

House Bill 1209 / Senate Bill 0590  
House Judiciary Committee — Hearing of March 4, 2026  
Senate Judicial Services Committee — Hearing of March 10, 2026

**Testimony OPPOSED or in the ALTERNATIVE, AMENDING the Bill**

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Dear Honorable Committee Members,

May it please the Committee, we write on behalf of the women and girls' rights organization Reborn Athena Legal Initiative (RALI), run by Bullard Esq. Law, and as supporters of **Democrats for an Informed Approach to Gender** (DIAG), to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 0590 and the companion House Bill 1209, labelled as an Emergency Bill.

In the Alternative to Opposing, we offer Amendments to these bills.

Thank-you for considering this RALI testimony.

Whereas: Bodies cannot “be wrong” and no one can ever be born “in the wrong body.” This phrase “born in the wrong body” emerged as a manner for doctors to talk to children in a metaphor. As an adult-made metaphor for children, “born in the wrong body” is akin to Santa Claus or the Tooth Fairy. Please wake up from this new mythology. No one is ever actually “born in the wrong body”, rather this is an impossibility that is foisted upon gullible children and youth and on well meaning but ill advised adults.

Whereas as “gender identity” is akin to an immortal soul, a strong belief to which some adhere and to which many do not adhere, and to which the state, as a neutral party in matters of religion and beliefs has no jurisdiction to intervene. Hence for Montgomery County, Maryland, in a dispute that became the 2025 Supreme Court case *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, the Justices ruled that religion and belief are at stake when gender identity is taught in classrooms and that parents have the Constitutional right to protect their children from such teachings.<sup>1</sup> This same constitutional analysis applies to any state-sponsored promotion of “gender identity” or queer theory, that the state is intruding on religious and philosophical domains in which it has no jurisdiction because of the First Amendment of the United States guarantee of freedom of religion and freedom from state-sponsored religion.

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<sup>1</sup> William J. Ford, “Supreme Court says parents can pull kids from classes with LGBTQ-themed books,” *Maryland Matters*, June 27, 2025, available at: <https://marylandmatters.org/2025/06/27/supreme-court-says-parents-can-pull-kids-from-classes-with-lgbtq-themed-books/>

Whereas parents have the right to raise their children within their own family and within their own religious and philosophical convictions, among which the irreducible importance of loving and accepting one's own physical body in its inherent genetic makeup is an irrevocable Constitutional right.<sup>2</sup>

Whereas systematic reviews of the scientific evidence have shown "gender affirming care" (hereinafter, GAC) to carry more risks than benefits.<sup>3</sup>

Whereas the Health and Human Services Gender Report concludes that gender-affirming care of minors (i.e., social transition, puberty suppression, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries) lacks robust evidence of long-term benefits while posing significant risks of harm for patients, including infertility, sexual dysfunction, impaired bone density, neuro-cognitive effects, cardiovascular risks, psychological distress, chronic pain, and regret. This HHS Report reminds us that these interventions contradict widely endorsed principles of medical ethics which at minimum include the prime medical directive to *do no harm*, clear and accurate informed consent, and a commitment to evidence-based care.<sup>4</sup>

Whereas no high quality empirical scientific study has demonstrated GAC has demonstrated any reduction in suicides nor improved quality of life.<sup>5</sup> Studies that purport to show such benefits are anecdotal, poor quality, and/or low certainty. [A widely-anticipated 2023 National Institutes of Health/Health and Human Services-funded study](#) of youth receiving opposite-sex hormones showed no meaningful improvements in psychological functioning and the highly affirming environment provoked two suicides at

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<sup>2</sup> *Mirabelli v. Bonta*, 607 U. S. \_\_\_\_ (2026), per curiam, Supreme Court of the United States, March 2, 2026, available at: [https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/63d954d4e4ad424df7819d46/69a61b347a7b680a9027a546\\_25A810.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/63d954d4e4ad424df7819d46/69a61b347a7b680a9027a546_25A810.pdf). This case upholds parental rights to raise their children within their own guidance as parents and within their own religious and/or beliefs and convictions. The state cannot remove such parental rights via school-based gender transition that is kept secret from parents.

<sup>3</sup> Cass H. Independent review of gender identity services for children and young people: final report. 2024. Available from: <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20250310143933/https://cass.independent-review.uk/home/publications/final-report/> ; Council for Choices in Healthcare, Finland, trans at: [https://segm.org/sites/default/files/Finnish\\_Guidelines\\_2020\\_Minors\\_Unofficial%20Translation.pdf](https://segm.org/sites/default/files/Finnish_Guidelines_2020_Minors_Unofficial%20Translation.pdf); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) report, Treatment for Pediatric Gender Dysphoria: Review of Evidence and Best Practices (November 19, 2025).

<sup>4</sup> HHS, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) report, Treatment for Pediatric Gender Dysphoria: Review of Evidence and Best Practices (November 19, 2025)

<sup>5</sup> In general, see the scientific literature as discussed by the public health experts of DIAG at: <https://www.di-ag.org/suicide-risk>

6 and 12 months of followup.<sup>6</sup> In Sweden, a country with a long history of tolerance, [the longest \(40-year\) study of sex-reassigned adults](#) found that compared to others of the same sex, completed suicides were 19.1 times higher, suicide attempts 4.9 times higher, and psychiatric inpatient care 2.8 times higher.<sup>7</sup>

In the widely watched Supreme Court case *U.S. v. Skrametti*, Justice Samuel Alito cited the Cass Review's conclusion that "there is no evidence that gender-affirmative treatments reduce suicide," and interrogated ACLU attorney Chase Strangio on whether the treatments reduced suicide risk. Strangio admitted that no evidence supported the widely threatened risk of gender dysphoric suicides.<sup>8</sup> "Would you rather have a dead son or a live daughter?" now has entered the medical history hall of infamy alongside such previous medical errors as lobotomies, DES for pregnant women, and allegedly "non-addictive" Oxycontin.

Whereas GAC mandatory "affirmative care" inherently creates diagnostic overshadowing whereby medical authorities overlook treatable conditions in vulnerable children and youth while the same or other authorities blithely "affirm" an invisible, undiagnosable, and unverifiable "gender identity." Via GAC such overshadowed children and youth are affirmed, socially transitioned, medicalized, and suffer irreversible damage to such parts of their bodies as: their voices, their sexual and reproductive capacities, their urinary tracts, their heart and circulatory system, their bone density, and their hair.<sup>9</sup>

Whereas children are inherently vulnerable and children and youth who have suffer and/or experience trauma, abuse, bullying, neurodivergence, autism spectrum disorder, sensory processing delays, executive processing delays, and other atypical presentations, experience such diagnostic overshadowing at elevated rates.

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<sup>6</sup> Chen, D, *et al.*, "Psychosocial Functioning in Transgender Youth after 2 Years of Hormones," *N Engl J Med*. 2023 Jan 19;388(3):240-250. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2206297. available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36652355/>.

<sup>7</sup> Dhejne, C. *et al.*, Long-Term Follow-Up of Transsexual Persons Undergoing Sex Reassignment Surgery: Cohort Study in Sweden, *PLoS One*. 2011 Feb 22;6(2):e16885. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0016885, available at: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3043071/>

<sup>8</sup> See "What to know about the Transgender ...," the New York Times, June 19, 2025, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/19/magazine/transgender-supreme-court-skrametti-takeaways.html>

<sup>9</sup> Detransitioner testimony to the harms of affirmation only, and to the easily available prescriptions for powerful and damaging drugs, is widely available. Genspect has published many of these excruciatingly painful personal narratives (<https://genspect.org/detrans/>), e.g., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EqcdJC28R0> . March 12, 2026 is Detransition Awareness Day in Washington DC. Some 70 detransitioners will be present, making this an excellent opportunity to hear firsthand of these devastating harms.

Whereas the American Society of Plastic Surgeons announced Feb. 3, 2026, a new policy that denounces pediatric gender surgeries because of the utter lack of scientific evidence for the efficacy of GAC (of which surgeries are one dimension).<sup>10</sup> Take notice, the ASPS not only denounces pediatric GAC surgeries, it does so because of serious evidentiary and ethical concerns about the entire GAC treatment pathway for youth, including social transition, puberty blockers, and cross-sex hormones.

Whereas the AMA has weakened its support for GAC upon the same evidence as used by the ASPS.<sup>11</sup>

Whereas the APA substantially revised their position and rescinded full support for GAC such that now they urge a great deal of caution and reticence to medicalize children in their letter to the HHS... [WHERE did I read this letter? ...substack?]

## I. OPPOSITION

The bill should be flatly rejected by the committee.

II. In the alternative to out-right rejection of this bill, the committee should adopt this AMENDMENT to 1 (c) 1, 1 (c) 2:

1 (c) (1) : Amend the definition of “conversion” and “conversion therapy” so that the definition includes the following:

“Conversion” shall include converting, or encouraging and/or aiding in the transition, of a child or youth, and in particular vulnerable youth, from their biological chromosomal sex — that is XX chromosomes for females and XY chromosomes for males— to an ideational identity that is divorced from their biological, chromosomal sex and yet concretized in and through conversion and transitioning practices which include GAC.

1 (c) 2 : Amend the definition of “conversion therapy” so that it shall include any and all practices whether within a social work consultation, a therapy session, a school lesson, a school health setting, and/or a hospital, doctor’s office, or clinic, that:

1) teach or lead children to believe they can be born in the wrong body (this anti-empirical and is a factual impossibility that is abusive to teach to children)

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<sup>10</sup> American Society of Plastic Surgeons Position Statement, Feb 3, 2026, available at: <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2019/09/treatment-migrant-children>.

<sup>11</sup> See reporting at: <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/first-major-medical-org-comes-out-against-trans-surgeries-for-minors/> which quotes the AMA stating, “the evidence for gender-affirming surgical intervention in minors is insufficient for us to make a definitive statement . . . the AMA agrees with ASPS that surgical interventions in minors should be generally deferred to adulthood.”

2) teach or lead children and youth, in particular vulnerable youth, to believe that their body is wrong and must be substantially altered by an array of practices including social conformity with opposite sex gender stereotypes, drugs, and surgeries.

**Definitions:**

“Vulnerable” shall mean within this statute

- 1) those who have fragile psyches,
- 2) those who have suffered any form of trauma, abuse, neglect, or any other damaging event;
- 3) those with any form of neurodivergence such as Autism spectrum disorder, thought processing delays, sensory processing disorders, or any other neurodivergence.
- 4) those with mental health challenges such as depression, anxiety, anorexia or any other mental illness.

“Youth” shall mean within this statute:

any individual who has reached age 18 and has not yet passed age 25.