

Dear Senator Washington,

I strongly OPPOSE SB460.

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife practicing in MD, DC, and VA. I am an expert in reproductive health, particularly for females. I am gravely concerned about this legislature that purports that it is remotely safe to alter one's entire body and hormonal make-up without any mandatory mental health counseling.

Transitioning genders is **ABSOLUTELY** not a decision that should be made without intensive collaborative care from physicians and clinicians addressing the individual's overall health and wellbeing.

I am even more concerned that the bill mentions no age limit for accessing care. Minors should not be independently allowed to make decisions under the influence of doctors when it is well established that the frontal cortex of the brain, responsible for decision making and future-driven logic, is not fully developed until twenty-five years of age.

There is a way to offer support to people who want to transition genders, but it is absolutely not appropriate without consideration of the person's maturity, mental health status and physical wellbeing in collaboration with multiple providers. There must be basic, preventative requirements met before accessing life-altering and potentially debilitating as well as irreversible changes to one's hormonal make-up, body, and existence.

Please **withdraw** SB460.

Thank you,

Ronit Zelivinski