



Moms for Liberty Legislative Committee requests an Unfavorable Report for HB 691: Legally Protected Health Care - Gender Affirming Treatment.

Parents have a fundamental right to direct the medical care of their children. We oppose this legislation as it fails to affirm or protect this sacrosanct right.

This February, the American College of Pediatricians issued a position statement, opposing the gender-transitioning of youth, based on a review of 60 studies. Quoting from the Abstract:

There are no long-term studies demonstrating benefits nor studies evaluating risks associated with the medical and surgical interventions provided to adolescents [who have a gender identity not congruent with their biological sex]. There is no long-term evidence that mental health concerns are decreased or alleviated after “gender affirming therapy.” Many individuals who have been treated with “GAT” later regret those interventions and seek to align their gender identity with their sex. Because of the risks of social, medical, and surgical interventions, many European countries are now cautioning against these interventions while encouraging mental health therapy.

<https://acped.org/position-statements/mental-health-in-adolescents-with-incongruence-of-gender-identity-and-biological-sex>

“Gender affirming therapy or care” has become a confusing catch phrase. We are now learning that, instead of being settled science,

experimental hormones and surgeries have been used on youths without any long-term studies of their safety and long-term satisfactory results.

Although Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary, Dr. Rachel Levine has claimed that "there is no argument among medical professionals regarding "the value and the importance of gender-affirming care" and that it is "medically necessary," Admiral Levine recently was unable to support this claim, responding to a Freedom of Information request with nothing more than a two-page brochure that cited only one limited study. <https://www.dailywire.com/news/hhs-says-it-has-only-two-pages-of-scientific-evidence-backing-its-support-for-gender-affirming-care>

Studies have found that upwards of 90% of youth who question their gender eventually change their minds and are reconciled with their biological sex. "De-Transitioners" – those who have undergone hormones and/or surgeries, only to regret them and have to face lifelong damage to their bodies – are increasingly speaking out.

We don't want to see children's healthy bodies transformed to face a lifetime of intensive medical care and unable to function normally. We have empathy for those who do not fit popular stereotypes. Rather than expecting them to damage their bodies and compromise their lifelong health, it seems kinder to accept the rich diversity of the human condition and strive to be as compassionate and accepting as possible.

Because this bill fails to protect a parent's fundamental right to direct the medical care of their minor child, **Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee urges an Unfavorable Report for HB 691.**