is likely trying to align with a "wait and see model" (Ashley, 2021). There is evidence that shows allowing children who are trans and/or gender creative to socially and even medically explore gender (through medications like hormones and puberty blockers) can help them feel more at peace with their gender expression as adults. This remains true for children that eventually discover they were not trans (Ashley, 2021). This bill denies the fact that children forced to present as cis (or are denied the ability to explore their gender) have extremely negative consequences, including self-harm as well as suicidal thinking and behavior. Having access to supportive evidenced-based interventions, including mental health counseling, social transition support, and hormone therapies, greatly improve health outcomes (APA, 2015).
3. The bill applies to people 21 and under. The age of consent in Kansas is 16 years old. This means that the lawmakers are saying a person is incompetent to determine their gender before the age of 21, but are competent to consent to sex. This is especially pertinent because the bill seems to imply they want to save children from being forced into choices they will be saddled with for the remainder of their lives. I would think that becoming pregnant or contracting an illness like HIV would impact anyone for the remainder of their lives, and yet those choices are permitted within the state of Kansas. In addition to permitting individuals to consent to sex before the age of 21, we permit the buying of guns, joining the military, and voting. These are enormously important and influential decisions in a person's life and we have deemed that these decisions can competently be performed by people who are 18 years old. The bill seems to be aimed at discontinuing gender affirming care for people as old as 21, which does not exactly protect children.

4. Were the bill to go into effect, the people currently on these medical treatments would suffer greatly. They would be forced to experience negative physical and emotional reactions that put their health and well-being at risk because the outcome would be a forced de-transition. This is a direct violation to their right as citizens to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This would be no different than deciding we do not believe depression is real and no longer permitting practitioners to prescribe medication or provide therapy.

The decision to seek gender-affirming care is deeply personal and not appropriate for the government to decide. This body is seeking to erase the existence of our fellow members of society. The use of resources to discriminate against some of the most vulnerable citizens of Kansas is a gross misuse of power and a dereliction of duty on behalf of the co-sponsors of this horrifying bill. Were Kansas to make this into law, it would impinge on the freedom of parents to care for their children. It would deny children and adolescents the ability to get the help they need. Parents have a right to help their children live healthy lives and the government's role is to ensure that the environment these parents are making decisions within is as equitable to as many people as possible, not to create barriers that endanger lives.

In addition to impinging on the freedom of parents and children to make medical decisions together, this bill is impinging on the freedom of health care providers to give competent care. If a particular practitioner does not feel competent to care for or wishes to turn away trans people for their personal beliefs, that is within their rights and likely what is best for everyone. But to mandate all providers deny care because of the lawmakers' personal opinions is antithetical to the role of those same lawmakers. Allow the professional organizations and licensing boards to regulate the professions because that is their role. Many of those organizations are run by people intimately familiar with the research as well as the work of a healing arts professional. These lawmakers do not have the knowledge or expertise as evidenced by the language used throughout the bill. This bill boils down to certain lawmakers attempting to enshrine their personal opinions into law. This is not a well-informed and scientifically minded proposal.

I stand in strong opposition to this bill and will do everything in my power to ensure that this goes no further because it will result in tangible harm to some of the most vulnerable citizens in our state.

Below are references mentioned above:

American Psychological Association. (2015). Guidelines for psychological practice with transgender and gender nonconforming people. *American Psychologist*, 70(9), 832-864. <https://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/transgender.pdf>

Ashley, F. (2021). The clinical irrelevance of "desistance" research for transgender and gender creative youth. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000504>

Toomey, R. B., McGuire, J. K., Olson, K. R., Baams, L., & Fish, J. N. (2022). Gender-Affirming policies support transgender and gender diverse youth's health. *Society for Research in Child Development*. <https://www.srcd.org/research/gender-affirming-policies-support-transgender-and-gender-diverse-youths-health>

Please alert me if you need me to provide any additional information or clarification on any of the points outlined above. As I mentioned throughout, my stance is scientifically based and not simply my personal opinion.

Kathryn L. Tolle, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist

She/Her/Hers

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Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

James Uhlemeyer
Kansas resident

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is James Uhlemeyer, and I am admittedly ignorant of many issues in the trans community. In this age of genetic testing and advanced data collection and interpretation, we are adrift in a sea of knowledge. We have more facts than we know what to do with, and if you want to find one that supports your point of view, you can. All the more reason, therefore, to trust experts who have the time and knowledge to research the topic.

I do know that these surgeries and prescriptions are not taken lightly. There is respect for patient's decision, but also much testing to do. Mutilation is a charged word, but it is true that you are losing a working organ permanently. All involved are aware of the weight of this decision.

From what I can tell, doctors are doing a decent job of it. Regret rates are down to less than two percent. When we undertake marriage, we still have regretful divorce rates of about fifty percent, so I'd say the doctors are taking their gatekeeping job seriously.

Unlike other procedures, these changes are best done while young. I do not understand how these people know they are different at such young ages, but it is clear they do. It is rare for someone to change their minds.

I fully trust doctors to do this. You cannot walk in on a whim and get a sex change. There have been times in the past when parents and doctors have done horrible things, particularly during the lobotomy fad in the sixties, but this does not mirror that. It was a general so-called cure for a variety of ills, while this is extremely targeted and rare. Being that it is rare, I support collecting more information, but I do not support a ban.

In short, please allow doctors to use their professional judgment. Our bureaucracy greetings finely, but slow. In this age of rapid advancement, we must put more faith in them. I oppose SB12. I can support a program that allows for more HIPPA-compliant data collection.

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Madison VanBurkleo
School social worker, USD 259

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Madison VanBurkleo and I am a school social worker in Wichita, KS. The issue around gender-affirming care is close to my heart because of the incredible and diverse students I work with everyday. I am here to say that SB12 is detrimental to our children.

Gender-affirming healthcare is necessary, safe, and healing for our queer young adults. I have seen this first hand with my students. Criminalizing this healthcare would negatively impact many of my students and young people around the state. Young adults who are a part of the LGBTQIA community are already more likely to die by suicide and not allowing them to receive gender-affirming care would negatively impact their mental and physical wellness. My students and their families deserve the right to make decisions that best suit their needs. They deserve to not be discriminated against because of their gender identity. SB12 takes away the autonomy for families and young adults to make decisions that are best for them. Healthcare should not be criminalized. Especially when it saves lives. We do not deserve to make healthcare decisions for these young adults; that is for their parent and doctor to decide.

I am against SB12 because it will leave devastating impacts on the youth of our state. Families and young adults deserve to make their own healthcare decisions and SB12 does not allow for that autonomy. I appreciate your time and openness to hear from real people, like me, who are doing the work with these young children and adults. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Ray Vieux
Parent/Kansas Resident

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Ray Vieux. I am a transgender man and resident of Kansas District 38. I am strongly opposed to SB12 because it would prevent Kansans from accessing medical care for themselves and their families.

I am the proud father of a 3 year old little boy. There is nothing more important to me than that child. From the moment he came into the world, everything in my life shifted and for the first time, I felt as though I needed to be alive. I had been suicidal from around the age of 10 when I started puberty. I didn't know what the word transgender meant at the time, but I knew I wasn't a girl and that I could not live in a female body for the rest of my life.

Around 11 years old I took a handful of prescription pills -- hoping I would die. I didn't -- I just slept for a really long time. It felt like the best break from reality -- temporary death that I could wake up from. So I continued to take handfuls of pills on a regular basis for around 4 more years. I do not know the extent of damage that high doses of this drug could have done to my body and my brain. As I got older, I would unsafely bind my breasts with sports bras that were too tight until my ribs hurt. I would research ways to give myself cancer so I could get my breasts surgically removed. I was miserable and doing harmful things to my body. Neither my parents, nor my doctors knew about any of it.

I guess you could say I was lucky to make it to adulthood, given the odds. 82% of transgender people have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted. This is due to many factors including lack of family support, lack of peer support, lack of access to medical transition, internalized self-stigma, and more. All of these factors prevented me from transitioning. Today we are seeing more family and peer support for transgender kids. But sadly, this bill is trying to prevent young people from being able to access medical care. When I site these statistics on suicide, sometimes I hear parents say that I'm just trying to make them afraid and pressure them into pursuing transition for their child. That's not true. All I am trying to do is wake you up

to the suffering that your child could be experiencing if they're transgender. If my child was going through what I went through, the least I could do, is take him to the doctor and try to get him some help. This bill would prevent me from doing that.

The medical community agrees that gender affirming healthcare can be appropriate for transgender people of any age. Notice how I did not write that it is ALWAYS appropriate for a person of EVERY age. Treatment options vary depending on the situation and should be in the hands of parents, children, and their doctors -- not the government.

When talking about gender affirming care for minors we often hear words like mutilation and permanent damage. If you pass this bill and a trans person makes it to that magical age of 21, they will not be there without permanent damage. I did not make it to 21 without permanent damage.

I am writing this is plead with you to please vote no on this bill. It is bad for families and children when they can not make personal, private medical decisions.

Amy Voelker, MD, FAAP
avoelker@preferredped.com
Bill SB12
Opponent
Written only testimony

Thank you to the members of the committee for your time and attention. I am a Kansas pediatrician offering testimony in opposition to SB12. This bill would limit the options of medical treatment available to both cisgender and transgender children. Limiting or outlawing the use of hormonal therapy in children to induce or delay puberty can have a detrimental and even outright harmful effect on children for a variety of reasons. These medications are used for a variety of conditions beyond the care needed for transgender children. We use puberty blockers in children with precocious puberty, children with short stature and growth hormone deficiency and children with a variety of other genetic issues or chromosomal abnormalities. We use hormones regularly to help teenage girls with menorrhagia—severely heavy periods that can be painful and linked to both anemia and missed school. We use hormones in kids who may have abnormal chromosomes—for example a child with Klinefelter syndrome (XXY) who needs testosterone to undergo normal pubertal development. We often need to use hormones in kids who have undergone cancer treatment at a young age to preserve normal pubertal development. There are also a number of gynecological and urological conditions that may require surgery in childhood that could be affected by this bill. For example, boys can experience breast development due to obesity or certain medications and the only fix for this once it occurs is surgery. I am also concerned that raising the age of consent for many of these treatments to 21 robs young adults of their right to personal autonomy since normally patients can begin making medical decisions for themselves starting at age 18. In addition, threatening to jail pediatricians for providing appropriate care for patients is simply abhorrent and tells us that you, as legislators, feel you know more about how we should practice medicine than we do. Pediatricians are well aware of what happens when kids cannot access the care they need to thrive. We are on the front lines of the mental health crisis facing our young patients and their families. Whether it is being transgender, dramatically shorter than peers or starting puberty at age 7, no child wants to be singled out for their differences and refused appropriate care. Laws like this do not take any account the nuances involved in the practice of medicine and they undermine the doctor patient relationship. These decisions should be made with doctors, patients and families in the exam room, not in the legislature. You are inserting yourselves into the conversation these patients and their families need to have with their physicians and taking important treatment options off the table before the conversation can even begin. If your goal is specifically to prevent transgender children from accessing appropriate gender affirming medical care not only will you fail at that (families and doctors will leave the state) but your choices here may have many unintended consequences for all children.

Thank you,

Amy Voelker, MD, FAAP

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

S. Walker
Kansas voter

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Walker, I am a lifetime resident of Kansas and have voted every year since I've been able. Every year we have been facing increasing attacks on our bodily autonomy rights as individuals in this nation. I will continue to rally against efforts to do so because every person deserves the right to make informed consent decisions about their own body and safety, without the legislative body interfering.

As citizens in this nation we are entitled access to healthcare, education, and bodily autonomy under state and federal law. Attempts to limit or remove these rights are unjust, adversely impacting at-risk communities, and have previously failed to find purchase in our state because Kansans believe in protecting one another regardless of personal experience. Fear surrounding allowing access to educational materials and medical care for all citizens is rooted in personal religious morality issues, which have no business in our legislation that is meant to represent ALL constituents regardless of race, gender, sexuality, religious affiliation, age, or income status. People deserve the right to determine what is safe and suitable for their own personal lives, and should be allowed to do so without others having placed limitations on their access due to personal beliefs.

The key to limiting harm in a situation where we are allowing access to any medical care with informed consent is providing accurate, unbiased, non morality-filtered information, and allowing individuals to make the best decisions for themselves at that time.

Truly, i wish the best for all non supporters of trans individuals. Your lives are spent combatting, fearing, hiding, limiting, shushing, dismissing. It's a sorry way to live, and limits the capacity for genuine connection beyond perceived social restrictions. Everyone deserves access to care, safety and love. Period.

Dear Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee,

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern and dismay about Senate Bill No.12 and the disastrous impact it poses for transgender people under the age of 21 and for the transgender community as a whole. I am opposed to Senate Bill No. 12.

As an individual concerned for the medical health and wellbeing of transgender individuals, I support gender affirming care. Senate Bill No. 12 does not support gender affirming care. Gender affirming care is a critical and lifesaving component in improving a transgender person's quality of life and has been repeatedly endorsed by major medical associations as necessary.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health has stated that, "When gender affirming medical treatment is provided with a standardized multidisciplinary assessment and treatment process, thorough informed consent, and ongoing monitoring and psychosocial support, the rate of regret of gender-affirming medical treatment commenced in adolescence has been observed to be very low and the benefits of treatment in adolescence are potentially greater than the benefits of gender-affirming treatment commenced in adulthood". This sentiment has been echoed by my own experience as I have found transgender people, both over and under 21, to have high levels of identity integrity.

A person's medical decision should remain between that person and their medical team, free from any legislation restrictions. Any and all efforts to the contrary are the antithesis of freedom and are a gross overreach by our government.

This proposed bill is cruel, uninformed, discriminatory and runs counter to current medical evidence and will undoubtedly result in unnecessary pain and harm to the very constituents it claims to protect. I am in opposition to SB 12.

Frances A Watkins
10 February 2023

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Gage Webb
Kansas Resident

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Gage Webb and I'm a Kansas resident and friend of many Trans Kansas citizens. I'm writing to encourage you to vote no against this Bill SB12.

I don't know how else to say it, I know multiple trans people that have tried to take their life when they had been denied access to gender affirming medical care. I'm so glad that they failed to kill themselves in those instances, but many Trans youth aren't so fortunate. The Trans youth already need the approval of their parents and doctor before they can begin their medical transition. They don't need politicians weighing in on these medical decisions too. No youth, no parent, and no doctor is making these decisions lightly. And the decision to receive gender-affirming care is very frequently credited with saving the Trans youth's life.

So please vote down this narrow-sighted bill. Don't take away a Trans youth's lifeline when they need it the most.

Testimony to the Senate Committee
on Public Health + welfare -
Opponent for SB 12 Jan. 22, 2023

As a Christian + a follower of Jesus, I vehemently oppose Senate Bill 12. I also recognize that this is not just a Christian issue, but one of universal importance to all youth, all parents, all adults, + all Medical Professionals world wide. For years, legislative bodies across the country have vilified the trans community + have sought to interfere with the right to a safe, trusting doctor-patient relationship. Contrary to the example set by Jesus, who welcomed children + all people in open arms, they have chosen to attack the personhood + dignity of trans youth + trans adults, attempting to strip them of their basic human rights. I find this bill despicable, not only as a Christian but also as a Masters level Health professional + educator. Trans youth + adults are not an abstract concept, but real people they are among the populations most at risk of suicide in the USA. I also oppose SB 12 on the grounds that it singles out medical professionals, criminalizing them for doing their job. Last time I checked most legislators have not gone to Medical School, Social work, Educators, registered dietitians who get to provide assistance + medical care to youth + adults in the trans community (WTF), nor be felons or at risk of losing their medical license.

As a parent, why would I have to worry about being vilified or accused of child abuse for simply loving our children as they are, some when were adults over the age of 18 not be able to make individual decisions about their own bodies.

The Kansas Legislature lacks the expertise in medicine to pass laws that govern the ability of doctors to provide adequate care for their patients. This is highly discriminatory legislation & the high level of expertise required to make medical decisions. I believe the health of transgender people should remain a matter between a person, youth, parents, & their doctor who should homophobic. People feel they can speak for all.

It is for these reasons that I oppose HB 12

Respectfully

Mari White

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Asher Wickell

Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist and Sole Proprietor, Choosing Wholeness

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

I am writing in my capacity as a clinically licensed marriage and family therapist, working in a private practice that provides specialized care to transgender youth and adults. My profound opposition to SB12 is rooted in an array of considerations. These include the highly consistent body of research, supporting the efficacy, safety, and exceptionally low risk of poor outcomes or patient regret, in gender-affirming care—it is worth noting, for instance, that the incidence of regret in surgical procedures not specific to transition is approximately 14 times as high, overall, as patient regret for gender-affirming procedures (Wilson et al, 2017; Bustos et al, 2021).

My opposition is also shaped by the notably high degree of professional consensus that exists, relative to the importance of gender-affirming medical care, including for children and young adults. The American Academy of Pediatrics, Pediatric Endocrine Society, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Academy of Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Osteopathic Association, and Endocrine Society are only a brief sampling of the professional bodies who are unified in identifying gender-affirming care as a necessity for the young people who require it, and as a care decision best made with and for each individual, on the basis of medical and parental judgement.

It is, furthermore, a nontrivial consideration for me that SB12 would render me unable to provide appropriate, ethical, research-substantiated care, in keeping with the guidelines established by my profession and the state of Kansas, without becoming the accessory to a felony. Those notable and significant considerations pale, however, when held alongside my gravest concern and certainty.

This bill will kill children.

SB12 will gravely endanger children who I know, who I love, who are, with their families, dear friends of mine. It will threaten the safety of children who I treat—nine- and ten- and eleven-year-olds who came to me in despair, hopeless and horrified at the ways their own bodies had begun to betray them. It will subject their families to tragedy and unspeakable loss. I sit down every day across from elementary- and middle-school-aged girls and boys—who, when they arrive in my office, are nearly always considering suicide. They are profoundly depressed, socially anxious, isolated. They don't like talking to their peers, because their voices sound wrong. They refuse to leave the house without a coat on, even in July, because the way they are shaped is so distressing. They can't stand to bathe, because it's so overwhelming to see themselves naked.

Many of the transgender children I treat injure themselves, because it's the only way they know to find a sense of safety or control, in the body they feel trapped in. Sometimes their parents call me after they've found their child with scissors or a knife poised above their genitals. Sometimes they call after they've found their child with a razor blade at their wrists. Some of their children have already tried to die—some of them more than once. I have treated children who tore at their flesh with Exacto blades, pocket knives, nails, broken bottles they found at the edge of the street, their own teeth and fingernails, pins, needles, and the metal edges of beds in inpatient facilities. I have counseled children who had cut themselves so deeply, the edges of the wounds would not close, and had grown infected—who had waited until they developed sepsis to tell anyone, because they were so horrified at the thought of a doctor seeing them with their clothes off. I have done this more than once, and I know it is likely I will do it, again.

They bleed through their clothing in my office. They call me sobbing from their schools, when a teacher spots their injuries, and they realize they might be checked into a hospital under the wrong gender. It is my job to protect them and keep them safe, and it is absolutely impossible for me to do that job, constrained by a bill that denies them necessary medical care.

I have watched, over and over again, as children who were hopeless, self-hating, isolated, and suicidal are healed and restored by finding their way into bodies that feel more like home to them. They come to me silent, terrified, friendless, bullied—and grow into courageous leaders in their schools and families, and mentors and supporters to other students who are struggling. When they arrive, the children I treat tell me they can't imagine a future in which they are happy; that they don't want to die, but it's their only way out of a life that is unlivable. They debate between stolen pills, and jumping off a bridge near their house; cutting their wrists, or stepping into traffic. They think hanging themselves might be harder to chicken out of.

And those same children, weeks or months later—stop planning their deaths, and start planning their lives. They want to go to the pre-law magnet, because they're pretty sure they'd like to be a lawyer, one day. They're torn between the IB program, and Early College Academy, and which one do I think will help them most, if they want to go to veterinary school?

The single common factor, the one bridge that moves those children out of despair, suicidality, and self-harm, is gender-affirming medical care. It is access to hormone blockers—a wholly

reversible treatment to forestall the irreversible impacts of a puberty that makes them literally, diagnosably, sick. Later, it is access to gender-affirming hormones, to allow them to have developmentally normal, socially healthy experiences alongside their peers, at the ages those are meant to occur—instead of struggling through them later, alone and unsupported, and with the weight of missed developmental opportunities hampering and harming them. And it is the knowledge that eventually, once their bodies have finished growing and developing and they are old enough—which virtually always means after they have reached the age of majority—they will be able to access gender-affirming surgical care, to finally be able to inhabit bodies that feel fully consonant with the people they have always been.

Passing SB12 will kill children, and I will not be able to save them. Neither will their parents, their pastors, their teachers, or their friends—and, certainly, this bill would ensure that any ability their doctors once had to help will be thoroughly eradicated. It is the worst kind of sophistry to characterize this bill as one that prevents child mutilation. If it becomes law, SB12 will absolutely ensure the mutilation of children.

The young people on my caseload and elsewhere are frightened. They know that they are in danger—trans kids pay very close attention to political and legislative news. They have walked into my office all the last week, to ask me what will happen to them, and I have had no answers to give.

Please help me keep them alive.

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Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Liz Wine
Clinical Social Worker

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

My name is Liz Wine and I am a resident of Wichita and a clinical social worker that provides therapy to children, teens and adults.

The majority of my therapy clients are queer and the proposed legislation has my heart aching. My clients have a range of sexual orientations and gender identities/expressions. They are amazing, valuable human beings. Their lives matter.

It is a process for someone to get a gender dysphoria diagnosis. A mental health professional has to give the diagnosis and symptoms have to be present for at least 6 months. Most places that provide medical care that I have referred clients to or who have referred clients to me require documentation of that diagnosis. So this bill makes it seem like medical providers and mental health professionals don't know what we are doing and disregards the amount of education and ongoing learning that we have invested in.

Additionally, this demographic continually has a high rate of suicidal ideation, and legislation such as this would have an additional negative impact on the queer community.

If there are ongoing concerns about medical professionals ability to diagnose gender dysphoria, perhaps higher education course curricula could be examined to see in what ways continuing education could benefit providers, clients and communities.

Thank you for your time and service.

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Erin Woods
Kansas resident & parent of two children

SB12 – Enacting the Kansas "child mutilation" prevention act to criminalize performing gender reassignment surgery or prescription of hormone replacement therapy on certain persons and providing grounds for unprofessional conduct for healing arts licensees.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB12.

I am writing today to share my opposition to bill SB 12 simply because I am a parent. I am not the parent of a transgender child, but I know what it means to be a parent who loves and cares for your child and who would do anything for your child's health, safety, and happiness.

It's difficult for me to imagine what it must be like to learn that the child you've known since birth does not feel comfortable in their body. But, I've been willing to listen and learn from parents who've been through this with their child and I hope that you will take the time to listen and learn before you vote on this bill.

No parent makes medical decisions for their child without thoughtfulness and care, whether they've been diagnosed with cancer or they are struggling with their gender identity. Parents of transgender children take the time to meet with psychiatrists and medical doctors. And those doctors and psychiatrists are able to evaluate and provide medical guidance in the best interest of the child, just as if they were diagnosed with a life threatening illness. And in some respects, this is a life threatening illness considering a child's mental health is at risk if they don't receive gender affirming care.

This bill takes away a parent's right to make medical decisions for the health, safety, and happiness of their child. Medical decisions that are based on science and supported by every major medical association.

Gender-affirming care for adolescents does not involve gender reassignment surgery. It simply involves things like puberty blockers that are reversible, but provide some time for families and medical providers to determine the right course of care for the child, following scientific guidance.

As I parent, I cannot imagine if the evidence based, scientifically proven methods approved by every major medical association and prescribed by my child's medical team were suddenly unavailable. The pain and heartache involved in watching your child struggle is difficult enough, but knowing there's a treatment that can help your child but it has been banned in your state, would be unbearable.

Please leave these decisions in the hands of medical professionals and vote no on SB 12.
Thank you for your consideration.