

1/21/2024

Lisa Geraghty's testimony in support of HB 722.

Hello, I'm the Mom of a 16-year-old daughter who came perilously close to ruining her life by taking hormones and choosing to have life-altering surgery for her gender dysphoria.

My daughter suffers from depression, anxiety and she is autistic. While isolated during covid, she spent most of her time on the internet, through which she was absorbed into the trans community and soon decided she was a transboy. Upon her return to school, staff fully supported this dysphoria, despite my wishes that they do not. After attending school for a year and a half, I took Natalie out because she was failing and not attending her classes. Shortly thereafter, she sold her binders, which are used to flatten breasts, and decided that her dysphoria was a result of coping with trauma. Sadly, her depression continued and she was not doing her schoolwork. I had no choice but to send her back to school last fall. She immediately fell back into her dysphoria as a way to cope with her anxiety and was immediately affirmed by school staff in a myriad of ways.

I pulled Nat out of school a month ago and I'm happy to report that she is no longer identifying as a trans boy, her mental health is improving, and she has a GPA of 3.8.

We now know that data from European countries shows that affirming a child who has gender dysphoria with comorbidities like my daughter has is the worst thing you can do. I feel the fact that I have not affirmed her dysphoria is the only thing that has prevented her from further descent.

My story shows that lawmakers and school board policies are harming our children. Please respect my right to raise my child according to my beliefs and support this bill.