

Opponent Testimony for HB 2426  
For the House Committee on Judiciary  
Monday, January 13, 2026  
Jay Flatland, Private Citizen

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2426.

This bill aims to explicitly define gender to align with biological sex as it is applied to driver's licenses and birth certificates, thus eliminating the validation of the gender identity of transgender people who updated their gender markings to reflect their preferred gender identity.

I am a father of 4 kids, two of whom are transgender. Perhaps some of you may appreciate my perspective and what I've learned observing my own children. I know my children better than anyone else on earth. I know my children better than I know myself.

The vast majority of people now understand that being gay or lesbian is real, that physical attraction doesn't always line up with biological reproduction. You might think it would, but we pretty well know now that it doesn't always. Being transgender has a lot of similarities to this.

Being transgender, for my kids at least, seems to be primarily about desired gender expression. We are all quite familiar with gender expression in the typical ways, we just don't talk much about it explicitly. Men want to be muscular, to have facial hair, to have a deep voice, women want to be beautiful, to have long hair and soft skin, to wear makeup, etc. This wiring in some people's minds doesn't align with biological sex. This is being transgender, this is where someone would identify as a gender different from their biological sex. You can then perhaps understand the distress felt by a transgender boy who started to develop breasts, or a transgender girl who starts growing facial hair. This is exactly how I've seen my kids feel.

Similar to being gay or lesbian, an early response to this condition was to try to fix the wiring, to teach people how to be "normal". What we've learned is that "fixing" the wiring doesn't work well, and really the best solution is to let people live how they want to live. But this requires a lot of social acceptance, and that is exactly the struggle we're in today.

Coming back to this bill, transgender people feel tremendous validation to have identification that matches their preferred gender identity. I hope my above explanation helps you better understand the value of that validation. Furthermore, I would assert that the harm of letting transgender people change their gender marker is none.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Flatland