

HOUSE BILL 1399 Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors - Prohibition (Protect the Kids Act)

I urge you to support HB1399. Cross-sex hormones can impair brain development and bone density and lead to lifelong chronic pain and other health problems, even after the individual stops taking the hormones. Minors are not capable of making an informed choice, weighing the risks and the purported benefits.

Some have argued that cross-sex hormones are "life saving." However, in the recent Supreme Court case *U.S. v. Skrmetti*, even the ACLU lawyer defending cross-sex hormones and other interventions for gender dysphoric minors admitted that such interventions do not actually reduce suicides. (1)

Government Health Authorities in the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Finland have done systematic reviews of outcomes of cross-sex hormones for adolescents and have concluded that the evidence of harm is stronger than the evidence of benefit. Meanwhile in Maryland, the medical transition industry is extremely unregulated. Huge profits provide incentives to push treatments on minors that will lead to medical harm and lifelong regret.

According to a comprehensive review: "The conclusions of the systematic reviews of evidence for adolescents are consistent with long-term adult studies, which failed to show credible improvements in mental health and suggested a pattern of treatment-associated harms." (2)

Lawsuits are piling up. Regretters and detransitioners are speaking out about the physical harm and chronic pain that results from cross-sex hormones. The time will come when "gender affirming care" for minors is seen by everyone as the child abuse that it is. Today's children will ask why you didn't protect them from it when you had the chance.

Please support HB1399

1. Oral Arguments, United States v. Skrmetti

https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/audio/2024/23-477

2. Current Concerns About Gender-Affirming Therapy in Adolescents April 2023

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11930-023-00358-x>

Additional resources:

Puberty Blockers for Children: Can They Consent?

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/20502877.2022.2088048>

AAPS Statement on "Gender-Affirming Care" for Minor Children

<https://aapsonline.org/aaps-statement-on-gender-affirming-care-for-minor-children/>