

BILL: House Bill 722
TITLE: Health – Minors – Gender and Sex Transition Procedures
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations Committee
DATE: February 21, 2024
WHO: Brandie Dawson, MBA, BSN
POSITION: SUPPORT

RE: House Bill 722 Health – Minors – Gender and Sex Transition Procedures Bill

- **Would protect the rights of a parent, guardian, or custodian to dissent to sex transition procedures on minors**
- **Would align with founding Judeo-Christian principles that the parent has the God-given responsibility to care for their own child in the manner aligning with Scripture which is a constitutionally protected right in the First Amendment Freedom of Religion clauses**
- **Should include protection against discrimination of hospitals and other healthcare providers who object to performing sex transition procedures on minors in violation of their rights of conscience and free exercise of religion**

Committee Chair, the Honorable Delegate Lauren Arian, and Health and Government Operations Committee Members:

I was a practicing Registered Nurse for twenty-six years, having obtained my BSN and Business of Nursing Graduate Certificate from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, followed by a Master of Business Administration from Drexel University LeBow College of Business. In addition, I was formerly a Certified Legal Nurse Consultant and am familiar with the duress that the individual, family, and healthcare practitioners experience in lawsuits involving permanent injuries of adults and children. I respectfully submit my testimony to you, as a Christian nurse and mother, as well as point out the potential detrimental effect that sex transition procedures and future contested procedures could be expected to have on healthcare workers in Maryland.

First, the standard by which the laws of our state and country were founded were upon the highest standard, that given by Creator God in Holy Scripture where we are told life was created by God for God¹, and as Ultimate Authority, God dictates how we should live to please Him.² Christians understand from the Bible that everyone is accountable to God³ and that Hell is real and a future reality for those who disobey God and reject the saving sacrifice of Jesus Christ.⁴ The Bible tells us that God created us in His

¹Colossians 1:16-18 For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

² Ephesians 1:4 Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love. And 1 Peter 1:15-16 But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

³ Romans 14:11-12 It is written: “As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before Me; every tongue will confess to God.” 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

⁴ Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

image,⁵ that He ordains our life and that it exists by His will for His purposes.⁶ In the book of Psalms we learn that God is present at our conception, when our inward parts are being formed and that all of our days are written in God's book before any of them came to be.⁷ This includes the designation of male and female, and not only sex assignment codified in DNA, but the Bible says **God blessed them** at the same time.⁸ Throughout the Bible, we can see that children are a blessing, a reward, a heritage and a source of strength in the family;⁹ a crown¹⁰ and a source of joy¹¹ and honor.¹²

The Bible has much to say about parents and the role that they are commanded by God to fulfil. First, children are to honor and **obey their parents**¹³, as parents are to instruct and care for their children, including teaching them what their Creator God says about their bodies¹⁴. Therefore, parental consent should be required on all procedures performed on children, and the governing authorities are expected by God to use their authority for good as you have a special accountability before God.¹⁵ This includes the right to dissent to ungodly and harmful medical procedures.

According to The Linacre Quarterly **peer-reviewed academic journal on medical ethics**:¹⁶

*“Given the early age at which youth seek treatment for transsexual attractions (TSA) and gender dysphoria and given the **serious risks** associated with such treatment, it is **essential that family and youth be advised** about these risks and alternative treatment options. Physicians and mental-health professionals have a **professional responsibility** to know and **communicate the serious risks**, in particular **risk of suicide**, that are associated with SRS; the spontaneous resolution of TSA in youth; the **psychological conflicts** that have been identified in such patients and in their parents; the successful treatment of conflicts associated TSA and the regrets of those who have been through SRS.”¹⁷*

⁵ Genesis 1:27-28 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it;

⁶ Colossians 1:16-18 For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

⁷ Psalm 136:13-16 For You formed my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works, and I know this very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all my days were written in Your book and ordained for me before one of them came to be.

⁸ Genesis 5:2 He created them male and female and blessed them.

⁹ Psalm 127:3-5 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

¹⁰ Proverbs 17:6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.

¹¹ John 16:21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

¹² Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

¹⁴ Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

¹⁵ Isaiah 3:14a The LORD will enter into judgement with the elders and princes of his people...

¹⁶ "Manuscript Submission Guidelines: The Linacre Quarterly". SAGE Journals. Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/LQR>

¹⁷ P Fitzgibbons R. Transsexual attractions and sexual reassignment surgery: Risks and potential risks. Linacre Q. 2015 Nov;82(4):337-50. doi: 10.1080/00243639.2015.1125574. PMID: 26997675; PMCID: PMC4771004. As found on [Transsexual attractions and sexual reassignment surgery: Risks and potential risks - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

Today, my youngest daughter wants to be a nurse. It is her dream and a noble desire that is proving increasingly difficult as a Christian in the state of Maryland; and that is unfortunate because according to the Maryland Hospital Association, the nursing shortage is dire¹⁸ and has reached a crisis level.¹⁹ Forcing healthcare providers to violate their consciences or religious convictions, and/or deterring young people from entering the healthcare field because of conscience conflicts is not ethical, constitutional, helpful or wise, and will only further negatively impact healthcare in the state of Maryland. Please SUPPORT House Bill 722 Health – Minors – Gender and Sex Transition Procedures.

¹⁸ Maryland Hospital Association. (2023).

¹⁹ Mensik, H. Healthcare labor trends in 2023: increased burnout, executive stress. A rise in union activity also may persist as the sector continues recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthcare Dive. Published online Jan. 30, 2023. As found on <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/healthcare-labor-trends-2023/641352/>