

HB 283

2/10/2023

I strongly oppose HB 283 and the wasteful over-reaching provision of gender affirming treatment paid for by the state. This is a waste of time and resources forced upon Marylanders. These are choices that adults are free to make and PAY for themselves. Marylanders do not want to pay for these treatments when our own United States Veterans are suffering and homeless.

I have an MA in Counseling and have practiced as a Licensed Professional Counselor with families and children. I understand the mental health and the family as the basis of a flourishing society.

The wasteful over-reaching provision of gender affirming treatment paid for by the state is a waste of time and resources forced upon Marylanders.

Stop forcing the gender queer ideology into areas of our society that is so cumbersome and expensive for everyone.

Below are resources which explain the detriment and negative outcomes of gender transitioning. These are choices that adults are free to make and PAY for themselves. Marylanders do not want to pay for these treatments when our own United States Veterans are suffering and homeless.

Jay P. Greene, "Puberty Blockers, Cross-Sex Hormones, and Youth Suicide," Heritage Foundation Backgrounder No. 3712, June 13, 2022, <https://www.heritage.org/gender/report/puberty-blockers-cross-sex-hormones-and-youth-suicide>.

Julian Vigo, "The Myth of the 'Desistance Myth,'" Public Discourse, July 2, 2018, <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2018/07/21972/> (accessed December 5, 2022). (While the numbers vary, there is a general consensus among the various studies that anywhere between 60 percent and 90 percent of children with gender dysphoria who receive no medical interventions desist when they reach adulthood.)

Florida Department of Health, "Treatment of Gender Dysphoria for Children and Adolescents," April 20, 2022, [https://www.floridahealth.gov/\\_documents/newsroom/press-releases/2022/04/20220420-gender-dysphoria-guidance.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.floridahealth.gov/_documents/newsroom/press-releases/2022/04/20220420-gender-dysphoria-guidance.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) (accessed December 5, 2022).

Emilie Kao, "No, President Biden, Children Don't Belong to the Government," Newsweek, May 6, 2022, <https://www.newsweek.com/no-president-biden-children-dont-belong-government-opinion-1703558> (accessed August 22, 2022).

Alliance Defending Freedom, "Gender Dysphoria Expert Discusses the Science Regarding Gender Identity," revised August 31, 2022, <https://adflegal.org/blog/gender-dysphoria-expert-discusses-science-regarding-gender-identity> (accessed December 5, 2022).

Emilie Kao, "Yes, Schools Are Secretly Trying to Gender Transition Kids and It Must Be Stopped," The Daily Signal, March 22, 2022, <https://www.dailysignal.com/2022/03/22/yes-schools-are-secretly-trying-to-gender-transition-kids-and-it-must-be-stopped/>.