

Chairwoman Humphries, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is Richard Bosshardt, a Visiting Fellow with Do No Harm Action. Thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony regarding House Bill 2426.

I have been a medical doctor in private practice for 47 years. Until recently there has never been a serious question regarding the existence of two, and only two, sexes, male and female, as one of the most fundamental biological facts. All disagreement and controversy regarding sex and gender identification stems from a single source- belief. In no other instance does belief trump physical, physiological, and genetic facts. There is no such thing as a “trans” man or women. There are only men and women who believe they are the opposite sex yet in whom every cell in their body is of the sex they were born into. Another name for a strongly held belief that runs contrary to factual reality is a delusion.

In medicine, we treat pathology, whether physical, psychiatric, or psychological. We do not affirm delusional thinking but rather treat the delusion with compassion and competent therapy while maintaining a firm grip on reality. This is true for such conditions as anorexia nervosa, body dysmorphic syndrome, and body integrity disorder. Why it is not true for gender dysphoria reflects the fact that this condition has been hijacked by an ideology that has an agenda which transcends biological reality.

Once upon a time, sex and gender were synonymous, but this is no longer true. Gender usually means gender identity independent of biological sex. Given that we now have more than 70 genders, this has muddied the water in discussing biological sex. To be clear, there are only two sexes, and a person cannot change from one to the other. Gender-affirming care produces a permanently medicalized individual whose conformity to the opposite sex is superficial, imperfect, and subject to potentially disfiguring and debilitating complications.

That we have to have legislation and laws to affirm the basic truth of two sexes speaks to the confusion of our times and subservience of biological reality to radical gender ideology.

The commonly used expression “sex assigned at birth” is factually incorrect. The sex of a person is established at the time of conception. It can be easily confirmed at birth by a simple physical examination, which accurately establishes the sex of the baby 99.9% of the time. In the very rare case of ambiguous genitalia, sex can be established quickly with a few simple tests. This is critical in medicine because there are conditions unique to males and females and to ignore these invites potential mistreatment.

No less than in medicine and medical documentation, an individual’s sex in other documents, such as legal documents, contracts, identity papers, and more must be coherent and consistent to be useful and prevent errors and confusion. Since the birth certificate is the original and most fundamental confirmation of birth sex, or should be, then all subsequent documentation should be in agreement with this.

Competent adults desiring to change their sexual identity should, of course, be free to do this if they wish but this does not change their biological sex. A man cannot truly become a woman and vice versa.

This is critical if for no other reason than there are medical conditions unique to each sex and proper diagnosis and treatment might not be undertaken if the official identity documents do not align with biological reality. This would logically include a driver's license or equivalent identity card.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2426 and will answer questions from committee members at the appropriate time.