

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair  
and Members of the  
Health & Government Operations Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB 132 – Mental and Emotional Disorders – Consent -- UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose reducing the age of consent for a minor from 16 to 12 for consenting to consultation, diagnosis and treatment of a mental or emotional disorder by a health care provider or a clinic.

HB 132 would allow an impressionable 12 year-old to consent to receiving treatment and be led to drug therapies, such as gender-altering prescriptions for testosterone or puberty blockers for “gender dysphoria”. These treatments lead to sterility. Children and teens often go through phases of doubt or wanting to be something different. The overwhelming majority of whom decide after a time to remain their biological sex or gender.

Parents need to be involved in the health care of their children. This legislation is unwise.

I urge you to read “Irreversible Damage” by Abigail Shrier on this issue before you vote on HB 132.

No young person, under 21 should receive drugs or surgery to change their sex or gender. There is plenty of time to make those decisions as an adult.

Please give HB 132 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,  
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