



February 16, 2026

I am Dr. James E. Kelly, a Maryland Physician, and a Board-Certified Adult, Child Adolescent, and Forensic Psychiatrist with 40 years of experience- representing the nationwide **Association of American Physicians and Surgeons in strong support** for **HB 679**.

Included with this testimony and attached as a separate document is a 2025 research paper called -**Gender Medical Interventions for Minors in Maryland** authored by **Dr. James E Kelly and Congressman Dr. Andy Harris**- please see this attached report.

Protecting children is an essential and lifesaving **duty of lawmakers**. If you actually care about our children than you will do whatever is necessary to protect them - even if some don't understand your protection. We properly protect children from drugs, alcohol, tobacco, illness and suicide attempts because they lead to injury, harm and death. Likewise, we should protect children from any chemical drugs that damage their minds, bodies, normal physiology, normal hormonal functioning, health, natural puberty and development.

Science has clearly established that a child's sex is permanently established at conception. Once a child is conceived every single cell, in every single organ, in every single part of the body is permanently and irreversibly **coded as either male or female**.

Biologic fact is that there are only two choices for humans -male or female. **No** feelings, wishing, pretending, ideologies, surgeries, hormones, or chemicals can change the **basic genetic coding of every cell in the body** -which is either male or female. There were no other biologic sexes but male or female.

Health occurs when the body and mind function properly as designed. Illness is when the body and mind malfunction and do not function normally. All safe and healthy medical treatments try to eliminate illness and **re-establish health** and return the body and the mind to its proper natural functions.

Cross -sex hormones are chemical drugs that deliberately damage children by causing health abnormalities and illness in a child's mind and body, including but not limited to: chemical castration and chemical sterilization -resulting infertility and lifelong loss of normal sexual function -which is the worst form of child sexual abuse-which is caused by cross -sex hormones.

Nine U.S. states permit chemical castration of convicted sex predators, but Maryland does NOT. Maryland protects sex predators from chemical castration (even if they wanted it and would volunteer for it) as a consequence of their crimes. In Maryland, it is illegal to chemically castrate a convicted, rapist, child predator, or sex offender, but it is legal to chemically castrate children in Maryland. In Maryland medical providers are paid with taxpayers' dollars to chemically castrate children.

Why does the state of Maryland protect violent sex predators from chemical castration but **NOT protect Maryland children**. Don't children deserve at least the **same protections enjoyed by sex predators in the state of Maryland?**

Why are Maryland **taxpayers being forced to pay to chemically castrate** and to **sterilize children** but Maryland protects violent sexual predators from chemical castration?

How can lawmakers a good conscience NOT protect the children BUT protect sexual predators?

Almost all children come out of gender confusion **naturally, without any treatment**. This means if children are just permitted to go through puberty naturally- without intervening-, they get better. Approximately **98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls** come out of gender confusion naturally - without any treatment at all-according to the American College of Pediatrics.

Major Medical organizations including the American College of Pediatrics and medical journals including the American Heart Association Journal Hypertension have documented in 2021-that cross- sex hormones have multiple complications including but not limited to: **depression, reduced bone density, cognitive impairment, cardiovascular problems, high blood pressure, endocrine problems, increased hematocrit, increased carotid artery sickness , increased blood clots, increased embolisms, infertility, sterility, heart attack, stroke and death.**

Realizing that gender ideology had no scientific basis - **European nations like Sweden, Finland Norway, Denmark and the United Kingdom** that were very aggressive and liberal in their use of cross- sex hormones and “so-called sex change surgeries” him - are reversing course and **restricting the use of cross -sex hormones in children.**

In recent weeks the **AMA and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons** have **changed their position and do not recommend** so-called “sex change surgeries” on children.

At least 27 U.S. states now have some protections for vulnerable children struggling with gender confusion. And Maryland should be the next state to pass legislation to **protect our children from the dangers of cross sex hormones.**

Our children are our future - we must safeguard them from harmful chemical drugs that permanently damage their health and destroy their futures. You, our esteemed Delegates of this House, have within your power today to rescue many children from **ruined bodies and ruined lives**-and at the very least to **protect children like the state protects convicted sex predators.**

Please rise above any ideologies and politics today. Please do what is best for our children. Let us work together to **protect our children** from harmful, irreversible damage caused by cross sex hormone drugs.

The nationwide **Association of American Physicians and Surgeons** strongly urge you return a **favorable report for HB 679.**