

HB 1399 Protect the Kids Act – Support

Minor children can't smoke. They can't drink alcohol. They can't smoke or ingest marijuana. They can do none of these things even if a parent or doctor says they can.

Why? Because these things are HARMFUL to them. We know that smoking causes cancer and the sooner you start the harder it is to quit. We know that alcohol changes one's behavior and alters the brain. It is also bad for one's health. Marijuana has been shown to cause memory loss and lack of motivation in some individuals. If adults choose to engage in these activities, we consider that their right to make that choice because they ARE ADULTS.

However, society has decided that no matter who gives a child a cigarette. Alcohol or marijuana, that is a violation of LAW.

So, why are we allowing physicians or ANYONE to give children harm cross sex hormones and/or puberty blockers? Proponents of this say that it's to help a child who has gender dysphoria and allow that MINOR to decide to change their gender. This makes no sense and is extremely harmful to children. A decision that drastic must be relegated to adulthood, not childhood.

The negative effects of puberty blocking and cross sex hormones are **irreversible**. Given to a young child, they can cause harm to a child's brain and bone density. They can prevent a child from having a dysfunctional reproductive system which may lead to a lifetime of infertility. Bone density stops growing when children take cross sex hormones and puberty blockers. Adults who have been subjected to this treatment as a child report extreme side effects such as pain, poor vision and mental disability. The FDA has confirmed that these drugs have extremely dangerous side effects.

Once a child has taken these drugs, they are doomed to a lifetime of taking them and any of the drugs administered to correct side effects. This includes the harmful mental effects which lead many who have had this treatment to commit suicide.

There is absolutely NO reason why giving these cross-sex hormones to children should be legal.

You must pass this law to protect our young people from this harmful practice perpetrated by greedy physicians, delusional parents, and profit focused hospitals and drug companies.

Pass the “Protect Our Kids Act” and make Maryland a place where our kids are truly protected.