

Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Kristi Khan, and I live in Colby. I am a concerned constituent here to talk about HB2071. The reason this bill is so important to me, that I am making the trip from Colby here today, is that my one and only child was transgender. I say was, because he completed suicide in his dorm room because of bills like this being passed in this country. He was made to feel like his life did not matter, that he did not deserve to live, by bullies who were not only in his school but also from adults and politicians, who have decided they know better than him or others like him, than us parents, and the doctors/specialists who actually have the knowledge, education, expertise, and experience. Those who attack transgender people, young and old, have no idea what is involved or what our families go through. I did everything I could to help my child, including taking my child all over our state seeking help from therapists, psychiatrists, physicians, specialists, whom I originally had hoped would tell me this was just a phase, but I realized it wasn't. People like to say we or the schools or social media are pushing our children to be transgender which is not true. I was so in love and proud of the little girl I thought I had and that I had always wanted, and I would never want to see my child suffer and in pain. As for schools, my child was relentlessly bullied by other kids, who have been raised by parents to hate and hurt others who are different. So, tell me if this is a "choice" like everyone thinks it is, who would choose to live with emotional pain and feeling unsafe every day of their lives?

To those who say irreparable harm is done to our children and it is just "mental illness," I can tell you from experience that this is never a decision that is made lightly, with a lot of research made and a lot of appointments with therapists, psychiatrists, and doctors, that the first step is social transitioning which includes clothing, hair, name change. There is a long process of steps to ensure the child is ready for each step, nothing impulsive being done, which includes hormones and maybe eventually surgery one day, though my son never made it that far as it did require him to be 18 before he could even make an appointment with a surgeon and also letters from his doctor, therapist, and psychiatrist that he was ready for that step, and my son lost his will to live and any hope that he would be safe to live his life, to become a nurse one day helping others, or safe to even just leave his home due to the hate and fear mongering that has been spread. I ask you, since this bill dares to proclaim politicians know more than the doctors and the families involved, and many of you have gone so far as to seek out people from other states who are paid to provide misleading testimony of hormones being irreversible, what is your solution for gender dysphoria as you want to make it a "mental illness" and take away all help for the children and families, other than watching our children suffer and die? If my child had started his menstrual cycle one year earlier, he would have been treated with puberty blockers to prolong puberty, which if not treated can lead to cancer, increased heart disease risk, and metabolic disorders. Puberty blockers have been used for precocious puberty for over 40 years and are reversible. To those who say I was feeding into my son's delusions and he was depressed and suicidal because of treatment he received, transgender youth are not suicidal because of medical treatment but instead because of the treatment they receive from others who make their existence a political agenda and the stigma they are made to live with because of the misinformation and fear mongering.

In my son's last written words to me, 2 weeks after he texted me to find a lawyer as he was worried about the bills being brought and passed, he stated he was not made for our society and not strong enough to go on, that it was probably okay, because he wasn't going to discover the cure for cancer, and that our love and support for him is what kept him alive as long as he was. I ask that you listen to us in opposition of

this bill and do the research, get rid of any biases you already have so that you can truly help our children and not harm them like these types of bills targeting them do.

Thank you for your time,

Kristi Khan