

HB0679

UNFAVORABLE

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB0679, “Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors”

February 16, 2026

TO: Honorable Chair Heather Bagnall, Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison, and members of the Health Committee

Chair Bagnall and members of the committee, my name is Shiwei Cheng. Supporters of HB679 might say this bill protects children from decisions they will regret, safeguarding them from influences that might fundamentally change who they are. However, I am writing to you today to emphasize that gender-affirming care for transgender youth is a protection in itself and allows young people to be more themselves. Hormone therapy for minors is delivered in multidisciplinary healthcare teams, ensuring medical appropriateness and support for the patient's overall well-being, addressing not just physical health but also social and emotional needs. Proponents of this bill claim to know better than the extensive medical research done by professionals in the field and the children and families they suppose they protect. This ban is a sweeping measure to remove a category of treatment options from a group of people. Given the context of medical research and care that has proven its benefits, why should the government dictate what goes on between an individual's medical care provider, themselves, and their guardians?

In a report by the Human Rights Watch on other states that have enacted this ban, the mental health toll on transgender youth is severe. Suicide rates among transgender youth increased by as much as 72 percent in the first year after the adoption of state-level anti-transgender laws.¹ Even when access to care is maintained, the hostile political environment that bills like this introduce are detrimental to young people's mental health. If you want to talk about the tiny percentage of people who do end up de-transitioning after receiving hormone replacement therapy, the overwhelming cause is lack of social support, which this bill is a shining example of.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB0679 and help ensure that ALL children are free and safe to be the children they desire to be.

¹ Yasemin Smallens. (2025, June 3). “*They’re Ruining People’s Lives.*” Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/06/03/theyre-ruining-peoples-lives/bans-on-gender-affirming-care-for-transgender-youth>

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