



I'm Dr. James Kelly. I'm speaking on behalf of the nationwide Association of American Physicians and Surgeons. This testimony is respectfully submitted to the M.G.A.- March 7, 2025 in support of Protect the Kids Act -HB 1399.

Included with this testimony and attached below is a medical research paper about this topic -authored **by Dr. James Kelly and U.S. Congressman Dr. Andy Harris** - please see that attachment.

I am a physician, psychiatrist, forensic psychiatrist, child psychiatrist and adolescent psychiatrist for 39 years. I do not merely speak hypothetically or theoretically -as many others do. I am a **Johns Hopkins trained, board certified medical expert in child and adolescent psychiatric medicine.**

Over the years I've treated many patients who have gender dysphoria and are in the midst of medical, chemical and/or surgical "gender transitioning". I've treated many patients who have been victims-even so-called "willing" victims -of multiple kinds of medical, chemical, surgical, physical, sexual, spiritual, and psychological abuses.

By their nature children and adolescents who are abused often do **not realize** at the time of the abuse that they are actually being abused- this is because children are children and adolescents are adolescents. They are **not adults** and should not be expected to understand as adults, make decisions as adults, act as adults, or to consent to permanent medical, chemical or surgical procedures as adults - because obviously they are not adults, they are minor children, and should be treated as the children they are. Under normal circumstances, and when common sense prevails - responsible adults, competent physicians and surgeons and the law do **NOT permit children** to lawfully give consent as adults- for any medical, chemical or surgical procedures or for any other legal purpose. Children cannot consent to get a **tattoo, get ears pierced, buy tobacco, cannabis, or alcohol** - because we adults know they obviously do not have the mental capacity to make adult decisions. So, we, as responsible adults, protect our children by not permitting them to make decisions as if they were adults -which they are not.

We do not under the law permit children to “**consent to abuse**” even if at the time of the abuse it could appear that they were “willing” to participate “voluntarily” in the abuse. An example of this is **statutory rape**-where the young victim is a victim because the victim is a minor child or adolescent who is in need of our protection against a victimizing adult. It is not an adequate defense or justification to claim that the young victim was a “willing” participant in the abuse perpetrated by an adult- because abuse of a minor even with “consent” of the minor is still abuse. And we, as responsible adults and law makers, are **required to protect the child** from abuse whether the child wants protection or not- because the child needs protection -whether or not the child has the mental capacity to understand that reality or not.

You **esteemed Maryland legislators** should vigorously **act to protect** Maryland child from any type of abuse. Children and adolescents lack the mental capacity to consent for any medical or surgical procedures or treatments. Children and adolescents cannot consent even have an aspirin without parents’ consent. But nonetheless children and adolescents are being medically/chemically and surgically abused for profit by physicians, surgeons, and the industrial medical complex all over the country - causing **lifelong irreparable damage** to these children and adolescents and costing millions of dollars to taxpayers.

This is the worst form of child abuse- because it was perpetrated by people the child trusted and needed to protect them to not be handed over to “providers” to be mutilated. Children should be able to trust adults and physicians to **first do no harm**. This abuse has left countless children and adolescents permanently **sexually, physically, bodily, emotionally and spiritually mutilated and scarred** for life. This horrific damage that has been perpetrated against these children and adolescents has yet to be elucidated fully and will require a lifelong recovery process for children and their families.

The physicians and surgeons of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons strongly requests the Maryland General Assembly vigorously and responsibly protect all children of Maryland, by outlawing all medical, chemical, and surgical abuse of Maryland children and adolescents. **The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (A.A.P.S.) respectfully requests Maryland General Assembly vigorously support HB 1399 -the Protect the Kids Act.**

