

## **HB0679 - Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors (UNF)**

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Chair, members of the committee –

I am writing today to voice my opposition to proposed legislation, the Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors (HB0679). I am writing as a parent of a transgender daughter and have grave concerns that a government entity is attempting to insert itself between medical doctors and patients.

When a child gains the courage to share with family that he/she is transgender, this should be followed with parental support, authentic listening, love, and medical advice. By not allowing medical doctors, in consultation with their patients, to provide gender-affirming care puts young people at risk for depression, anxiety, and potential suicide. For many, gender-affirming care can be a matter of survival.

Receiving hormone therapy to live as one's authentic self is life-restoring and life-renewing.

As a mother, I find it hard to believe that my legislature would preempt my wishes.

Transgender individuals and their families face enough obstacles. We don't need nor want decisions made for us. We need to have all possible, endorsed resources available to us. Families of transgender kiddos need to be able to work with our health care providers and receive thoughtful and researched recommendations in order to provide the best possible mental and physical support for healthy treatment. This bill undermines the core values of family autonomy and patient-centered care.

I was also a high school teacher and encountered other young people struggling with gender dysphoria. I know that some of them came from low-income families and they relied on Medicaid and CHIP for healthcare. Denying them coverage for gender-affirming care will widen health disparities and leave the most vulnerable without support.

When a person knows they are transgender, forcing them to go through an incorrect puberty is traumatizing and creates undue harm. Having the ability to provide care for a transgender person before puberty allows for more favorable result. If they are mandated to wait until they are past puberty, some physical traits can't be reversed, thus creating undesirable results to live as their true self. Additionally, when a person goes through a

flawed puberty, they are set up for harassment, bullying, and further establish a false sense of self-which leads to further insecurity and self-harm.

We can do better. We can stand with them. We can help them to be their best selves. I know personally that hormone therapy not only saves lives, it also sets a transgender person in motion to be an active part of society.

Transgender people have always existed and will continue to exist. Banning treatment would not stop people from being transgender; it would only make it harder for them to thrive. I believe we want every child to thrive, so I urge you to vote AGAINST HB0679.

Respectfully,

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