

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1399

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 14, 2021 8:00 AM

Deborah Avellano, Mrs.

Denton County Republican Party of Texas Precinct Chair 1023

Corinth, TX

Respectfully, I, Deborah Avellano, of Corinth, Texas, representing Denton County Republican Party of Texas Precinct 1023 as Precinct Chair, strongly Support S.B.1646 and S.B.1311.

A child does not have the emotional and mental capacity to make that life long decision that will impact his or her future. Gender modification drugs essentially chemical castrate the individuals and they will need the hormones forever to sustain the artificial state. A person cannot take these drugs and led to believe that the eggs or sperm they carry within that person's body will be isolated from the influence of those drugs. They will not be. An adult can make this choice. A child cannot.

An individual has many dimensions to develop beyond his or her sexuality. The focus must be on the whole human, not centered on only one criteria. "Not now" or "not yet" is a rational, reasonable decision. The decision can wait until the child is an adult.

I respectfully ask that you support these bills and vote YES for these bills to go forward out of Committee today.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Avellano
Corinth, Texas
Precinct Chair 1023

Samantha Chang

Self

Austin, TX

I wanted to let you know that I adamantly oppose two bills being heard in the Public Health Committee: House Bill 1399 and House Bill 1424, both of which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and the about on whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. Further, religion should not be twisted into a tool to excuse doctors from doing their jobs and serving all Texans equally, as HB 1424 would do. I urge the Representative to vote against both HB 1399 and 1424.

Kristin McGarity

self, composer/audio engineer

Kyle, TX

I last testified before the Legislature in 2019, advocating for access to a different form of medical treatment that is stigmatized yet essential for many individuals. I know what it's like to be one of a minority of people helped by a controversial medical treatment. I know what it's like to hear fringe scholars cite fringe studies, disregarding the medical experience of doctors and the lived experience of patients. I can't stand by now and watch as another group of innocent people are further marginalized or even mislabeled as abusers.

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Genital surgery isn't performed on young children; this fear is unfounded. Puberty blockers and hormone treatments are not used before puberty, and are a necessary part of quality individualized medical care.

It is not the role of government to usurp the judgment of licensed medical professionals. To ban liability insurance for one form of medical care is an inappropriate use of government power. So is banning a form of medical care. So is declaring a form of medical care to be child abuse.

This is an issue of perspective. Despite Texas's commitment to limit government and protect individual rights, supporters of these bills don't seem to understand that different people have different medical needs. It is long past time for state government to leave trans children alone.

Julie Rutherford

self, retired

Round Rock, TX

Representatives and Senators,

I am writing to you today in support of HB 1399 and urging your support of this critical piece of legislation to protect young, vulnerable children. As a parent of a daughter who experienced Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria at age 16, I have read and researched the "transgender medical industry" for the past 5 years. Cloaked in the lie of helping children, the trans medical community funded by big Pharma has been pushing and accelerating a very radical and non scientific based approach to "help" gender confused youth.

My daughter has ADHD, anxiety, depression and was diagnosed on the Autism spectrum at age 17. She is a bright, beautiful, artistic young woman who is socially awkward and never fit into her peer group with much success. The constant struggle to fit in left her extremely vulnerable to predators online. These predators convinced her that the solution to all of her problems was that she was transgender and just needed to turn herself into a man. After being groomed on the internet by two women from Oregon, she informed us they had purchased her a plane ticket and at age 19 she fled the state and flew to Oregon where she now is injecting her body with male hormones and living a lie. These same people who indoctrinated her encouraged her to cut off all contact with her loving, nuclear family because we simply questioned her choices. This kind of behavior has to be stopped, it is evil, there is no other way to describe it.

Children who cannot vote, buy liquor or cigarettes, join the military or take an aspirin at school are being allowed to make life altering medical decisions that lead to sterilization and mutilation of their bodies PERMANENTLY. I could give you all kinds of statistics on the validity of passing this bill, but I am sure others have already provided those to you. What I would like to convey to you in this letter is the utter heartbreak and pain of watching your beautiful child be allowed to destroy their body and mind in search of a lie. Please pass this legislation in order to protect other families from the utter destruction of the predatory transgender movement. I will pray for you all to have the courage to stand for truth, both biblical and scientific. Children should be allowed to develop, question and advance into adulthood without being abused by medical predators.

Sincerely, Julie Rutherford, Voter, Texas District 52

Stephanie DeJean

Self employed

Houston, TX

My name is Stephanie DeJean] and I live in Houston, Texas]. My zip code is 77080.
I also own a business in zip code 77098.

I wanted to let you know that I adamantly oppose two bills being heard in the Public Health Committee: House Bill 1399 and House Bill 1424, both of which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and the debate on whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. Further, religion should not be twisted into a tool to excuse

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doctors from doing their jobs and serving all Texans equally, as HB 1424 would do. I urge the Representative to vote against both HB 1399 and 1424.

Alyssa Schafer

Self, Master of Social Work Student

Corpus Christi, TX

I'm writing to respectfully ask that you oppose Texas HB 1399.

As members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ) community, transgender youth can be considered an exceedingly vulnerable population, navigating insurmountable challenges and adversity. According to Shelton and Lester (2018), approximately 70% of transgender students reported feeling insecure, and in danger, at school, whilst additionally being considered the likeliest individuals within the confines of a school setting to be either victimized or assaulted. Additionally, co-occurring psychiatric illness is exceedingly common with such youth. For instance, research has indicated that approximately 44% of transgender youth have previously been diagnosed with a psychiatric illness, and 37% are currently prescribed psychotropic medicines, with a similar study from Finland reporting suicidality and self-injurious behaviors greater than 50% for such youth (Leibowitz & Vries, 2016).

With great vulnerability and high prevalence of co-morbidity, the treatment of transgender youth, and the optimization of positive health outcomes is a paramount social welfare matter (Clark et al., 2020). Clinical procedures produced by the (a) World Professional Association of Transgender Health, (b) American Psychological Association, and (c) Endocrine Society, recommend interventions covering numerous realms, including those within the hormonal and surgical domain, all of which corroborate a gender-affirming model of care, supporting the transgender youth to reside in their most pacified gender (Leibowitz & Vries, 2016).

According to Clark et al. (2020), transgender youth who encounter barriers to hormone therapy “report poorer mental health, self-harm, and suicidality outcomes than those able to access care” (p. 137). Additionally, with great vulnerability and a high prevalence of co-morbidity, the proper treatment of transgender youth, and the optimization of positive health outcomes is a paramount concern. To ensure such adequate care, clinical guidelines from major medical organizations should direct treatment, and inform public policy. Rather, Texas HB 1399 directly contradicts the clinical guidelines from numerous professional organizations (Leibowitz & Vries, 2016).

These are not the common-sense, compassionate solutions we need to move Texas forward. Rather, Texas HB 1399 is one of the most extreme and harmful anti-trans bills in the country.

Cyral Miller, Mrs.

self

Austin, TX

My name is Cyral Miller. I live in Austin. My zip code is 78756 I wanted to let you know that I adamantly oppose two bills being heard in the Public Health Committee: House Bill 1399 and House Bill 1424, both of which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and the about on whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. Further, religion should not be twisted into a tool to excuse doctors from doing their jobs and serving all Texans equally, as HB 1424 would do. I urge the Representative to vote against both HB 1399 and 1424.

Aimee Barlow

self- housewife in household of 4 voters who agree

houston, TX

As your constituent, I am seeing a concerning trend of having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a “gender identity” that rejects bodily reality. This is profoundly

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unethical.

Children should be protected from dangerous surgical and hormonal treatment procedures that have permanent life-altering consequences. It is time for Texas to address this issue.

Please stand up for vulnerable children all across Texas and support and coauthor HB 1399 by Rep. Matt Krause!

Thank you for your time and service.

Kara Trissel

Self

Jonestown, TX

Please protect our children from irreparable harm. Support Texas children by voting yes on 1399

Vanessa Munoz

Self - business owner

Converse, TX

Please support this bill!

Thomas Harkins

Self/Lawyer

Fort Worth, TX

Children are not competent to decide for themselves whether they should have the extreme life-changing transformation, often irreversible, of "sexual identity" through surgery while in their minority. We do not consider them competent to decide on a number of other matters of far less consequence and effect. I think that this should be prohibited. In any event, no doctor or other medical professional should be compelled to participate in such surgery contrary to his beliefs, and in particular his/her religious beliefs.

Mary Seberino

Self/entrepreneur

Conroe, TX

Pass this legislation!

Minors are prohibited from purchasing paint, cigarettes, alcohol, or even getting a tattoo. Minors possess underdeveloped mental capabilities to make certain decisions on their own. We cannot allow minors to make life-altering decisions on body mutilating procedures and irreversible hormonal treatments. They need to be protected from the dangerous and permanent consequences of their confusion.

Mary Barber, Mrs.

none

Round Rock, TX

I am writing to not allow any children under the age of 18 to receive any procedures or treatments for gender transitioning/reassignment/dysphoria. I have heard countless testimonies of confused youth who have regretted their decision. They are too young/immature to make such life-altering decisions. The adults in their lives need to lovingly help them with their

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gender issues until they are older and can make better decisions.

Jody Krogstad

Self because I am a mother

Lake Jackson, TX

I am seeing a concerning trend of having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a "gender identity" that rejects bodily reality. This is profoundly unethical.

Children should be protected from dangerous surgical and hormonal treatment procedures that have permanent life-altering consequences. It is time for Texas to address this issue.

Please stand up for vulnerable children all across Texas and support and coauthor HB 1399 by Rep. Matt Krause!

Thank you for your time and service.

Terra Brown

self

Brock, TX

I fully support HB1399. I feel that a child under the age of 18 can not fully consent to this type of tx. and places them at risk for long term medicalization, poor mental health and loss of sexual and reproductive health.

Lisa Garner

Self

Devine, TX

Minors should not have any procedures or drugs to change their gender. God ordains everyone's gender and He does not make mistakes. The decision should only be for oneself and not before adulthood.

Daniel Hatcher

Self

Dallas, TX

I am AGAINST this bill.

Jane Gallo

self, retired

Marathon, TX

It is unconscionable that minors could be able to receive medical treatment to alter their bodies to the sex opposite to the one they were born as - including physical altering and/or hormonal treatment - whether initiated by the minor or a parent and/or legal guardian. Minors are prohibited from many actions, due to their immaturity and lack of judgement. It is imperative that we continue to protect minors from making life-changing, irreversible decisions.

Kelli Hlavenka

Self

Terrell, TX

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Please support this bill; treatment for gender transitioning and other gender issues before their own age of reason is absolutely without question child abuse and should be prohibited at all cost! Please support this most critically important bill! Thank you for your service.

Thomas Collier
my family
Pilot Point, TX

Please pass HB1399 out of committee and on to a floor vote as quickly as possible. These ghastly actions against unknowing little kids must STOP.
Please give the bill your active support until we can make this bill become law. Thank you.

Tom Collier

Donna Oates
self - retired
Dallas, TX

HB1399
Please vote for moving this bill out of committee and to Calendars to be scheduled for a vote on the House floor.

Carmen Garcia
Self
Pipe Creek, TX

I do not think the Government should have the ability to allow children to have gender changes and would like the house to stand and protect our children against such an evil thing.

Mary Walker
Self
Plano, TX

We cannot allow minors to make life-altering decisions on body mutilating procedures and irreversible hormonal treatments. They need to be protected from the dangerous and permanent consequences of their confusion. Being a retired Nurse, this is an inexcusable plot to control sexual identity in the USA and should not be allowed. Let kids be kids and not let them judge before they are able to properly digest what will happen in making a life altering decision!!

Karen Lane
self
Hewitt, TX

As a resident of Texas, I am very concerned about the current "fad" of gender modification, particularly in children! There are reasons why the "age of consent" exists, and why there are minimum ages imposed for serving in the military, voting, running for office, etc. Children cannot possibly know what they are doing regarding having their healthy body parts removed and being provided with irreversible puberty blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a "gender identity" that is actually being indoctrinated by abusive "parents" acting only in their best interests!!! This is profoundly unethical and it makes me so angry that a child can be treated this way! Please stop allowing this!

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Children should be protected from dangerous surgical and hormonal treatment procedures that have permanent life-altering consequences. It is time for Texas to address this issue.

Please stand up for vulnerable children all across Texas and pass HB 1399 by Rep. Matt Krause!

Thank you for your time and service.

Beverly Tomek, Dr.

Self as a parent and an educator

Shiner, TX

As an educator and a parent I am appalled by this bill. We hear about the evils of "big government," but it seems to be okay to use the government as a big stick to bully the most vulnerable among us. Please do not use this bill to let the government into private conversations that should be had between parents, children, and medical professionals. Every time a bill like this is brought into the limelight, it only emboldens the bullies out here on the streets, giving them a feeling of legitimacy. Your actions and your words have consequences, and I sincerely hope that enough members of this committee have a true grasp of what is at stake to do the right thing.

Janie Brittain

Self

Garland, TX

VOTE FOR HB1399.

Texas children are being groomed by parents, schools, social media, LGBTQ activists, and the culture in general, to believe that they can be born in the wrong body. This is happening now in Coppell ISD, where the nationally publicized case of James Younger (whose mother wishes him to be a girl) is playing out. LGBTQ curricula is being introduced into K-12 classrooms, encouraging children to question their biological sex.

Confused children are then introduced to transgender-affirming counseling, followed by medical options such as puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and "gender reassignment" surgery. Puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones are being given to children as young as 8 years old. Mutilating surgeries, including mastectomies, radical hysterectomies, vaginoplasties, and orchiectomies (removal of the testicles), are being performed on teenagers as young as 15. Double mastectomies have been performed on girls as young as 13.

The number of gender clinics performing these "treatments" are skyrocketing. Side effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones include increased thoughts of suicide and self-harm, bone density loss, coronary disease, cardiovascular disease, tumors, arrested brain development, and sterilization. Sterilization is a gross violation of a child's human right to someday have children.

"Gender reassignment" surgery causes irreparable physical and emotional damage to its victims. A major long-term study found that, ten years after surgery, trans-identified people were nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population.

Studies show that up to 98% of children who struggle with their biological sex as a boy or girl come to accept it by adulthood if they are allowed to go through puberty without affirmation of the delusion that they are not their biological sex.

Gender confusion in children should be addressed with counseling that addresses root causes, rather than with medication or surgery which causes irreparable harm to the child.

Children do not have the maturity to make decisions about their bodies that will impact the rest of their lives.

"These are really radical experiments on human bodies such have never been done before in the history of humankind, being perpetrated on children and justified by our medical societies because these political groups have brought their ideology into

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medicine, but there's no science behind it. You just can't justify it." – Michael Laidlaw, M.D., Specialist in Endocrinology.

A male cannot become a female. A female cannot become a male. No amount of experimentation on children can change these truths. Stop the insanity. Save your souls. "But whosoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." - Matthew 18:6

Christopher Johnson

Texas Residents

Waxahachie, TX

As a proud Texas resident I am seeing a concerning trend of having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a "gender identity" that rejects bodily reality. This is profoundly unethical.

We pass laws to protect children from predators, abuse, alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. In good conscience how can we not take action to protect them from these radical, life altering political agendas. Children should be protected from dangerous surgical and hormonal treatment procedures that have permanent life-altering consequences. It is time for Texas to address this issue.

Please stand up for vulnerable children all across Texas and support HB 1399.

Erica Harris

None

Sachse, TX

Support the ban on transgender treatment, operations on children, adolescents. Don't allow the ungodly leftist agenda to ruin this great state like the other states these people are moving from to corrupt our government like theirs.

Melanie Matthews, RN

Self, BSN, RN

Spring Branch, TX

I am sending this message as a mother, a Registered Nurse, and a very disgruntled Texan. I don't understand even a shred of reluctance of any human being, but especially of those entrusted to act in the best interest of all Texans - especially the most vulnerable - to make sure that this bill is heard and voted on. Who could be more vulnerable than children as young as **THREE YEARS OLD?**

As cliché as it may sound, how do you sleep at night knowing you have done nothing to protect the most innocent? I have never been very active in politics at the state level because I believed I lived in a great republic in which my legislators worked diligently to do what was best for Texans. How naive! I'm paying attention now, and will work diligently to unseat any legislator who fails to do what he/she was elected to do!

Curt Simpson

myself

Georgetown, TX

There are two human sexes on our planet, male and female. Attempting to change or even tolerate a young person's desires to change their sex is child abuse by the parents AND medical official.

Liability for a doctor endorsing this is mandatory...with out any exclusions. If a doctor encourages/participates in any type of sex change via drugs, surgery or, by any other means, should be held liable for their actions.

Andra Haney

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Self

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

I totally support this bill. I cannot believe that here in Texas we have people advocating the genital mutilation of children! This is absolutely appalling, and the fact that there are people who take this seriously as something moral to be done reflects a very sad state of many psyches. If an adult chooses to do this, that is the prerogative of an adult. But children? Children may tell you they want to be unicorns, dogs, angels, horses, flying princesses, whatever. I've worked with children from age one to teenage for many years, and I have seen this. What they say they want as a child is generally not what they want after they become an adult. Please support this bill and save the lives of many children who may have mentally unstable adults pushing them into this.

Thaila Robertson

self

Abilene, TX

Please pass this bill. It is idiotic of folks to do this to their children. It is child abuse. It is impinging on the rights of a child. Thank you.

Sherry Sedtal

Our descendants

Moscow, TX

God does not mistakes!

Linda Wandt

Self, Small business owner

Austin, TX

It's now a known fact that the transgendered brain does not match the physical gender that person is born with. It's child abuse on your part to deny these kids help. Refusing acceptance let alone medical care to a transgendered kid increases their risk of depression and suicide. Please listen to the science and let go of your outdated views, and stop attacking and denying transgendered people. They are people too, and these bills are hurtful, harmful attempts to deny their reality. What another person does with their body is NON of your business. Society is evolving forward and these bills are harmful and hateful attempts to move back acceptance. I am not transgendered, but I have loved ones who are and ya'll are REALLY missing the mark with these ridiculous attempts to damage lives and keep us in an oppressive world where people are not treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Shame on you. Let go of a painful past and join us in supporting people trying to be their authentic selves. Can you imagine feeling that wrong in your own body? It must be so painful. Have some compassion, you are writing OUR laws, and you've got this all wrong.

Michael Cullinan, Mr.

self Retired

Dallas, TX

There is no excuse for Texas not to pass this bill at this time. Minors who are afflicted with gender dysphoria need competent counseling, not hormone treatments or surgery. Having a healthy male or female body is not a medical condition that needs correcting.

In June of 2018 a famous Florida teen named Jazz Jennings was surgically neutered like a household pet in New York. Sometime before the scheduled procedure was to be done, there was a party to bid 'bye 'bye to certain of his body parts. That flippancy disappeared with the harsh reality of the aftermath of the minor's castration. There were complications that resulted in burst

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stitches, things coming apart down there, and excruciating pain. It was all on the Discovery Channel, part of its lineup of reality TV. Continuous hormone treatments from age 11 had rendered Jazz incapable of ever being able to father children. The operation rendered him incapable of even being able to have sex. Jazz has since had to undergo more surgeries to try and fix what went wrong, and may require follow up surgeries for years to come.

Jazz Jennings is not the only boy to have this done to him in the U.S., for castration of minor boys and disfigurement of minor girls has been part of a macabre medical fad since at least 2014. No one knows how many as not every doctor wants to go on record regarding his or her practice with minors. However, if you go to the gofundme website and search on the term "top surgery texas" you will get 840 hits, many of them minors trying to raise money to have themselves mutilated.

There are fatalities as a direct result of dangerous experiments on minors. An 18 year old died from a vaginoplasty procedure according to the Journal of Pediatric & Obstetric Gynecology. [https://www.jpagonline.org/article/S1083-3188\(16\)30174-7/fulltext](https://www.jpagonline.org/article/S1083-3188(16)30174-7/fulltext)

These are telling examples of what our society is becoming; this is the level of barbarism that we are sinking to. "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." wrote John Adams in 1798. Our founding document is not going to save us if our culture becomes so corrupt and decadent that we think nothing of allowing minors to be made into eunuchs for no sane, discernible purpose. A predatory industry is peddling a cruel deception, and civilized people will not let it go unchallenged.

I therefore urge a vote of YES on HB 1399. Even if no other bill lands on Gov. Abbot's desk this session, this one must be passed. Passage or failure to pass HB 1399 at this time will define us and set our destiny. Texas has got to get this right. As the country divides into camps from the burgeoning culture conflict and the hard, radical left makes its bid for power and dominance, Texas must cast its lot with those states that are making a stand against the moral arrogance, totalitarian destructiveness, and sheer madness of gender identity and the ideology driving it. Our time is now.

Donna Powers, Mrs.

Shelf

Hurst, TX

I support HB1399 . Children are precious and they can not choose something as serious as a sex change nor should anyone try to force that or drugs that promote this change. To change a child's sex is SEXUAL ABUSE .

Theodore Thevaos, Rev.

LifeShare Church/Self/Pastor

San antonio, TX

As your constituent, I am seeing a concerning trend of having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a "gender identity" that rejects bodily reality. This is profoundly unethical.

Children should be protected from dangerous surgical and hormonal treatment procedures that have permanent life-altering consequences. It is time for Texas to address this issue.

Please stand up for vulnerable children all across Texas and support and coauthor HB 1399 by Rep. Matt Krause!

Thank you for your time and service.

Connie Chrane, Mrs

self

Blanket, TX

Please protect children from the often-irreversible effects of these harmful gender modification procedures and treatments.

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Having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty-blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a “gender identity” that rejects bodily reality is grotesque. This is profoundly unethical.

Terry Senne, Ph.D.

Retired, Higher Education Administrator

Denton, TX

Please SUPPORT HB 1399 authored by Rep. Krause and numerous others. No one should be allowed to authorize/permit any type of gender modification, be it chemical or surgical in type on behalf of a minor, not even a parent or guardian. Until a child/adolescent, or high schooler reaches the legal age of 18, no other person should be able to authorize any such procedure. Anyone younger than 18 years of age is still developing physically and socially/emotionally, and cognitively. These types of procedures cannot be undone. Any decisions made to do otherwise is neglectful and detrimental to the child/adolescent/high schooler. All minors need to be protected until they reach adulthood and can make their own informed decision.

Sincerely,

Terry A. Senne, Ph.D.

Denton, TX 76205

Rebecca Wilson, Mrs.

self

Frisco, TX

Healthy body parts should not be removed from children nor should they be given irreversible puberty blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a “gender identity” that rejects bodily reality. Children should be protected from dangerous surgical and hormonal treatment procedures that have permanent life-altering consequences.

Rosario Badillo

Self/Mother, Healthcare Worker

Dallas, TX

Children do not have the mental capacity to decide for themselves on their gender identity. Putting them through gender modification treatments is equal to child abuse, with devastating emotional, psychological and physical consequences for the rest of their lives. As a mother and healthcare worker, I completely oppose gender modification and indoctrination of gender and sexually related topics to children.

Preston Knight

Self - Organizer

Mansfield, TX

Our kids have been through enough. Stop bullying our transgender youth. Stop it.

Martha Shoultz

self

Dallas, TX

I'm a progressive, open-minded professional and the parent of a trans-identified child. I urge you to pass this bill to protect children from predatory doctors and therapists who are profiting from the unethical "treatment" of gender dysphoria with drugs and surgery. Most of these kids suffer from autism, OCD, anxiety and other more ordinary disorders, and gender dysphoria only arose after the child was convinced by online sources (in our case, Reddit) or peers that changing sex is a cure-all for any mental

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illness. The gender industry has plastic surgeons and influencers marketing hormones and surgery to kids on TikTok and other apps directed at the very young, which has resulted in an explosion of kids who believe they need these treatments to be happy. These "treatments" are experimental and have never been shown to cure gender dysphoria, and in fact suicide rates in this population increase after they medically transition. Please stop this insanity so the next generation is not completely de-sexed.

Sylvia NEUSCH

True Life

ROUND ROCK, TX

Please vote for this bill that prohibits children from treatments for gender transitioning, etc. Thank you!

Tanya Slaughter, Mrs.

Self. Librarian

Carrollton, TX

To the House Committee:

I thank God daily that I was born 41 years ago and not 21. I was gender confused as a young adult from age 16 to age 22. I grew into peace and appreciation for my biological sex; am happily married to a male partner, and the mother of 4 children. Passing gender confusion is extremely common among same-sex attracted people. 67-90% of gender questioning young people grow into congruence with their biology *after completing puberty.* I am bisexual, and confused my sexuality for biology. If I were born 20 years ago, there is a good chance that I'd be sucked into the delusion that I was "born a boy. " I would've lost my fertility and all the joys of my current life.

The current socially contagious mutilation of language and of bodies is robbing entire generations of young people of the chance to heal from gender confusion. Puberty blockers are not a treatment, in fact they stop recovery from happening and put young people on an irreversible path to sterility and surgical mutilation.

Medical transition with puberty blockers and surgery is conversion therapy, irreversible mutilation conversion therapy for non-conforming people. The current trans activist movement claims to speak for queer people, but many, many transpersons strongly disagree with the medical transition of children and disagree with teaching gender ideology to young children.

We will look back on this twisted orwellian time with the same shame and alarm as we have for lobotomy and forced sterilization.

Please don't allow womanhood and same-sex attracted people be erased by this insanity which defines woman as long hair and a dress. This movement declaring "female penis" which demands sexual favors from lesbians, and teaches little boys that being gentle and liking pink means they're female.

Please protect us from the lie that gender stereotypes determine a person's physical sex. Protect non-conforming people from being forced to conform with the cultural constructions that gender ideology casts in stone.

Please see this interview with a pediatric endocrinologist explaining the risks of puberty blockers:
<https://youtu.be/z4RYI75zdMY>

And, this interview with investigative journalist/author Abigail Schreier who exposed the exponential increase on young girls with gender confusion, many of whom have autism:
<https://youtu.be/OdtxUcvkJWA>

Thank you.

Denise Layne

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Myself

Keller, TX

Gender changes should not be allowed for children. This bill needs to be passed. I support HB 1399.

Joy Gautney

Self / Home Health Aide

Mesquite, TX

I am seeing a concerning trend of having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty-blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a “gender identity” that rejects bodily reality. This is profoundly unethical.

Minors are prohibited from purchasing paint, cigarettes, alcohol, or even getting a tattoo. Minors possess underdeveloped mental capabilities to make certain decisions on their own. We cannot allow minors to make life-altering decisions on body mutilating procedures and irreversible hormonal treatments. They need to be protected from the dangerous and permanent consequences of their confusion. It is time for Texas to address this issue.

Please stand up for vulnerable children all across Texas and support HB 1399 by Rep. Matt Krause! Thank you.

Kay Passmore

Self

Denton, TX

Thank you for protecting young children from having such devastating surgeries. I wish the age would be extended to 21. Irreversible surgeries should not be done until later in life if at all.

Dan FARCASIU, Dr.

self (retired)

Austin, TX

In favor.[1]

First, sexuality is not manifested or understood by a child. He is acted upon by adults. Children should grow into adults to sort out their gender dysphoria, GD[2] before acting on it. Yet, their “gender reassignment” is not like underage driving and marriage.

Dysphoria is a mind disorder (profound dissatisfaction with reality).[3] Besides GD[,2],[4] there are over 20 types. Only GD is treated by modification of the body and alteration of societal norms to comply with a distorted mental perception,[5] without addressing its origin. We cannot assert that handling GD like other such conditions will not yield a treatment which will cure the mind, rather than alter the body. The current method deprives the patients of any sexual life and ability to procreate, forever.

Lobotomy brought its author the Nobel prize. It was replaced by nondestructive approaches.

I see also that people most mindful of climate change champion a hormonal-surgical approach giving patients huge carbon footprints; an alternative, psychiatric, approach is carbon-neutral.

Postponing the sex alteration of today’s children may delay the destruction of the body until a physician worthy of that name develops a real treatment.

I note that the interventions allowed in HB 1399 affirm the genetic makeup of the DSD patient,[6] rather than obliterate it.

Other factors to consider:

- Correlation between growing in a broken or nonexistent family and GD in children.
- Role of delaying childbearing to maturity in the incidence of DSD in offspring.
- Effect on the brain of marijuana, one of the causes of schizophrenia.

We ask you to defend our freedom of conscience and expression and our freedom of association against the sustained efforts to make us, by intimidation or force, say that sickness is normalcy and mutilation is treatment.[1],[7]

Refs

[1] D. Farcasiu, The Present Day Significance of Wilhelm Tell; www.ForRestoration.com, 04/29/2019

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- [2] (a) <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/conditions/gender-dysphoria> ;
(b) <https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/gender-dysphoria/what-is-gender-dysphoria>
- [3] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dysphoria>
- [4] Paul McHugh, Transgender Surgery Isn't the Solution. WSJ, 05/13/2016
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/paul-mchugh-transgender-surgery-isnt-the-solution-1402615120>;
<https://www.cnsnews.com/blog/michael-w-chapman/johns-hopkins-psychiatrist-transgendered-men-don't-become-women-they-become-whom-they-become>
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<https://www.leonardsax.com/how-common-is-intersex-a-response-to-anne-fausto-sterling> ;
<https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2019/03/50118/> 03/13/2019
- [5] D. Farcasiu, Four Commentaries on Healthcare 4. Sex-Change Surgery; www.ForRestoration.com, 09/22/2012.
- [6] S. Lehrman, Scientific American, 05/30/2007; <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/q-a-mixed-sex-biology/>
- [7] Walter E. Williams, <http://walterewilliams.com/freedom-of-association/>

Katie Raney

Self - program specialist

Bastrop, TX

I oppose this bill.

Linda Moscovic

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Vote to support

Joan Vetter

Self

Arlington, TX

Have we lost our minds as a country? Thank God that Texas is stepping forward with this bill. Please protect these innocent children and support this bill.

Vicky Dudley

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

Please pass this bill.

Agathe Bourgogne

Self, program manager

Houston, TX

All medical agencies have shown that Trans teens are already at a high risk of suicide. They need medical attention adapted to their situation. I am completely AGAINST removing any treatment, insurance, or stigmatizing further these children. We are in the 21st century!

Melissa Henry

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self/ house wife

Maxwell, TX

Please oppose this bill! Children can not and should not be subjected to interference of their body development at such a young age. Giving them puberty drugs to determine their gender is just unimaginable.
As a parent I can't even imagine my child being put through something this horrible! These are young children that should never be allowed to make a life altering decision at this age. I am asking you to please, please oppose this horrible bill.

Teresa Campbell

Self and husband

Fort worth, TX

I support this bill protecting our children from gender modification. I will hold my Texas Representatives accountable!

Christy Gordon

Self Retired

New Braunfels, TX

I believe that young children are too young to make a decision about what gender they choose to be. What type of mental anguish will children suffer if they are not allowed to make their own decision as to whether they want to change their biological gender? Please protect them from gender modification until they reach an age when they can make an informed decision about their sexuality.

Michael Campbell

Self

Filthy worth, TX

I support this bill to protect our children and I expect Representative Geren to pay attention. I'm hopeful that the rest of the Representatives will do the right thing and support this bill

Mark Plattenberger

Self

Magnolia, TX

I strongly support bill HB1399, please support this bill. Thank you

Anne Newman

self

BOERNE, TX

Make sure this bill passes to protect children.

greg boss

Sweetgrass Republican Club, SELF, Retired

Richmond, TX

Please put down this incredibly indecent and un-Godly idea.

Joe Hootman

Self

Austin, TX

Honorable Sirs and Madams,

One can be wholly supportive of transgender struggles, while also concluding that permanent surgical modification is a decision best made when one is grown up. Physicians don't allow minor girls to get breast implants, yet we would allow young people to make irrevocable alterations to their bodies before they're old enough to get a tattoo. As former teenagers yourselves, you certainly must recall at least one regrettable decision you made in your youth. Leave that developmental stage to the realm of bad hairstyles or fistfights. Give young people the gift of second chances. Leave permanent, irreversible decisions to adulthood.

Thank you.

Sajl Salim

Self

Richardson, TX

This bill is one that directly would endanger the lives of Texas children who are already at risk for suicide and self-harm. Gender affirming healthcare saves lives, and things like puberty blockers and hormone therapy are reversible. There is no reason for a bill like this to exist except to kill innocent transgender children who deserve to feel safe and affirmed and validated in their body. This bill is morally wrong and will harm MANY transgender children. I believe this bill should not be passed for the safety and protection of these Texas children who deserve happy and healthy lives.

Barbara Young

self/retired

Tyler, TX

As I understand the proposed HB 1399 it will protect children from life altering, often irreversible procedures and treatments in order to affirm a change in gender. Please support the protection of our minor age children so that these radical decisions can not be made during the years when children are not able to make such life altering decisions.

Our laws protect them from other "harmful" products" until they are a certain age to make those decisions on their own. Why would we not take the responsible position as adults and protect them from such dramatic decisions that should be made only after they are of an age to be able to understand the consequences of those decisions?

We must stop sacrificing the well being of our children to satisfy the adults who are insistently pushing their agenda for their own purposes.

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 1399

Barbara Young

Brittany Hodgson, Dr.

Self, pediatrician/doctor

Houston, TX

As a practicing pediatrician who cares for ALL children, including children who are transgender and gender-diverse, I strongly oppose HB 1399. My role as a doctor is to provide compassionate and safe care for my patients. I diagnose, treat, and manage patients with an array of medical conditions, including- but certainly not limited to- diabetes, asthma, COVID-19 infections, and

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gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria, like the other conditions mentioned, is a recognized medical condition with an ever-developing standard treatment regimen. With gender dysphoria, one of the standards of treatment is puberty suppression. This treatment pauses the body's puberty in order to give the child a chance to reflect on their gender identity and, if needed, later on begin the puberty process that corresponds to their gender identity. This pause in puberty eases the depression and anxiety and reduces the suicidal thoughts that many children who are transgender and gender-diverse experience. Denying this treatment for gender dysphoria is tantamount to denying life-saving medicine to a child at risk of dying. This is not just one doctor's viewpoint. To my knowledge, there is NO medical society, academy, or professional organization that supports HB 1399. In fact, all organizations who have position statements regarding transgender and gender-diverse children support affirming medical treatment, as this prevents horrific outcomes such as suicide that may result from the rejection and stigmatization of those children who don't receive the standard medical treatment. This bill, if enacted, will be a death sentence to a child in need. As a pediatrician, a mother, and a born-and-raised Texan, I urge you to vote against HB 1399.

Jeannie Hassell

Self / Retired

Zapata, TX

As a registered voter, constituent and fellow Texan I strongly urge the House Public Health Committee to support HB 1399.

Efforts to interfere with the development of children has increased at an alarming rate. The fact of removing healthy body parts from children and providing them with irreversible puberty-blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a false "gender identity" that rejects bodily reality is profoundly unethical.

Since minors are prohibited from purchasing paint, cigarettes, alcohol, or even getting a tattoo on their own, as it should be, likewise the same common sense standard should be applied to NOT allow minors to make life-altering decisions on body mutilating procedures and irreversible hormonal treatments. HB 1399 will provide protection from the dangerous and permanent consequences of their confusion.

I strongly urge the Committee's prompt attention and support of HB 1399. Thank you, God bless you and God bless Texas!!

Courtney Gilmore

Self

Jonesboro, TX

I think those with gender dysphasia etc need to wait until they are adults to make life altering decisions. I do not want gender reassignment surgeries or puberty blockers for children. If a child can't consent to a tattoo because it's too permanent then they certainly shouldn't be able to consent to these types of things.

Nicholas Wagner, MD

Self / Pediatrician

Austin, TX

As a pediatrician who has several transgender patients from ages 4 years to 18 years old, I can offer my perspective on what I believe is in the best interest for these patients. I have seen too many of these children present to my office with new onset behavioral problems including depression stemming from the discord they feel about their gender identity. Fortunately, I've also seen them turn around and show considerable improvements in mood, self-esteem, and ability to make social connections after they are able to express their true gender identity and feel accepted by friends and family around them when they do so. I'd never imagine how powerful using an appropriate pronoun for someone could be, but seeing the smile on children's faces when I do so to address them affirms how much it is. Making it illegal and subjecting parents and medical doctors to punitive action should they provide gender-affirming care to Texas's youth is backward at best and extremely harmful to these children. Let me level with you, I understand the spirit of the legislation: "Don't push our innocent young children into your pro-trans agenda. Kids are too young to know what they want and giving them gender affirming care is actually harmful because they don't actually want that or won't in the long run. We need to protect them because we know what is good for these kids." Right? This line of

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thinking is untrue, dangerous, and cannot be further from the truth that I have experienced in over a decade of practicing pediatrics in Austin. I think this legislation is some of the most head scratching I've seen come through the Texas legislature since I've lived here. Children can be transgender. Some children ARE transgender. I've seen it in loving and supportive homes and homes where those choices are not supported. I don't have to tell you which of those scenarios results in a better outcome. I can tell you that adding barriers and punitive action to correct and proper medical care for these children is the only criminal thing that should be discussed here.

Matt Tong, Dr

self

Austin, TX

I adamantly oppose two bills being heard in the Public Health Committee: House Bill 1399 and House Bill 1424, both of which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and the decision about on whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. Further, religion should not be twisted into a tool to excuse doctors from doing their jobs and serving all Texans equally, as HB 1424 would do. I urge the Representative to vote against both HB 1399 and 1424.

Paulette Carson

Self

Apple Springs, TX

I am in support of this bill and request the bill be favorably voted out of committee. Minors should not be subjected to gender changes. God does not make mistakes.

Heather J Taylor, President

HRC

Houston, TX

vote no on each bill to protect LGBTQ Texans.

Cassandra Lydon

Self, paramedic

Austin, TX

The legislature needs to stay out of people's healthcare decisions. Period. Don't make it harder for doctors to provide life saving care. And that's what transition related care is. Life saving.

Kenneth Aitken, Mr

Self Retired

Friendswood, TX

Oppose!

Debra Leal

Mother and resident of Texas

Portland, TX

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This is mental abuse on children and chemical castration and should not be allowed. After a child has fully grown physically and mentally and can fully comprehend the consequences of this action should they be allowed such responsibility.

Isabel Ray, Mrs.

self (communications)

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1399. This bill is cruel and inhumane. Trans children deserve healthcare just like all other Texans. If you pass this bill, which goes against medical expertise, you will harm real, individual children who are seeking medical care. Remember that you serve all Texans, including Texan children who are trans. I beg of you, please vote against this bill. Thank you.

Catherine LaGrone

Self

Buda, TX

I oppose this bill because I disagree with the pain that those bills will cause to trans people. That healthcare is between doctors, parents and children.

Robert Santini

Republican Party Of Texas

San Antonio, TX

Children under the age of 18 are not mature enough to make a decision regarding gender transitioning and it should be unlawful to perform the procedures without consent of the parents. The brain does not fully develop until age 25. The mental & physical changes that occur during adolescence are a normal part of development and should not be used as a justification for gender change. I support this bill.

Cynthia MacAdam

Self

Katy, TX

I'm writing in support of HB 1399. I have a child with rapid onset gender dysphoria and she's at risk to be manipulated by predatory medical professionals. No child is born in the wrong body. Children can't consent to these drugs or understand the risks.

Joyce Baldwin

Self

Austin, TX

Please protect gender-questioning children and adolescents from being put on the path of medical transition. Medical transition is experimental at best, and the long-term effects are not well-understood. Let's strive for an environment that provides compassionate mental health care rooted in reality and science to those struggling.

Mindy Camboia

Self

Belton, TX

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I am writing as the mother of a 14 year old daughter living with depression and OCD. After much online research, she self diagnosed herself with gender dysphoria and that led her down a rabbit hole where she became indoctrinated into the world of “trans”. She is under the care of a licensed therapist who is helping her to deal with the mental health issues around her rapid onset gender dysphoria. It’s a real condition, latest studies show as high as 67 % of those who are diagnosed completely outgrow the dysphoria by the time they are 18, even more by the time they’re 25, but only if they receive no medical intervention (puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, surgical procedures) to “help” them transition. Furthermore, of those who do receive medical intervention, studies have found the gender dysphoria is not cured and in many cases gets worse. I recommend watching the 4 part documentary Dysphoric - Fleeing womanhood like a house on fire by Vaishnavi Sundar (<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=w8taOdnXD6o&feature=youtu.be>) to familiarize yourself with the issue and with the stories of the kids, now adults, who transitioned as young as 14 and now are de-transitioning and wondering why they were allowed to be experimented on by the mental health and medical communities. This video report from the BBC discusses the issues of safety and efficacy and ethical concerns after over 15 years of providing this type of “care” to children. <https://youtu.be/8MYWT1Cfp1g> I am willing to answer your questions and to appear and speak if given the opportunity. I have found other parents dealing with this fast growing crisis in a group called PROGD - Parents of Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria. We need representation and we need people in charge to step in and protect our kids.

Sincerely,
Mindy Camboia

Cynthia Macadam

self/mother

Katy, TX

I’m writing to voice my support of the two house bills that would prohibit the medical transition of children. My daughter’s part of the world wide social contagion convincing vulnerable young women that they were “born in the wrong body”. Like so many other young women in this cohort, she also is autistic. Please let her grow up without the pressure of medical treatments. I’m not “anti-trans” but I also don’t think we should pretend that these young people can understand the risks of these treatments. Puberty isn’t a disease. Let children be children.

Gabriela Ahlheim, Mrs

self

Azle, TX

As a firm believer in Christ I support this bill. God made a man and a woman, there are no errors in HIS creations. In addition to being a firm believer in Christ there is plenty of medical data that supports the fact that our brains do not maturely develop until the age of 25 years old. How does a child concretely know they are of the opposite sex at such a young age? Undergoing a surgical sex change does not heal the mental, emotional or psychological trauma. There have been numerous men and women who have reversed their procedure, regretted their procedure or even worse committed suicide because the operation didn't give them the results they were searching for. I urge you to support this bill and protect our youth. Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20

jennifer feldmann, Dr.

Self

HOUSTON, TX

Imagine finding your child in their room, unarousable with an empty pill bottle next to them. Or imagine getting a call from the school that they are rushing your child to the Emergency room after finding them in the locker room after an intentional overdose. In the ER, they were finally able to tell their parents they are trans, or their parents finally understood how lethal NOT living as the person the child knows themselves is. I wish these stories were fiction, but they are not. Kids as young as 12 (5th grade – still in elementary school) have shared this narrative. It hurts to imagine someone so young being so despairing and hopeless that they cannot imagine a future worth living.

Then imagine being the parent whose child doesn’t survive, and having to live with the knowledge that they didn’t help their

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child, or maybe they actively shamed them for their gender identity. Maybe they “didn’t believe it in”, or thought it was a phase, or ignored it out of personal embarrassment at having a transkid, or fear that their church would shame them. The fears are suddenly unimportant when facing a future without their child, and a life bearing the guilt of tacitly harming their child through inaction (or worse, through active rejection). Or more wrenching – being the parent that tried to provide life-saving care for their child, but was unable as care was illegal.

As legislators, please imagine that you are in the same role as these parents. Please don’t ignore the suicidal kids, or worse, legally sanctifying the lethal discrimination they already face – making the burden these kids and families already bear immeasurably heavier. You are considering a bill that will irreparably harm families and kill kids.

Additional points :

- Current law and medical guidelines are intended to chaperone ethical behavior. This bill puts youth and families directly in harm’s way and is undeniably discriminatory and unethical.
- There is already science that demonstrates differences in the brain development and hormone receptors of trans people compared to non-trans (cis-gendered). It is very likely that in the future, we will learn this legislation will have legalized discrimination against children who are simply biologically different (living as God made them).
- There are no binaries in the body (not hormone levels, not height, not skin color) – it does not make scientific sense to make gender a binary; intersex individuals make this obvious.
- Over and over, research has shown that supporting gender-diverse/ trans kids in their gender identity (the gender of their brain not body) results in happier, healthier kids. Conversely, rejecting them does the opposite – creating anxiety, homelessness, drug use, and suicide. Being trans does not cause the high depression and suicide rates, it is the discrimination and stigma trans kids face that is so damaging – discrimination and irreparable harm you are considering legalizing.

Ted Pick

Self. Wildlife Relocation Biologist.

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I am opposed to this bill.

Heather FitzGerald

Self

Azle, TX

Please pass this bill and protect children (whose brains and bodies are still maturing) from making life altering decisions. Nor should a parent be able to force their child to undergo such a twisted experiment. Can’t buy cigarettes until you’re an adult but you can decide to chop off body parts? Shame on us for even allowing such a thing to be a thing.

Katheryn Moore

Myself

Fort Worth, TX

I wish to register support for Matt Krause’s bill 1399 that would protect children from biologically altering surgery and alterations from gender altering drugs. I fully ask the committee to support this effort to protect Texas children from any such availability that would alter their genders. Thank you.

Annette Dennis

Retired

Corpus Christi, TX

My granddaughter suffered from gender dysphoria as well as severe bipolar. She was hospitalized over 16 times in 1 year for suicide ideation and each time the facility encouraged her gender dysphoria and for her to request surgery. As her family we felt she was not old enough to make this decision and her mental issues prevented her from making sound decisions.

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We encouraged changes in her medications to control the bipolar episodes and once that was controlled her desire to transgender was resolved. Had we been forced to give in to get request when she voiced them or went along with her therapy to encourage her wanting surgery, she would not have given birth to her son which is her joy today.

Kara Trissel

self

Jonestown, TX

Please protect our children by supporting HB1399. Thank you.

Jodie Heard

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I plead with the Public Health committee to vote in favor of this bill that would prohibit surgeries that would swap the physical anatomy of children to the other gender. God designs every human in the womb. Each is fearfully and wonderfully made as Ps. 139 says. Only deception from Satan makes people think they are not what God created them to be. Children are foolish by nature and can, by no means, be qualified to make a decision to "change their gender". Statistics show that most people who undergo so-called gender changes are more depressive and suicidal after the fact. Many change back to their God-given gender, and find out that accepting themselves as they were created is the answer all along.

Debra Jared

Self (retired)

Winnsboro, TX

HB 1399: I am strongly urging the passing of this bill out of committee. Reasons are obvious to any rational person—it's a shame we even have to consider such. Obviously we've restricted minors from certain behaviors (marriage, alcohol, tobacco, voting—many things that we've considered age-appropriate). This rationale should CERTAINLY be applied to acts regarding the very core of humanity and personhood.

In conjunction, I also ask that HB68, HB2693 and HB4014 be heard and passed, to help solidify HB1399.

Thank you.

Thomas Ray

Self / Retired

Plano, TX

I am requesting that your committee vote in FAVOR of HB 1399.

It is hard to understand how we have come to a point where we need positive legislative action to prevent "procedures and treatments for gender transitioning or reassignment". It would seem any rational person having taken the Hippocratic Oath, pledging to prescribe only beneficial treatments and to refrain from causing harm or hurt, could not in good conscience perform such procedures or treatments on a child.

My daughter, when 3 or 4 years old, told us that she was to be called "Isaac". I don't remember whether she associated this with a desire to be a boy or not. We dutifully addressed her as Isaac for several weeks/months. Then one day we were informed that we needed to address her by her given name, Alyson. These things are part of childhood and it is only adults who attribute these flights of fancy to "gender dysphoria".

I think it is sad enough that some individuals reach adulthood still confused about their "gender" and want to undergo some life-altering physical treatment or procedure because of their mental state(s). We should never allow adults, however positively motivated, to interfere in an individual's childhood with measures as drastic as these being addressed.

Thank you.

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Janie Williamson

self

ALLEN, TX

Please help protect our children! Please move this bill out of committee and to the floor to vote in favor of HB1399.

JESSICA RAMIREZ, MRS

SELF

AUSTIN, TX

My name is Jessica M Ramirez and I live in Austin. My zip code is 78744. I writing to let you know that I adamantly oppose Senate Bills 1311 and 1646, the anti-transgender bills that are being heard by the State Affairs Committee. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, not abuse. The decision about whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. Blocking children from receiving this care endangers their lives. I urge the Senator to vote against SBs 1311 and 1646.

Trans Kids are KIDS. Kids are human. God loves all his children not just the ones you approve of.

Sheila Domstead

Self retired

Ovilla, TX

With all do respect, I can't believe I'm having to ask our legislators to protect children from life altering treatment and procedures...child abuse. Our children are being abused mentally and physically.

Growing up, early childhood and adolescent, I was a huge tomboy. Hating yucky boys, I NEVER planned to marry; then, one magical day...my mind and body changed 180 degrees. I'm so thankful I wasn't exposed to liberal brainwashing that I might "really" be a "boy"! Brainwashing that has now found its way into our education system.

Please protect our children!

A man can never become a woman. Doesn't matter how much medication, treatments, surgery, makeup or clothing. If a company misrepresents their product it's called false advertising. To call a man a woman or a woman a man IS false advertising. FAKE! To normalize mental illness and perversion is wrong.

Please protect our children.

Charles Wiley, Dr.

self

Alice, TX

I am absolutely AGAINST any support for any provision that will enable procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. THIS IS A GHAUSTLY STRIKE AGAINST GOD and I DO NOT SUPPORT it !!

Charlie Wiley, DVM

Alice, TX

Treasa Doyal

Self

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Pasadena, TX

I live in Pasadena, Texas. I totally OPPOSE Senate Bill 1311 and 1646 being heard by State Affairs Committee regarding Transgender children.

I urge the Senate to VOTE AGAINST Bills 1311 & 1646.

JACQUELINE BAEZ-LUGO

SELF

MCALLEN, TX

Please vote yes on this bill. Nobody is born in the wrong body. Children are being manipulated and confused into thinking something is wrong with them. The media, social media, celebrities and peer pressure is giving the children the wrong message that it is ok to take puberty blockers and have gender surgery to get rid of unwanted genitals! Putting young people on a path of irreversible surgeries is immoral and wrong.

Lorri Haden

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

My name is Lorri Haden, and I live in Austin, 78757. I am adamantly opposed to two bills being heard in the Public Health Committee: House Bill 1399 and House Bill 1424, both of which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Healthcare. Gender-affirming healthcare is life-saving care, and the question about whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. Further, religion should not be twisted into a tool to excuse doctors from doing their jobs and serving all Texans equally, as HB 1424 would do. I urge the Representative to vote against both HB 1399 and 1424.

Treasa Doyal

Self

Pasadena, TX

I live in Pasadena, Texas. I totally OPPOSE Bills 1399 and 1424 regarding Transgender children.

I urge the Representative to VOTE AGAINST Bills 1399 & 1424.

Reggie Smith

self

Dallas, TX

Oppose this bill as folks have the right to seek treatments for gender transitioning etc and have every right of their surgeon to be covered as in other procedures including plastic surgeries for breast augmentation, tummy tucks, and vaginal rejuvenation, etc. Each person has the freedom to live who they believe they are and can undergo the risk and be afforded comparable care.

Kathy Etherton

Self / teacher

Austin, TX

To the committee: I am seeing a concerning trend of having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with often irreversible puberty blocking drugs.

Children are often not allowed to have the freedoms and responsibilities of adults because they do not have the same mental

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capabilities, the same emotional maturity, or the same ability to evaluate life-altering decisions as we hope adults will have. Therefore, children should be protected from dangerous surgical and hormonal treatment procedures that have permanent life-altering consequences. The freedom and responsibility to make those decisions should be granted at adulthood. It is time for Texas to address this issue. I urge you to send HB 1399 to the full house for a vote.

Tom Nobis

The Republican Party of Texas and myself

Houston, TX

Chairman Klick and committee members

I am Tom Nobis and represent the Republican Party of Texas and myself. I rise in Support of HB1399.

At least 15 state legislatures are already considering bills to protect vulnerable children from gender modification procedures and treatments. In Texas, HB 1399 by Representative Matt Krause seeks to protect children from the often-irreversible effects of these harmful procedures.

Indoctrination of children through radical sex education and efforts to interfere with the development of children has increased. This is accomplished by having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty-blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a "gender identity" that rejects bodily reality. This is profoundly unethical.

Minors are prohibited from purchasing paint, cigarettes, alcohol, or even getting a tattoo. Minors possess underdeveloped mental capabilities to make certain decisions on their own. We cannot allow minors to make life-altering decisions on body mutilating procedures and irreversible hormonal treatments. They need to be protected from the dangerous and permanent consequences of their confusion.

The Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority on this issue states:

- Abolish the following practices for minors: intervention to prevent natural progression of puberty; administration of opposite sex hormones; and performance of any type of gender reassignment surgery.

This bill supports that priority

The 2020 Republican Party of Texas platform plank 246 states:

For the purpose of attempting to affirm a person 21 or under if their perception is inconsistent with their biological sex, no medical practitioner or provider may engage in the following practices:

- a. Intervene in any way to prevent natural progression of puberty.
- b. Administer or provide opposite sex hormones.
- c. Perform any surgery on healthy body parts of the underage person.

This bill supports this plank and turning the platform into legislation.

With over 33 authors and co-authors, this bill has strong support. Please support HB1399 and pass it out of committee to calendars.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of this bill.

Sincerely

Tom Nobis

SD7 SREC committeeman

Linda Rice

Texas Values

Denison, TX

The performance of an appendectomy requires parental consent. Children are a heritage of the Lord; they are not on loan from the state. Evil will always be evil even if everyone is found cowering and lying.

Richard Husek

Self

Carrollton, TX

I am in support of HB 1399 limiting children's access to transgender procedures. This is child abuse to allow those procedures to

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be performed on children.

Tina Groseclose, Mrs

Self / Self employed

Port Aransas, TX

Children of the World have been under attack for a very long time. As responsible citizens we must protect our future by protecting them. Being strong in who you are created to be and taking responsibility of that is the basis of humanity. There are volumes of scientific research to prove brain development and emotional development. It is an easy decision for anyone with a rational understanding that doing unnatural procedures and treatments on a child is wrong. As a society we must protect our most precious resource and that is our Children, they are our future. There should be No allowance for insurance funds for elective or forced gender modifications on children under the age of 18.

David King

Self

Austin, TX

Honorable Members of the House Public Health Committee, Please oppose this blatantly transphobic and homophobic bill! Shame on Representative Krause for initiating this harmful and discriminatory bill that directly targets transgender children! This bill would virtually end life-saving, affirming medical care for transgender and gender non-conforming youth. The bill relies on medically inaccurate information and fear around transition-related care. Trans youth experience higher rates of suicidal ideation, harassment and substance abuse. Criminalizing access to care, or eliminating professional liability insurance to provide this care, will only heighten these risk factors. Transgender youth deserve access to best-practice approaches as supported by numerous professional medical organizations. Thank you for considering my comments and for your service.

Heiko Stang

Self

Wimberley, TX

OPPOSE HB 1399

I wanted to let you know that I adamantly oppose House Bill 1399, which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and the about on whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. I urge you to vote against both HB 1399!

June H. Runkle

self

Buda, TX

I am absolutely appalled at this bill. These are innocent lives, and have no choice in this matter. I am from the "old school" of protecting innocent lives, and obviously there are those who are so hard hearted, all they think of is their pocket books. Thank you for representing these loving children who depend on our choices as parents and grandparents to make that right choice, which is to let them grow up and make their own choice.

Marion Whiting

Self

Wimberley, TX

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"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399

AJ Sparks

HRC

Dripping Springs, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399

Christina Harding

Self, Network Administrator

Hutto, TX

I am a Texan. My father was a graduate of Lanier High School in Austin, served in the US Navy, and later taught in both Austin ISD and Round Rock ISD. My grandfather served as an Air Force officer and later taught at an Austin ISD High School. I was born at Seton Northwest in Austin in January of 1985. I attended school in Round Rock ISD, and when my family moved, I graduated from Pflugerville ISD. After watching live the second plane hit the second tower on September 11th, 2001, my junior year of high school, I made the decision to join the Marines. I served this state and my country honorably for nine years. I now work for a school district, and know that every comment I make puts my job, my family, and my life at risk, but I do it anyway, because I was raised to believe that you stand up for what is right, that you protect the downtrodden, that you give a voice to those afraid or unable speak for themselves.

The Texas Legislature has taken it upon themselves over the past 3 legislative sessions, ever since the 2015 SCOTUS decision of Obergefell v. Hodges, to pass hateful, hurtful, and discriminatory anti-LGBTQ legislation. This bill has one purpose, to codify discrimination, to chip away at any semblance of support that transgender individuals have. Already transgender youth that do not have the support of their family suffer a 41% risk of suicidal attempts, and you are looking to take that and make it harder for transgender children to get the help they need, help that is provided by doctors, psychiatrists, and psychologists that are trying to provide care for their patients.

Transgender identity isn't new, the American Psychological Association first recognized it with the publication of the DSM-III in 1980. There has been now an additional 40 years of studies, care, and treatment since then, which is why in 2013, with the publication of the DSM-V, the American Psychological Association removed the connotation of gender dysphoria being a mental disorder. This bill is a clear attempt to indicate that legislators with no access to patient information, no basis for diagnosis and provision of care, should determine the best course of treatment and care for transgender individuals. It puts the tendrils of government into the lives of private citizens, protecting them from a boogeyman that isn't a threat to Texans, but one that Republican politics says should be feared and shunned.

Fear is not a Texas value. Hate is not a Texas value. Discrimination is not a Texas value. Passage of this bill does not support Texas values, and there are already signs that embracing fear, hate, and discrimination will hurt the Texas economy, as there are already groups like the NCAA indicating that they will not allow sporting tournaments to happen in states where these bills pass, just as they did in 2017 with the anti-transgender "bathroom bills". As a Texan, I urge you to oppose this and any other discriminatory legislation.

Holly Sellers

Self

Austin, TX

I believe all medical procedures and treatments should only involve a medical professional and a patient, and their guardian if necessary. Legislators and politicians have no business being involved in treatment decisions or discussions. Please leave these decisions to the professionals.

Maya Weaver

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Self

San Antonio, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

CHRISTIAN FLORES

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424.

Damon Brinson

Self, attorney

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424. Thank you for supporting Equality!

Belinda Greenwood

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Angie Brinkley

Self financial advisor

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Adam Boswell

Self

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Aurelio Alcocer

Self

San Antonio, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid!

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Ava Gruhlke

Self

Round rock, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Tony Prenger

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Amy Lawrynovicz

Self Business Manager

Sugar Land, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Jennifer Dodson

Self

Austin, TX

I want to express my concern for protecting LGBTQ Texans. The Texas I know and love isn't the close-minded place that many in the news would have us believe lately. We can and should be a state that listens, cares, and strives for every Texan to feel heard, and be included. Please vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424. Thank you for considering the importance of equality.

Maranda Moody

Self / tech support

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399

Cary Fyfe

Self/Educational Specialist

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Ashley Radovcich

Myself, High School English teacher that teaches Transgender Scholars.

Austin, TX

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PLEASE protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424 Thank you for supporting Equality!

Ashley Steffey

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

This bill discourages doctors from providing best practice transition care by prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering transition related care.

Caitlyn Hernandez

Self

Austin, TX

This bill denies the human rights of trans children and should be stopped. Trans children deserve access to safe, affordable and easily accessible healthcare. This bill is inhumane and will cost lives that could easily be saved.

Kim Scannell Larsen, Mrs.

Self. Procurement

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Sarah Swofford

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Emily Heroux

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Erika Jobe, Mrs

Self

FORT WORTH, TX

No

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Kellen Gildersleeve, RN

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Thank you!

Erin Russell

Self - Marketing Executive

AUSTIN, TX

This is a vast overreach of the government. Stay out of people's personal medical decisions.

Sam Jacobson

Self

Houston, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Laurie Coker

Self retired

Austin, TX

Please know the value and respect the rights of all people and that includes those who are gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphasia. Their health is as essential as mine or yours and should not be penalized for it.

Caitlin Boehne

Self; attorney

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424!

Erin DeLeon

Self

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Tandra Tutt

Self - data analysis

Hutto, TX

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"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424!"

Deborah Ide

self/publications editor

Saginaw, TX

Our nation was founded on biblical principles, and Texas has long upheld those values. Even apart from a foundational belief in God, allowing and encouraging children to make life-altering decisions is not a sound practice. In today's culture children deal with issues unheard of some years ago. We must not allow their lack of experience and tender hearts to lead them into decisions that cannot be reversed later on. Many adults who transition, later regret that decision. Let us not put children in a position to make that mistake. I encourage you to disallow any policy that would require insurance or taxpayers to finance such procedures. And let's stop the egregious education that tells them they can choose their gender!

Brian Wright

Self

McAllen, TX

Being transgender is a birth defect. The part of the brain that controls gender identity developed for the wrong gender. Look it up. Harvard study. Cis gender women and trans gender woman have the same brain! It is a birth defect and since we can't change the brain we have to allow what is right for the children and change the body. 70% of trans people state they have thought about suicide and 40% have actually attempted it. This bill while having good intentions is not grounded in science. The genitals and the brain develop at different times and it is a birth defect that they don't match. All trans gender people want is to pass for the gender that matches their brain. By beginning the transition only with puberty blockers and hormones before puberty, their chances of passing are exponentially higher. What you risk with this bill is alienating them even further, increasing the number of trans youth suicides and since they will not get to transition until after puberty, people that no matter how hard they try, will never pass for a cis-gendered person. Do the research. Trans is a birth defect in which the body and the brain don't match and we need to treat this like all other birth defects, with compassion, care and allow the doctors and parents do what is best for their child.

Nina Gordon

Self

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Kevin McHorse

Self, physical therapist

Austin, TX

As a healthcare provider who works with young patients, and a parent of teens, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1399 and HB 1424 that target the LGBTQ community and focus on real problems that effect all Texans and our quality of life and health.

Ami Jones, Mother

HRC

AUSTIN, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424"

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1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Michael Reyna

Self

AUSTIN, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Jon and Debra Jerke, Christopoulos, Dr.

Self, Data Science Researcher/ Music Educator

Carrollton, TX

Dear Rep. Stephanie, Klick, We are concerned Texas Citizens, and feel the responsibility as Christians to take action to remove Transgenderism teaching, coercion and indoctrination in our Texan schools, K-12. PLEASE SUPPORT BILL 68 and BILL 1399. Please push for a vote on the floor and please support extended session or special session if time is running-out , to protect our Texan children, and to be an example to our great country. Thank you for making your earnest effort on these critical bills.

Kathy Russell

Self (mom)

Cypress, TX

Please do not pass this bill.

Julianne Collins

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Kevin Murdock-Waters, Mr.

Self, dancer

Austin, TX

Protect the lives of LGBTQ Texans and focus more on COVID relief and police reform!

Mich Schreiber

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399

Roberta Duncan

Self, retired

SAN MARCOS, TX

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"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Julie Frey

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 and HB 1424!

Sarah Thayer

Self

San Antonio, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 and HB 1424

Isaac Mims

Self - Financial Services Professional

Pflugerville, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Eric Pappert, Dr

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a physician, it is not acceptable for politicians to dictate the patient/physician relationship. You are neither trained to provide this input nor can have the insight on an individual basis.

Nancy Glass, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Bertha Rios-Neikirk, Mrs.

Myself, and every trans person out there

Round Rock, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424. Y'all ought to be ashamed of y'all's selves. Thinking you're so Godly. If these kid believe what they say they are, then it's no mistake. Like y'all love to say God doesn't make mistakes. Old white men do.

Anna Riccobene

Self/merchandise presentation specialist

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Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Thomas Green

Self - Paralegal

Houston, TX

Mr. Krause, I am a member of the LGBTQ+ Community and a proud gay man that has seen first-hand what the direct impact of bills such as these can do to an individual as they navigate the world around them. It is bills such as these that cause me to remain with the Democratic Party after being a passionate Republican for so many years. The Republican Party used to stand for something we could all believe in: Small Government and protections for Individual Freedoms. This bill does entirely the opposite of both of those things. What place is it of yours, or anyone's for that matter to interfere with the parenting and medical decisions of licensed professional? For that matter, this bill should also strip away the rights of teens to be prescribed birth control pills, as the basic function of those much-needed prescriptions is to regulate bodily functions through hormone therapies for young girls. Birth control, abortions, prohibition, drug use, and simply being gay, used to qualify as "illegal" and criminal acts at one time or another in the United States. Rather than these respective laws achieving their intended goals of eradicating same, it did just the opposite and made the situation worse. Birth Control and Abortions were done in secret, unregulated and unsafe, causing a spike in deaths that could have been saved. This was overturned. Prohibition led to speakeasies and gang violence and death. This was Amended. Labeling "homosexual activities" as illegal led to underground and dangerous situations that again led to an increase in unsafe sex due to a lack of regulation and education on the subject and many of my friends, family, and coworkers passed away as a result. This was also overturned. This bill, and many bills like this around the country, are already following this trend with children in Alabama committing suicide as a direct result of the bills being passed into law. By drafting this bill you are putting yourself on the wrong side of history and will indirectly cause the death of children as we have already seen they will take matters into their own hands. If you do not allow the child the OPTION to speak with their doctors for a viable, safe procedure to allow them to be their truest selves, you are dooming them to a life of the alternative. Many will see this bill as an end to their fight for hope and the final straw that leads them to suicide. Others will push forward and resort to illegal or underground options that could be potentially fatal or life-threatening as Doctors will no longer be allowed to monitor or supervise treatment. You say you want a bill that protects children, yet this will do the exact opposite. Unfortunately, this is not a simple assumption either. As a professor of American History, you know better than me that history repeats itself if the lessons of the past are not heeded. The price you're paying for the likely Republican Party political gain will be the lives, futures, and hopes of Texas Children.

Jessica Bateman

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Nathan Loudin, Chair - Texas Ethics and Religious Committee

Southern Baptist Convention Of Texas

Austin, TX

I submit the following as Chairmen of our committee and on behalf of our committee as a whole:

We encourage government officials and policy makers to support public policies that recognize the unalterable God-given distinctions between male and female, and especially protect children under the age of 18 from surgical or pharmaceutical efforts to change their physiological nature. Some states and courts are allowing children to determine their sexual and gender identity, regardless of the parent's beliefs, as ordered in the 2020 Younger case in Texas. We affirm that gender is determined by God alone

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and is not influenced by man or open for selection or alteration.

We urge that HB 1399 be made law for the health and well being of all Texans.

Nathan Loudin, Milwood Baptist (Chair)

- Joshua Hebert, Calvary Baptist Church
- B.J. McCurdy, New Shores Baptist Church
- Sharonda Cooper, High Pointe Baptist Church
- Nathan Loudin, Milwood Baptist Church
- Trey Dimsdale, Hulen Street Baptist Church
- Davey Davis, High Pointe Baptist Church
- Leon Moore, Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church
- Jennifer Tutanés-McCuan, Riverlife Church
- Jonathan Coleman, Mission Dorado Baptist Church
- Rob Collingsworth, The Village Church

LeeAnne Ellis

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399

This will harm people, it will not protect anyone, there is no reason for this bill except discrimination against vulnerable populations.

Julie Rutherford

self retired

Round Rock, TX

Representatives and Senators,

I wrote to you yesterday regarding my support of HB 1399 and the concurrent Senate bill. After watching several hours of testimony yesterday, I would like to reaffirm my support of the bill and encourage the addition of an amendment addressing psychological care for gender confused children.

My daughter was lured into gender confusion online at age 16. She had other underlying mental health conditions that made her vulnerable to online predators and influences. When I attempted to find an appropriate counselor to work with her on her underlying issues of depression and anxiety as well as ADHD, what I discovered is that most counselors in the state of Texas are so afraid of the LGBTQ lobby that they will simply affirm whatever gender the child tells them they are. This does nothing to solve the underlying issues that are driving the confusion in the first place, it only increases their mental illness and causes further problems as it did for my daughter. I am asking that you very seriously consider adding an amendment to protect psychologists from being forced to affirm whatever gender the patient tells them they are.

If an anorexic girl comes to a counselor for care, does the counselor agree with the patient that her weight of 90 pounds makes her look fantastic and healthy? NO! The counselor diagnoses her with an illness and promptly begins to get to the root cause of why the girl is starving herself because she cannot accept her body. Gender dysphoria is a body image acceptance issue. It should be treated as one and counselors should be free to explore the root causes with the patient and help them toward acceptance of themselves the way they were created. Please help counselors to be able to help children like my daughter who so desperately need and deserve proper counseling and medical care. Please pass this bill to end the predatory pipeline of children being funneled into every expanding gender clinics. Please have the courage to stand up for truth, real science and common sense.

Sincerely,

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Julie Rutherford
Voter District 52

Rebekah Adams
Self
McKinney, TX

Dear committee members. Please support HB 1399 to protect Texas children from gender modification. Children suffering from gender dysphoria need counseling and compassion to address a problem in their brain to rather than a chemical, hormonal, or surgical assault on their developing bodies. Statistics show that the vast majority of gender dysphoria cases resolve naturally in time. It is tragic that lgbtq+ groups and some medical professionals are pushing children to 'treatments' that have severe, long-term consequences. Hormonal treatments can lead to permanent sterilization and cancer. Gender modification surgery cannot be undone. Please PROTECT Texas children and support HB 1399. To thank you.

Vanessa Gruhlke
HRC
Round Rock, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Ryan Wilson
Self
Houston, TX

Please protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! I am appalled that the Texas Legislature is focusing on attacks on Transgender people when there are so many more important priorities facing our state.

Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Anne Jacobsen
Self web design
Sugar Land, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Ali Sanchez
Self
McAllen, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399.

Omar Barnhart, Mr.
Self
Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399. Thank you for supporting Equality!

Joe Davila

HRC

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424!

Meredith Bossin

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Sheldon Caudill

Self

Converse, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424. Trans youth are already in enough danger as it is. Please speak to trans people, and their doctors. Listen to the community and the science before its too late. Children will DIE as a direct result of the choice to pass this bill.

Weston Hughes

HRC

San Antonio, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Dana McDonald

Self Retired

Sugar Land, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Georgia Keysor, Ms.

Self - Retired

Austin, TX

I adamantly oppose two bills being heard in the Public Health Committee: House Bill 1399 and House Bill 1424, both of which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. In a state that can't even keep the lights on and knocks on of the biggest chip makers in the world off

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line for over 6 weeks, it just seems like you would have more critical things to do than micromanage the lives of people you don't know and never will. Focus on what matters and don't tread on Texas trans youth.

I urge the Committee to vote against both HB 1399 and 1424.

Alfred Hestle, Retired (USAF)

N/A

Forest Hill, TX

This is Discriminating against these Children, please vote no!

Valentin Deleon

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill in its current form. Medical procedures should be the business of patient, parents, and doctor. Children should be given every opportunity to grow into their own skin and make medical decisions for themselves, but this bill eliminates options and flexibility for parents, children, and doctors. Vote no on this bill.

LEIGH KINDLEY

Kindley Household

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Derek Ladendorf

Self

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Brandy Grayson

self

Dallas, TX

I support HB 1399. I am a Registered Nurse and mother to 3 children. There are restrictions on voting, buying alcohol and buying cigarettes for young adults. Why? Because the prefrontal cortex is still developing. Therefore, teenagers might rely on a part of the brain called the amygdala to make decisions and solve problems more than adults do. The amygdala is associated with emotions, impulses, aggression and instinctive behavior. Children and teens should not be making life transforming decisions before they are truly equipped to do so, regardless if their parents are in favor or not.

Niki Simpson

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399

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Nick Kindley

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399. Thank you for supporting Equality!

Chelsea Ladendorf

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399. Thank you for supporting Equality!

Ellen Klemm

Self

San Antonio, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Amber McFarland

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399.

Vidya Mudaliar

Self

Prosper, TX

I support this bill. Genitally mutilating children is child abuse. Penalizing those who perform the kinds of heinous acts described in this bill is just.

Andrey Grishin, Dr.

HemaOrigins.com

KYLE, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424"

Ralph Zarker

self

Kempner, TX

LGBTQ Texans do not need protection. They made their choice so they need to live with it. Focus on the real priorities not

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WOKENESS. Vote YES on HB 1399" Keep building the wall, get illegal's out of our schools and lower property taxes.

Carlo Klott, Dr

Self

Georgetown, TX

This is a medical issue. Stay out of the lives. Be the party of small government. Take care of the power grid. Listen to the medical experts about Covid.

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Ryan Timmins

Self

Buda, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424!

Susan Minnich, Mrs

PCC

Hudson Oaks, TX

Please support HB1399 for the sake of our children and our future . Ten years ago this crazy thinking would not have even been considered . Children are not able to rightly discern things , as we all well know , given our own lack of discernment as children . I urge all of you to consider how we are all made by an Almighty God and He knew better than a child , or us . Thank you !

Renee Lura

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on the HB 1399

Jeanne O'Brien

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Jennifer Helber

Self

Fort worth, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

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William Fitch

Self/Retired

Kerrville, TX

Request Support for this bill. Children are not ready to make those decisions nor have them force upon them by parents... that's why children don't get driver's licenses until they are 16 and are not allowed to vote until they are 18 and not allowed to drink until they are 21... Children are not able to make such life altering decisions.

M. Dichoso, Ms.

self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid!

Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Thank you for supporting Equality!

Pamela St.Amand, Dr.

self Physician

Beaumont, TX

Chairwoman Klick and Members of the House Public Health Committee:

This letter is written to express my expert and personal opinion on the above proposed bills. I am a Board Certified OB/GYN practicing in the state of Texas for over 35 years, an active member of the American College of OB/GYN, ACOG District XI, which represents the state of Texas, WPATH (World professional Association of Transgender Healthcare), USPATH (United States Professional Association of Transgender Healthcare) and the proud mother of a 37yo transgender son.

It is my opinion that the above bills would cause serious and potentially life threatening harm to transgender youth. When I received my MD from UTMB in 1980, I took an oath to "first do no harm ". I take that oath very seriously to this day. Because of this, I must not remain silent on this issue.

I have been involved in the care of transgender patients since 2007. My husband and I accompanied our son on his journey to transition fourteen years ago beginning at the age of 23. Let me share that story. My son, Colt, graduated from Rice University magna cum laude in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in psychology. He decided to apply to graduate school to pursue a PhD in psychology like his father. On those applications he was out as transgender. My husband and I were both very concerned that this would decrease his chances of being accepted into a doctoral program. However, on the contrary, he was accepted at U of H which honors diversity. He completed his PhD and began working as a clinical psychologist as well as teaching at U of H.

Because he realized the need for physicians to provide medical care for these patients, he decided to take prerequisites for and apply to medical school. He graduated with his MD from UTMB in 2020. He is currently an intern in the Family Medicine Program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. With these credentials his hope is to improve healthcare for transgender youth. He knows the pain and suffering of these young people from personal experience. He wants to help alleviate that pain and suffering through advances in medical care for transgender youth. These bills would be a significant obstruction to that goal in the state of Texas. These bills would curtail current medical practices in our state which are proven to help these young patients. I would like to testify as a physician and a mother that these bills would in fact be life threatening for young transgender Texans. Please take this into consideration as you deliberate your actions on these bills.

Thank you and God bless you for your service to Texas!

Dr. Pamela St. Amand, MD

Maggie Matejcek

Self - Measure Tech

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Kyle, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Nancy Gillespie

Self Nancy Gillespie

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424".

Thank you for supporting Equality!

Sarah Berel-Harrop

self/seminarian

Farmers Branch, TX

This bill is completely unnecessary and will get in the way of children getting life-saving treatment. Medical providers have their own professional standards that protect their patients. For very few other conditions does the state legislature get in the middle of the care conversation between a provider and their patient. It's a very bad precedent that majority rules would override professional standards and evidence-based care. It's discrimination, and the very fact that this bill is being heard is hurtful to trans people and their families.

Please kill this terrible bill.

Jeri Archuleta, Mrs

Human Rights

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

MARTHA BYRAM

Self, essential worker

Manor, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424.

Tom Huth

self - retired

Wimberley, TX

The human body was divinely designed to gradually grow and change throughout one's life. Along with those changes concurrently the mind goes through changes as well, including emotional responses to internal feelings and outside influences. Until a person can seriously deal with the trauma of youth in all of its manifestations, he or she must be given a chance to experience the different facets of life along with the struggles of figuring out their own identity. The added confusion of artificial changes will most likely lead to undesirable mental and emotional responses that could have long term deleterious affect on their

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psyche, especially when made prematurely. If making irreversible changes to their bodies is truly something they must do, let us as adults make sure they are equipped with the mental, physical, and emotional tools that only time can give them. When 1399 is signed into law, it will remove some of the pressure these kids are feeling, from whatever source it comes. Let them mature enough to make an informed, logical, and safe decision. Because adding or subtracting body parts should not be done spontaneously, hastily, or without the knowledge of what those changes have meant to others who have traveled those paths. I am in favor of HB 1399.

Paul Feeser, Mr.

Self

Dallas, TX

There are two sexes. Sexuality is a means of reproduction . There is a huge emotional component in Human sexuality . Like all things Human, it can go badly wrong. The universal norms of Nature should be affirmed ,emotionally and psychologically.

To alter or inhibit the normal and natural development of children, or to chemically castrate or surgically mutilate them, is atrocious. It is beyond imagination that this is practiced in this time and place. Indoctrinating children , to confuse them and rob them of their very identity , is equally child abuse.

These are the worst violations of innocence that can be. We should rescue the children of any abusive parent, especially if they abuse their children in this way. But instilling values , and raising children as they feel is best , as best they can, must be exclusively the right and responsibility of the parents.The State and public institutions should not interfere, except to stop abuse.

There are those who purport to be in the medical profession ,who are making vast sums of money from this ,the most grave perversion of the Hippocratic Oath --- the fundamental principle of which , is "Do No Harm". They should appropriately face the most severe consequences. They should not ever be enabled to this , nor any other atrocity.

" Transgender " is child abuse.The enablers are guilty of the most depraved sellout in history. You cannot be for the LGBT agenda, and be for the children. You must choose, now.

Yvette Hernandez

self

Friendswood (HARRIS), TX

This is part 1 of a 2 part testimony that exceeded the 3000 character limits. I hope that you will consider this testimony when making your decisions.

I have a personal testimony to share with the committee about how I struggled with my sexual identity from the age of 5 years old to the age of 11 years old.

In 1978 after I experienced a very damaging and emotional trauma in my life, I struggled with who God made me to be (a girl). After that traumatic moment in time, I would look in the mirror and hate everything that God had made me. I use to be repulsed by the look of my body and often prayed and asked God to make me into a boy, and fantasized about having a penis and I even practiced using the restroom standing up, like a boy, I use to wear short hair like a boy and loved to do everything like a boy and wear boy clothes. I even use to secretly sneak into the boy's restroom in elementary school, to try to use the boy's restroom- because I identified strongly as a boy. I use to hate my sexual identity as a girl so much that when people would even address me as a girl, a rage would well up inside of me and it made me want to punch them in the face. I was extremely miserable during this

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time in my life, and I often prayed to God that there would be doctors that would be able to help me get a penis so that I could be what I always believed I should have been.

It wasn't until about the age of 11, with reluctance, that I started to embrace my identity as a girl, when I was sexually abused by a male family member at the age of 12.

That experience stifled my desire to continue exploring my acceptance of being a girl and from becoming one in word, thought and deed. I hated myself worse and now had to face another reality that I was "damaged goods".

These challenging times in my life were extremely horrible and later caused me to want to commit suicide twice as a teen. The root of my troubles was still the traumatic event that happened at the age of 5 years old.

Fast forward, 40 + years later and my prayer for sex changes has been answered, but that season of my life has passed and I am happy to report that I am blessed with 2 children , grandmother to 7 grandchildren and foster mom to 2 boys. If the gender altering procedure would have been available to me in the 70's there would be 9 less people in Texas for sure and that is sad to think of how empty my life would have been, trying to put all of the pieces of my life back together again, with no hope of every being what i was truly meant to be. My family has blessed me and I would have robbed myself of motherhood and every joy that comes with it. Bringing life into this world can only be accomplished by a woman and that is the most amazing, beautiful experience that a human being could ever experience. It's life changing. Part 2 of this testimony will be sent in another comments submission. Yvette Hernandez

Yvette Hernandez

self

Friendswood (HARRIS), TX

Yvette Hernandez Testimony Part 2

I felt like an outcast, I felt ashamed, I felt my life had no meaning, no purpose and there was constant darkness all around me. I felt like I was trapped in two worlds, the world in which my trauma would never have happened and the world that I had to create for myself in order to survive the painful experience. The only way I thought I could make that trauma go away is to change my identity. To become someone else to disassociate myself from the moment.

I believe that had I gone through with a gender altering procedure, I would have died - my soul and everything that I was created to be. I may have been alive and breathing, but I would still be trying to fit into this world as a person that has literally mutilated their own body, God given identity and purpose.

With so many young people in our day committing suicide, it's sad to see that had they had the emotional support from the people that are supposed to love them (mother and father) and the patience to see them through any challenging circumstances in their lives, they would have been able to make it through their darkest of days.

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem and gender altering procedures will not be the permanent solution to the emotional problems that are tormenting these children.

The 5 years girl inside of me is pleading with you today, to please don't permit the gender altering procedures to be had on children. I appeal to you to consider also passing HB 803 Equal Parenting bill. I needed my father and I never even had the chance to know him until I was 25 years old. Please, let's start with the most basic and natural approach. Give the children their father's back. Some have never even known who their real fathers are. Please give the men in this country, this state, an opportunity to make a contribution to the family again.

We need them so much.

Thank you for your consideration.

God's blessings to you.

Yvette Hernandez

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Dr Daniel S Cook, Dr.

Self Retired dentist

Kyle, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to JHR 140 for the following reasons:

1.) The Bible states in Genesis that God created in the beginning "male and female"! Either God is called a liar or He was correct in what He created? I do not believe that He is a liar! We believe that God is correct in what is written or we are a fool because the Psalms also says that if we don't believe in God we are a fool! I choose to believe the former.

2. Children are not developed enough in mind or body to choose to change their biological gender from birth. If a child is "choosing" to change their biological gender, it is not coming from them but someone else is "choosing" for them because they haven't developed enough yet to make a decision like this! This is "child abuse"!

Becky Carmichael

Self/self employed

Buda, TX

As a Texan, I fully support this bill.

Liz Rocamontes

self

Carrollton, TX

Please do whatever possible to prevent gender modification of minors. Puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for children are harmful and experimental. Why are we performing surgeries on our children as well? Please stop this cruel and abusive experimentation on our children. Thank you!

Idona Griffith

Self

Austn, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Judy McMahon

Self

Cameron, TX

Stop treatment got gender transition for children

Julia Strock

Self

Austin, TX

I am in full support of this bill, protecting children from irreversible harm in the effort to alleviate emotional trauma stemming from gender dysphoria. Many people who have walked this road ahead of them have testified that procedures and treatments did not in reality change their gender, nor help in any way!

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Valerie Miller

Self, program director at a non-profit

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424.

Hilary Rabeler

self

Southlake, TX

To the House Public Health Committee,

I am submitting my support for HB 1399. Gender modification on anyone underage is child abuse and should be treated as such by insurance companies and anyone rendering service. It is time that Texas takes a stand against immoral actions like this that will destroy the morality of the younger generation. Thank you for upholding the God-given genders that were assigned to us at birth and voting in favor of this bill.

Thank you for your time,
Hilary Rabeler

Julie Baker

Self

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Beverly Roberts, Mrs.

Texas Values

Houston, TX

Despite the common belief, there is no such person as a transgender. There are two genders, with specific DNA and secondary characteristics that are immutable. This fallacy that has been perpetrated on our citizens is a tragedy, with broken bodies and broken hearts in its wake. Stop this insanity now, before more lives are destroyed. I should not be forced to pay for this surgery that mutilates healthy bodies.

Aysha Alexander

Self, Team Lead - EYM Cafes of Texas

Cypress, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Jan Jensen

self

Austin, TX

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I support this bill. Children under the age of 16 are not old enough, experienced enough, knowledgeable enough and haven't reached the level of maturity that would allow them to decide to irrevocably change their gender. I wouldn't even consider asking a child under, say 15 to make a life/body altering decision, any more than I would ask them how to solve the problems of the world, of which there are many. Section 146.012 doesn't even allow anyone under the age of 18 to get a tattoo...really - you need to think long and hard before disagreeing with this bill.

Lisa Humphrey

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

Austin, TX

We write to express our strong opposition to HB 1399. ADL believes that HB 1399 will perpetuate greater harm and a greater propensity for discriminatory treatment towards transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) youth.

HB 1399 places oppressive restrictions on transgender youth by restricting healthcare for some of the most vulnerable children in our state. Not only does it deny young people access to life-saving medical care, but it also sends all TGNC people the message that their government believes that who they are is inherently unworthy of care. This is particularly toxic in a world where anti-trans hate and bias remains. We have a duty to work to dismantle this hate and bias, not contribute to it.

Studies conducted across the country affirm the risks that TGNC youth experience if they do not receive gender affirming care. Already, youth who are transgender or gender non-conforming report “significantly poorer health, lower rates of preventive health checkups, and more nurse office visits than cisgender youth.” A gap already exists between cisgender youth receiving healthcare versus TGNC youth in accessing gender affirming healthcare in schools. The impact of this is both physical and psychological. Over half of TGNC youth report long-term mental health issues, in comparison to the less than 20% of cisgender youth who report long-term mental health issues. Both adolescents and adults who are transgender have high rates of depression, anxiety, eating disorders, self-harm, and suicide – not inherently due to their transgender identity but due to a confluence of factors including “an internal conflict between one’s appearance and identity, limited availability of mental health services, low access to health care providers with expertise in caring for youth who identify as [transgender and gender diverse], discrimination, stigma, and social rejection.” These disparate, negative physical and mental health effects impact TGNC young people’s long-term ability to take care of themselves financially and find sustainable work, contributing to TGNC youth becoming adults who are treated like second class citizens. These disparities are only exacerbated when taking into consideration TGNC youth who identify as an ethnic or racial minority. Presently, Native American, Black, Latinx, and multiracial TGNC adults are reported to be uninsured at higher rates than their white peers and all TGNC adults of color fear seeing a primary care physician at higher rates than their white peers. These realities – higher rates of suicide and self-harm, anxiety, and disparate health outcomes – are directly related to policy choices made at both the federal and state level across the country that discriminate against TGNC youth.

TGNC youth have the right to engage with and be treated by healthcare providers in a manner that honors their gender identity and expression. We strongly urge you to reject this irresponsible and harmful legislation.

melinda chavarria

self

el paso, TX

please support HB 1399 by Matt Krause. What is being done to these innocent children is an injustice. thank you.

Barbara Woodroof

Self-Retired

Gunter, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Gender transitioning is mutilation of of an individual. In the case of a child it is child abuse. Children cannot make a rational decision to change his/her gender when they are not able to even know what any of these treatments

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actually will do to them. We are the only ones that can protect these children from a life time decision that can routine their life. This bill needs to make it to the floor of the House.

Thank you for your consideration. Barbara Woodroof

Kairi Chacon

Self (Highschool Student)

Weslaco, TX

Hello, my name is Kairi. I am transgender, non-binary and I recently turned 18 a week ago. I am aware that I am no longer a child and in my experience as a trans person, I have no desire to transition hormonally. However, my experience is not enough to speak for other transgender people, especially trans youth. If I were still 17, I would tell you that I am not naive, I know my gender identity because it has always been with me. It is not something that I just picked off the ground and made a part of me. I do not identify as non-binary, I am non-binary and therefore, I am trans. Children are not too young, innocent or naive to grasp gender identity. It is their identity and it is a part of them, they will know if they want hormone therapy or puberty blockers because they are human. They are capable of understanding themselves just as much as you are. This debate on whether or not transgender youth deserve gender-affirming medical care is not helping anyone, it is only harming transgender children and the families and friends that support them. A child's gender identity does not, in any way, affect you as a cisgendered individual. Your beliefs and actions on this bill will affect their lives, random children that you do not even know. If you put this bill in place, you are denying transgender youth their ability to feel comfortable in the body they did not ask for. You will deny transgender youth the chance to ease any dysphoria they might possibly have. The suicidal rate for transgender youth is higher than their cisgendered counterparts and its mostly due to the lack of acceptance they face. Withholding them of their right to gender-affirming health care will only increase the rate, considering that puberty blockers in the long term has decreased the chance of depression. I urge you to reconsider HB1399 because it is harmful and destructive to transgender youth and, frankly, it is selfish. This will kill transgender youth, there are many lives at stake if this bill is passed. If you are cisgendered, you do not know what it is like to be transgender, you do not know their lives and you do not know the struggle they face in terms of dysphoria so you should not speak on how they handle their transition. Don't be selfish.

Linda Miller

Self

Austin, TX

Leave medical issues to medical people. This is about infringing on MY freedoms. If you take medical decisions away from one group of people, you could start doing that to me!! Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Elise Krentzel

Kumi Consulting & Co.

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Samantha Foss

Self, social worker

Austin, TX

My name is Samantha Foss and my zip code is 78750. I am a long-time Texan and strongly oppose HB 1399. This bill will target doctors who provide crucial transition-related care to trans patients. This bill, if passed, will create insurmountable barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care for trans people, and especially vital for

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children. Whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their guardian(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. I urge the Committee members to vote against both HB 1399.

Mary Stringer

self

Plano, TX

I am a wife, mother and daughter and many other things, but it is as a mother that I speak to you today.

I became active in local politics (I'm a precinct chair in Collin County, PCT 58) only recently when I could no longer ignore the very real onslaught against our children. Children are the most vulnerable amongst us and the most profound blessing. They are quite literally the future and it is a future that I see protected through bills like HB1399. This bill will ensure children can explore their personalities and preferences without the pressures of misguided adults who would like to indelibly label them and then perform radical and highly invasive procedures on their bodies and souls before they have even reached a level of maturity recognized by science, the US government or even their own physiology.

I am for freedom. I want to see the freedoms of children protected. I want children to be free to explore, pretend, dream, and live. And perhaps even one day, change their minds. Haven't we all changed our minds about something? Haven't we perhaps decided we'd like to pursue a new career, a new city, or we've decided we don't want to be married to the same person anymore. And while all those choices have consequences, as adults, we are free to pursue those changes. As adults we have responsibilities according to society that we would never enforce on a child.

Minors are treated differently in society and differently according to the law. They rightly do not have the same weight of accountability that an adult has. They are viewed differently because they are not mature. And cognitive and physiological maturity ONLY happen over time. This is why we have ages at which you can be recognized as an adult. At 18 you can die for your country and be recognized as an adult. And this is the age that any and all gender modification procedures should also ONLY be allowed.

We are all born with physical sex parts. Give these children until the age of 18 to decide what they want to do about how they are born. It is the bare minimum they are due in this world that begins its shouting messages before they can even understand fully. There should be no rush to begin these gender modifications.

Let us give them the most precious commodity in the world, time.

Michelle McGalliard

self - Executive Assistant

Austin, TX

Ptoteck LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Julie Lack

Self

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Eva Esparza

Self

Austin, TX

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Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! It's only April and Texans are being asked to use less because our power grid is so fragile! Please focus on real issues. Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424 Thank you for supporting Equality!

Lauren Mangini, PhD, RD

Self - consultant

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399.

Pat Bulla, Ms.

self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB 1399.

Caitlyn Macaluso

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Amy Rigall

self - teacher

Lake Dallas, TX

I strongly support prohibitions against gender transitioning surgeries and cross-sex hormone and hormone-blocking treatments for minors. It is normal and good for risky medical practices to be prohibited or closely monitored. The fact that this area deals with gender identity should not be a justification for allowing minors, who are not yet old enough to watch an R rated movie, vote, smoke, drink, get a tattoo, or vote, to make a decision that will permanently disfigure their bodies and likely cause permanent sterility. The desire to transition is often short-lived and many young adults seek to de-transition. The toll on children is not only physical, but psychological. What is said to "affirm" causes severe damage <https://sexchangeregret.com/transition-treatment-harms-kids-veteran-psychiatrist-at-uk-gender-clinic-says/>. I implore you to not allow children to become the victims of social trends. Sincerely, a concerned mom.

Michael Archuleta

Self

AUSTIN, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Kyra Henderson

Self

Austin, TX

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My name is Kyra Henderson and my zip code is 78704. I have only lived in Texas for 3 years; however, I have been a long time advocate for the rights of trans people. I strongly oppose HB 1399. This bill will target doctors who provide crucial transition care to trans patients. If passed, this bill will create insurmountable barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare for which there is frankly no justification. Gender-affirming care saves trans lives and is particularly vital for children. Whether or not a transgender child will start medical transition is a decision that needs to be made by the child, their guardian(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. I urge the Committee members to vote against HB 1399.

Drew Knight

Self

Austin, TX

I object to this bill. Gender affirming care is a decision that should be made between the individuals involved. It should not be determined by outside state legislators.

Tamara Copeland

My Trans Child/ Substitute Teacher

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality!

Donna McIlveen

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vote NO on bills targeting our transgender youth.

Claudia Stravato, Ms

Self Professor

Amarillo, TX

My grandchild is transitioning to a boy.

He is 16 years old and spent two years under psychological care and treatment to make sure he fully understood what he was doing. He is now under the care of a pediatrician who has started him on testosterone.

Why would you even care what course of care he and his physician are taking? What is it to you? Intruding into the doctor patient relationship is wrong and un-American.

My grandson is an outstanding student and an ethical and upstanding person who is fully supported by his immediate family and his friends.

Please don't start prohibiting medical care and insurance coverage for something you. Neither understand or respect.

My grandson is a citizen of the United States and is due all the rights and responsibilities of all citizens. Try reading the 14th Amendment if you don't believe me.

Theo Coonrod

Self

Austin, TX

I write to strongly disapprove of the passage of HB1399 and HB1424. As a high school educator of 47 years, I have known hundreds of young people, a number of whom were LBGTT students and, I would learn after they graduated, transgendered. Why

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on earth would we want to disadvantage these bright, ambitious, law-abiding, people, who want what everyone else wants in America--life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness? The science shows that people do not choose their gender or sexual persuasion on the spectrum, anymore than they choose their parents place of birth, color of their skin, or ethnicity. Sometimes genetics creates a human being whose sex organs do not match their gender. These folks deserve support and compassion, not condemnation. They, too, are God's children. They deserve to live authentic lives without discrimination, which these bills would codify into law. Why? To look at them as a threat to society is to diminish them. . . . and, more pointedly, to diminish the rest of us. Is intolerance what we want Texas to be known for? Not I. Please do not pass these bills. Those who vote for it are standing on the wrong side of history, the wrong side of humanity, and the wrong side of love.

Wendy Lerner
self,s. indivisible
Austin, TX

Please oppose 1399. All we are doing is hurting our children and more of them will committ suicide.

Wendy Kalthoff
self,s. indivisible
Austin, TX

Please oppose this bill. It should be between the family and the doctor, who have to make the decision with the child.

Meredith Lancaster
Self
Coupland, TX

Transgender people should be able to make choices for themselves as to the gender by which they identify. Who they are is not hurting anyone. Please don't use your Bibles as a weapon to force compliance with your religion. That is state sponsored religion and, in fact, heresy, at it's worst in my opinion.

Craig Copeland
My trans child
Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans. Protect my child! Focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399. Thank you for supporting Equality!

David Aguilar
Self
Austin, TX

HB 1399: My name is David Aguilar and my zip code is 78705. I am a long-time Texan and strongly oppose HB 1399. This bill will target doctors who provide crucial transition-related care to trans patients. This bill, if passed, will create insurmountable barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care for trans people, and especially vital for children. Whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their guardian(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. I urge the Committee members to vote against HB 1399.

Laurie Coffin
N/A

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Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1399. Politicians should not be making healthcare decisions for any Texas residents, including transgender youth.

Adam Werner

None

Fort Worth, TX

I am in opposition of passing this bill as it would enable health care providers to withhold both elective and necessary care from youth due to arbitrary choices based on the provider's own definitions of morality and therefore endangers young people's health.

Josephine June

self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Andrea Robison

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Jeremy Moran

Self-voice actor and radio personality

Fort Worth, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 142

Dallis Lofton

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Missie Carra, Mrs

Self/Homemaker

Fort Worth, TX

Hello, my name is Missie Carra from Fort Worth. I am a mother of two girls ages 18 and 14, and I SUPPORT HB1399.

There are few things that break a parent's heart more than for their child to experience anxiety/depression, low self-esteem, loneliness, and/or bullying. I for one, can speak to this first hand, but also recognize that few, if any, escape childhood without experiencing all of these things.

In the past, parents helped their kids handle these issues with careful listening, guidance, support of family and friends, and The Lord. Most often, with a little time, encouragement, and support, most kids got through it, often times stronger than before.

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But now, parents, kids, doctors, teachers, and society as a whole are bombarded with a cultural lie. The media, healthcare system, and schools claim that children who experience these difficult things mentioned above, are actually just confused and gender dysphoric and need something much more life altering to feel better. Gender Modification.

This faulty thinking has now run completely out of control. So much so, that now, we're here in Texas, debating whether or not it should be legal to treat a minor child with permanent, life altering, and might I add, very dangerous hormone 'therapies' and gender modifying surgeries! It's truly unbelievable! I ask you Texas House, how.did.we.get.here?!?

Honestly, I feel that no amount of reasoning will break through the noise at the Capitol this spring. I'd originally planned to give you data, statistics, and a more professional summary of why this kind of treatment is completely unethical and unnecessary. But honestly, here late in the night, on a paper you will most likely not read, all I can muster is 'enough is enough'. And, wonder if you can see that it is enough? No parent or doctor should ever subject a minor child to this kind of horror.

Chemical and surgical gender modification on a minor child is life-altering, permanent, horrific child-abuse. Period.

Therefore, I support HB 1399, and ask that you all vote FOR it.

With respect, Missie Carra

Alexander Burns

Self, editor, oil and gas industry

Denton, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid. Vote No on HB 1399 And HB 1424. These bills are monstrous.

Lawrence Lamb

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Casey Monroe

Self - Unemployed

Lakeside, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

LOUIS GOODWIN, Mr.

self

Houston, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! How about legalization of Medical Marijuana? Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Monica Huereca

Self, retail

Houston, TX

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I am a transgender woman. Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

James Schwane, Dr., Ph.D.

Self

Whitehouse, TX

I am the father of 3 adult daughters and grandfather of 6 ranging in age from 5 to 18. I cannot imagine the psychological pains that accompany gender dysphoria and sympathize with children and their care givers that must deal with that disorder. The answer, however, is not to intervene medically, anatomically and physiologically with children in such cases. I strongly support HB 1399 (as well as HB 68, 2693 and 4014), which will safeguard Texas children from such interventions. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a fitting time to enact legislation to prevent the abuse of children that is so-called "gender transition."

Anna Bulloch

Self

Houston, TX

This persecution of trans children and their families is vile and deeply harmful. Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424.

Miriam Barberena

self

Austin, TX

The treatment of children should be left to their doctors, parents, and themselves. This is an over-reach of government. Focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Sarah Crawford

N/A

DALLAS, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Linda Xiong

Self and nonprofit professional

Austin, TX

My name is Linda Xiong and my zip code is 78748. I am writing to strongly oppose HB 1399. This bill will target doctors who provide crucial transition-related care to trans patients. This bill, if passed, will create insurmountable barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care for trans people, and especially vital for children. Whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their guardian(s), and their doctor, not state legislators. I urge the committee to vote against HB 1399.

Amanda Russell

Self

San Antonio, TX

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Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Sorell Ker`

self

Carrollton, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

myrka moreno

self, social media coordinator

san antonio, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399

Jacob Brown

Self, Renewable Energy Developer

Houston, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Cynthia MacAdam

Self

Katy, TX

I'm writing in support of HB 1399.

The one sided affirm only model puts vulnerable children, like my daughter, at risk.

I'm the mother of an autistic daughter with rapid onset gender dysphoria. I know first hand these children need safe, ethical support and care, not blanket affirmation, drugs and surgery. After being seduced by predatory online transgender influencers, my daughter "came out" as transgender at the age of 14.

Before this she had never shown signs of being uncomfortable or unhappy being a girl. As a concerned parent I did what I thought was best- I took her to see her doctor who after a few brief questions declared her "transgender" and told me that I must affirm "him" or risk losing my child to suicide.

My daughter's gender identity has been "affirmed" without question or concern of her other diagnosis. No doctor or therapist I've talked with is concerned about the surge of autistic girls presenting as transgender. They dismiss me condescendingly and tell me to "listen to the experts" and accept my daughter is a boy.

The unprecedented rise in the number of girls transitioning needs to be investigated and studied. Instead these girls are being put on a conveyor belt towards medical/surgical transition and this feels much more political than medical. I beg of you to listen to a parent who would do anything for her daughter, who loves her so much that I am willing to risk our close relationship to protect her from needles and knives of doctors and drug companies cashing in on confused young children and their parents.

The fact those daring to question the trans ideology are vilified as bigots, accused of wanting to see "children die" should give everyone pause. Why are they afraid of scientific studies? What is the hurry? They've weaponized suicide against parents, doctors, scientists and researchers who dare question them. The state says these children are too young to drive a car, have a drink, vote or get a tattoo but somehow we're supposed to believe they're able to consent to a lifetime of expensive and potentially

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dangerous medication, the possibility of being unable to have children themselves?

I urge of you to pass HB 1399 along with the bills in the senate to stop the reckless and political experimentation on children, at least until more research done on the long term effects. Transgender child treatments have not been tested under the normal rigorous clinical trials like every other branch of medicine. Please think critically and ask yourselves why the sudden increase in numbers of transgender children? Read Abigail Shrier's book Irreversible Damage--The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters for a perspective you're not hearing from mainstream media and the medical/mental health professionals. There is much more to this story, and being cautious when it comes to children's health and well being should be the ultimate goal.

Thank you.

Cynthia MacAdam

Janet Russo Wallick

Self/librarian

Houston, TX

I am a transsexual woman. I was born male and socially and medically transitioned to live as if I was a woman at the age of 40. Just like the children that you are considering today, I experienced gender dysphoria or as it was known then, gender identity disorder, starting at a very young age. I was even diagnosed as likely transsexual at the age of 16. My younger self likely would have given anything to have puberty blockers and HRT available.

However, unlike most of the transgender adults you will receive testimony from, I urge you to please pass this bill. Transition, especially medical transition is a decision that will impact almost every aspect of your life. No child or teen can fully understand the impact. Even a lot of adults don't, until they experience it.

You will hear testimony that puberty blockers are safe and reversible. Truth is we don't know the long term impact of the extended use required by dysphoria children. We also don't know the impact of artificial hormones over the course of 60-70 years, You will be told that puberty blocker simply give children time to explore their gender and make sure they want to transition, but the truth is that they are most often given AFTER a social transition. This means a choice has already been made.

You will hear that dysphoric children will kill themselves without this treatment. But you will hear that from transgender adult after transgender adult, all or at least the vast majority did not receive this treatment as children or teens. We made it, these children can too. What they need is thorough therapy to explore their dysphoria and the knowledge that transition is possible once they are an adult. Just like all suicidal people, if a child is suicidal because of dysphoria they need treatment for being suicidal.

Transgender adults will tell you they wish they had had this treatment as children. The truth is, they have their idealized fantasy of what they think their life would have been like, dreams of a childhood they think they missed out on. They will tell you that medical transition is something that parents and doctors can consent to on the behalf of children. However, it is not their parents or doctors that will have to live with the consequences of this treatment.

I am happy that I transitioned, but I'm glad I did it as an adult. I had the maturity to understand aspects of this that I'd never thought of as a teen. Children and teens feel that months are a lifetime, that everything is the most serious thing ever. They lack perspective. Please, I implore you not to let children make such an important decision.

Laura Blair

Self

Mesquite, TX

Please allow children to become adults before allowing them to change their bodies.

Katherine Miller

Self

Austin, TX

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Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424.

Benjamin Lin

self

Austin, TX

Please, don't make trans people's lives harder than they already are. Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Melinda Tunnell, Concerned Texas citizen, conservative, Christian, wife, mother and grandmother.

Self/ retired

Poolville, TX

Please help us protect the children of this State and Nation from those who would have children mutilated surgically by gender modification. Children under the age of 21 today are confused, lied to, mislead and deceived I to believe if that somehow the God of the Universe, creator of all life and living things who created male and female from the beginning of time has somehow made a mistake and now a child gets to decide what gender he/she will be. Children do not make their own choices and for good reason. They do not have the maturity, knowledge or understanding to make choice for their safety, health or education. That is why we as parents and grandparents are there to guide and help lead them in these devotions. This Bill I believe helps ensure that gender modifications are not decided upon by children or for children until they are of an age that they can understand what is being done and why. Parents who would even consider this atrocity for their children would be as deceived and mislead as their children. Gender modification is Not a fad, a fashion statement, popularity modification or for their mental health. It is detrimental to their mental development because they are not male or female by decision.....it is by design from God. He made them male or female according to design physically, mentally and physiologically. Modifying it only make it worse when they realize down the road that they hate who they have become. Please, please protect our children! Allow this Bill to protect children under the age of 21 from having ANY paid for gender modification. We must honor God and his design of male and female. Thank you! I am praying for you as you search your own hearts for the truth and Gods leading.

Sarah Beck

self

AUSTIN, TX

Let's support our trans kids and believe them when they tell us what their gender identity is. Texas, stay out of our children's gender decisions.

David Brett

Self / software engineer

Austin, TX

Please protect our LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Richard B Swint

Swint Ent

Paris, TX

Every cell in a human is genetically coded male or female. That is proof you cannot change the sex of a human?

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Diane Le
Self - food service
Houston, TX

The services provided under such labels are already being provided to cisgender children with no need to jump through hoops. Affirming their gender saves lives, and doctors supposedly take oaths to do no harm. Stop interfering in the lives of transgender individuals.

Joshua Saiewitz
self Video game developer
Round Rock, TX

As a trans person, I find this proposal horrific and abhorrent.

I urge this body to protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399.

Faye Archip
self Video
Austin, TX

protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Sarah Hammomd
Self
Fort Worth, TX

We need to protect our children from making permanent decisions as minors. Allowing procedures that remove sexual body parts and attempting to change a child's gender is abuse and is not healthcare. This only adds to their confusion and has permanent consequences. Children have parents and expect their parents to act in their best interest. This could never be anyone's best interest. Please hear our plea to stop this abuse and prohibit any minor from being able to make decisions that will alter their body forever.

Konner Earnest
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Pass this in to law in the honor of the livelihood of James Younger and kids like him across the state of Texas. If this life changing surgery is really what a minor diagnosed with "gender dysphoria" demands then it must be good enough o wait for until they become an adult. Stop the feminization of young men and the masculinization of young women. There are two genders. Pass this bill affirms all of these things.

Kiara Nicholson
Self, educator
Austin, TX

I am a Texan that strongly oppose HB 1399 and I urge the Committee members to vote against HB 1399. This bill will target doctors who provide crucial transition-related care to transgender patients. This bill, if passed, will create insurmountable barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care for transgender people, and especially vital for children. Whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their guardian(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. Again, I urge the Committee members to vote against HB 1399. The lives and health of Texans depends on it.

Mykal Johnston

self

granbury, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Irvin Del Angel, Dr.

Self - resident physician

Harlingen, TX

I am writing in support for HB 1399 in that it is of utmost importance that there be prohibitions on treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria in children. These life altering procedures should not be allowed and not be legal to be performed in children. Such procedures have a profoundly negative impact on the life of a child and for the life of that child into adulthood. Gender dysphoria should not be approached with radical treatments such as gender transitioning or reassignment. A child's mind is very dynamic and undergoing many changes during childhood and adolescence and to perform such drastic and life-altering procedures at such an age is unethical and immoral. If gender reassignment and transitioning are allowed in minors, what will be your response to them once they have irreversible changes to them they wished later in adulthood they would have not have had? Please protect our children and support HB1399.

Kailea Humphreys

Self

Dallas, TX

I support HB 1399 and ask all members of the House to support HB 1399. We cannot allow minors to make life-altering decisions on body mutilating procedures and irreversible hormonal treatments.

Terri Welch, Mrs

Self, writer

Houston, TX

Protect all children.

Jose Saenz

Self

McAllen, TX

We should never alter children mentally or physically. Until that child matures and is mentally able as an adult to make their own choices. This is an act of bullying which we forbid because of the mental and physical damage done to children by children. Now we have adults that want to emotionally harm children. We as adults must understand the damage mentally that will be endured by such an altered child by their peers. Any adult who believes within themselves that this change is okay should lead us to wonder the mental state of an individual who believes this. We as adults must always protect children not abuse them!

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Simina Farcasiu

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill. Please enact it into law.

Camilla Schrader

Self

Taylor, TX

This would cause direct harm to children, and frankly I don't understand why this is even considered unless this Krause is a cartoon villain trying to spread blight on children. Seriously. prohibiting children from getting healthcare?! Perhaps you should use your own insurance to seek therapy because you're clearly deeply troubled and are lashing out at children.

Michelle DeLadurantey

Myself

Luling, TX

As a parent of 11 and grandparent of 18 I support this bill to protect those not mature enough to make permanent health decisions. We as adults need to stand against a culture that pushes an agenda on those least capable of understanding the consequences of those choices. If a child can't buy a cigarette, vote, drive a car, purchase a gun why do we think they are wise enough to make a permanent physically altering choice. Some one needs to act like adults let it be this body of legislators. It is time to stop the madness being perpetrated upon our most vulnerable, our children.

David Welch, Rev.

Texas Pastor Council

Houston, TX

It is unthinkable that in a society in which we protect children from physical abuse that leaves only temporary marks or wounds would allow the intentional, permanent damage and alteration of their bodies and minds. The tiny percentage, less than one percent according to the Centers for Disease Control, of children with an actual physical condition related to their reproductive organs should be treated as such and with care, however this in no way relates to the intentional alteration of an otherwise healthy child with or without a parent's knowledge or consent. This bill protects children until they are adults capable and responsible for their own life and medical decisions of this permanent nature and should be adopted into law in Texas. As pastors of "every color, every corner" charged with the spiritual and moral leadership of our congregations and communities we can stand for no less.

Charles Busbey, MAJ

self

Dripping Springs, TX

This bill desperately needs to be passed. Young children's lives and futures are at stake in this gender-change nonsense.

MALACHI BIFFLE

Self, call center manager

Houston, TX

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Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424! This bill and the others going through the house and senate targeting trans youth and their parents are a disgusting attack on Texans' civil liberties and right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

Jensie Madden

Self- Retired Educator

Fischer, TX

Please OPPOSE HB 1399. I am appalled that elected officials feel they can make decisions regarding what is appropriate medical procedures and treatments for young people. Surely these difficult decisions are best left to the affected young people, their parents, and physicians. In a situation that I am familiar with, this decision comes only after extensive family and individual counseling with a psychiatrist and a pediatric endocrinologist. In what way are you qualified to judge medical procedures that are designed to improve the mental health of the patients? It is not the place of government to interfere in medically recommended health care for transgender youth.

Laura Srygley

Self, LMT

Austin, TX

"Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424" Thank you for supporting Equality

Shannon Elkins

Self, teacher

Grapevine, TX

The more Texas outlaws life-saving care for young transgender Texans, the more business we will lose. This bill is over reaching and does not represent our conservative, freedom-minded Texas values. We will lose countless young Texans to suicide due to this bill. Please stop it.

Shelley McCarty

Self homemaker

Aledo, TX

Stand against gender modification for children!! This is wrong. These children are not mature enough to know what they're doing.

Jeffrey McCarty

TMJ Diagnostics

Aledo, TX

Stop destroying the lives of children. Do not allow gender modification!

Megan Dyer

Self/public citizen (writer)

Plano, TX

This bill is completely inappropriate in every regard. The House has no right to interfere with private business or with medical

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decision-making. This is undue interference and this nonsense should be stopped so legislators can focus on the real needs of Texas — a stable power grid, holding those in power responsible for corruption, and balancing the budget. This bill is a waste of time and resources and Rep. Krause should be censured for drafting it and giving Texas a bad name.

Jennifer Nowzaradan

Self

Blanco, TX

Please consider that children and young adults make decisions that they regret because of many factors: brain development, processing trauma or ptsd, phases, peer pressure or adult influences. I have seen a mother raise her son to believe that he was a girl all because she the mother wanted a daughter. This behavior was spoon fed. There are many circumstances to consider and children should be protected. Only grown adults should have the choice to make gender modification decisions.

Garrett Finney

Self

Houston, TX

All, It makes me deeply sad and angry to need to write this letter. There are 10,000 more important things to do than threaten defenseless children and caretaking adults and medical professionals for serving the medical needs of transgender kids and adults. The only possible reason to do this profoundly invasive and anti-conservative act is to scare people for the purpose of political gain and making money of your dupes ignorance. Shame on you. Shame on you for basic moral failures. Shame on you, if being christian is your justification, for not having the foggiest notion what Jesus was saying. You also are ignorant of science and actively ignoring every major medical associations recommendations. You are actively working against savings kids lives. Why? I know and love a good number of transgender people. I live with them, work with them, learn and laugh with them. I do this everyday. For all you know you do too and it has not been an issue or a problem. But you are making it one. You are actively working against the greater good. Why? The clear answers are not moral, are not kind, have no love, are the most extremely cynical. Who will be your next target? because that is how you work. Disgusting. I hope you find the live in your hearts to support and celebrate everyone's individuality. I work at that every day and I hope you find it in yourselves to do the same.

Bailey Bond

self

Celina, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Janet Dudding

Self

Bryan, TX

STRONGLY OPPOSE

Michael Woodson, Dr.

self, Scientist

Galveston, TX

In 1930s Germany, the nazi party rose to power by constructing a narrow vision of what "Real Germans" were, and stoking fear and hatred of those citizens who didn't fit in to this narrow vision. History hasn't focused on this, but turning the populace against transgender germans was an important part of this project. The famous book burnings of May 10 1933 included an attack on the Institute for Sexual Science and the destruction of all 12000 books it held. Americans have become increasingly willing to put

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aside their principles to ensure their side wins, but I hope it will still give us pause when we find ourselves following in the footsteps of adolph hitler. Please vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Colin Whitfill

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote NO on this bill. Prohibiting gender affirming medical procedures will only cause harm to many Texans. Thank you.

Kelly Bennett

Self

Lubbock, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

I am a family physician in Texas who has a practice of transgender medicine with approximately three hundred patients. Of those I have treated over thirty children and teenagers. I have had several with severe gender dysphoria with suicidal ideation and attempts who providing them puberty blockers or gender affirming hormones were literally life saving. I have seen individuals go from withdrawn depressed teens to happy well adjusted young transmen and transwoman due to the transgender affirming care I have given them. Please do not take away their place in this world. They are people too and their lives are just as important. Please vote against these bills to criminalize care or deny care by denying providers' professional insurance coverage. Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Ingram

Self

Ft. Worth, TX

We adults must advocate for our children. They need protection while minors and their parents should be able to protect them. We parents and grandparents are counting on our legislators to do what is right in order to protect the innocent. Personally, growing up, I was a tomboy, playing ball, climbing trees, etc. Thankfully, my parents saw this as normal and I outgrew this choice by 13. They NEVER would have suggested that I trans into a boy. Have we lost our minds ??
PLEASE PASS HB 1399!

Michael Ptacin

Self, musician and educator

Dallas, TX

This bill is directly harmful to young Texans by vilifying and denying gender affirming care. These decisions should be left solely to patients and their medical providers. Denying treatment to one of the most vulnerable populations leaves them more likely to suffer from depression and leads to higher rates of suicidal ideation. The writing, submission, and further consideration of this dangerously harmful legislation proves this House has no interest in the actual welfare of these children but simply desires to participate in transphobic fear-mongering to conserve their own political power. Listen to the youth and the parents and medical providers of these children and stop this harmful attack.

Caroline Juszczak

Self, Senior Program Manager at an IT company

Dripping Springs, TX

It is shocking to me that a bill like this even needs to exist. Parents make terrible decisions every day, projecting their thoughts and insecurities on their children. How many adults spend their lives in therapy trying to undo what was done to them in their

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childhoods? At least there is a chance for them. There is no undoing the physical altering of a child. That a parent would even think to suggest elective surgery of any kind for their child should put their judgement in question. To press such a radical decision on a child who has not fully developed physically and not fully developed mentally in order to make their own decisions is nothing short of child abuse. Please pass this bill to protect the children who should be allowed to make their own informed decisions when they become of age.

Erika Vermillion

Self

Victoria, TX

In opposition to HB 1399:

I truly feel that these bills will do more harm than good to our great nation. We are a single human race with several diversities and this is just one of the many ways in which people are created and should be respected. As a sister to a gay man, he has always stated, 'I was born this way.' I firmly believe that statement and in my heart I would hate for him not to have the same rights as his heterosexual sister, simply because of laws. I am saddened that this country that embraces progression has taken a turn to digress in such negative ways. Please listen to the people, listen to those this will discriminate against, it is not fair.

Kalin LaPlace

Self

Denton, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

This bill will directly harm children seeking to become their true selves. Being trans and loving trans people is not a felony.

Anne McKinnerney

Self - Volunteer

AUSTIN, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this legislation. This bill discourages doctors from providing best practice transition care by prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering transition related care. In effect, it will completely deter the age-appropriate, evidence-based, private, life-saving care that is thoughtfully crafted in consultation with teams of medical healthcare experts, parents/guardians, and transgender youth. I cannot see any reason why this would be acceptable. This does nothing but cause harm to LGBTQ+ human beings who deserve compassion and care, not cruelty and exclusion. Please do the right thing and reject this extremely harmful legislation. Thank you.

Madeline Barbier

Self, Editor

Waco, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424.

Kathryn Broussard

self / quality analyst

Stafford, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399

Sydney Mills

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self, student

San Antonio, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Autumn Hernandez

Self

Montgomery, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

My name is Autumn Hernandez and I am AGAINST HB 1399. It is clear to me that we are allowing bigotry to take center stage and try to prosecute people who know more about their own lived experience. This bill is obviously ill informed and ignorant and blatantly denies scientific facts in honor of fear and hatred. Allowing a trans child to take hormone blockers, which are safe and prescribed to cis children for other reasons, should be an available choice. They are completely reversible. This state needs to do better and step into a place of love and empathy. The harm they are doing now will have ripple effects should this be allowed to pass. If this state really wants to end child abuse maybe it should take a look at the widespread acceptance of spanking and hitting despite all the evidence against its harm.

Rexine Howell

none

San Marcos, TX

I support this bill.

Ismael Garza

Self; Data Analyst and IT Support

Houston, TX

In light of verifiable science, medicine, and expert research in the field, I find it deplorable that Republican leadership in Texas has an incessant desire to impress its backwards, anti-intellectual and anti-science views and perspectives upon all the people of the state because they simply decide to disagree with science, medicine, and research-based evolution in the realms of gender. My hope is that ANY politician that goes against science and continues to promote and purport falsehoods that lead any people in the wrong direction, will be ultimately indicted for crimes against humanity. For brainwashing their constituents for believing falsehoods for political gain and control of the masses. History will prove out your very real corruption. AND you will be voted out, even with the suppression you are actively imposing.

Merri Michaels

Adult Education

Houston, TX

I fully support HB 1399 filed my Matt Krause. Gender change/modification procedures should not be performed on minor children. Consequences of such acts on the bodies of minors have unknown consequences on their future lives. I request and expect my legislators to support HB 1399.

Asher Giotis

self

Cedar Park, TX

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In no way do I think the state of Texas should have any say so over how parents raise their children, nor should they tell trained medical providers how to provide care. This bill holds bias at the forefront, and is dangerous to all persons freedoms. Parents of gender diverse children face many struggles, but their children's safety and well being should be the goal of any parent. I am against this bill and would appeal to you to kick this to the curb and focus on more pressing matters.

Jennifer Kramer

Self

Austin, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

As a mom to two wonderful children who are figuring out who they are, I know how quickly children can change their minds, but also how strong their convictions can be when they know a fundamental truth. My children know what is right and what is wrong, they know what is fair, they know who they are, and they know that other people can't decide for them who they are. It is my duty, as their parent, to guide them and protect them until they're able to live in the world as adults. Some children are transgender. I was, but I didn't have the tools to say it when I was a young Texan back in the 90's. People don't transition lightly. I did it at 42 and lost friends and family because of it. It's really, really, really hard and the only upside is that you get to finally be yourself. The rate of people who detransition for reasons aside from family pressure is less than 1%, which means that for every 1 child who may not go through puberty until a few years after they normally would, this bill would subject 99 kids to a lifetime of feeling like an alien in their own bodies. A lifetime of looking in the mirror in anguish. A lifetime of 'my parents knew what I was going through, and there were well accepted medical options to prevent it, but the state wouldn't let them help me'. This bill will inflict undue pain on thousands of Texans, and it deprives Texas parents of their right to parent their children. It is the state getting squarely between a parent, a child, and a doctor, and determining what care is valid and what care is not, all because a few people are afraid of a world where people don't fit in convenient little blue and pink boxes. But people have never fit into convenient little pink and blue boxes. People come in all kinds, and in their uniqueness and differences there is beauty and in understanding that, there is grace. If children can understand what is right and what is wrong, and that other people can't tell them who they are, then the Texas legislature should understand it can't tell Texas's children who they are, and it should understand that this bill is wrong.

Stephen DeVilbiss

self - enrollment clerk for online public schools

College Station, TX

I am highly opposed to HB 1399

I understand that supporters of HB 1399 don't understand what it means to be transgender and truly neither do I. However, I've known many transgender people. When they are forced to live as a gender they don't feel is correct, their mental health declines severely. Often leading to suicidal ideations and many times to death. When a transgender person is allowed gender-affirming care and treatment, they immediately report that they've stopped having suicidal thoughts. I see them smiling and happy. It is extraordinarily rare for a child who reports that they are not the gender that is the same as the sex indicated by their genitals for that to change later in life, despite the pressure from family and legislators to play along. I am not asking you to become supportive of transgender people. I am ask you to keep the government out of their medical and lifestyle choices.

Robert Allison

US and Texas Citizens

Blanco, TX

I urge the members of this committee to pass HB 1399 and protect the youth of Texas. We would not allow a physician to remove a child's healthy leg, arm, nose, ear or other appendage based on how that child felt. We do not allow our children to receive tattoos, scarring or cosmetic surgeries. We must not allow children to be surgically mutilated, chemically castrated, chemically sterilized, or genetically modified. These kids have only one chance for their bodies to develop naturally. No amount of surgery or drugs can restore what their body would have done naturally. To deny them the full development of their organs, reproductive

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or otherwise, is unconscionable and criminal. There is an argument that some children may not feel that their biological sex matches their preferred sex. What if their feelings change and their preferred sex no longer matches their medically altered sex? The damage is irreparable and you have allowed an impressionable child to be cheered on to chemical and physical mutilation that cannot be undone. If they are adults and make this decision on their own, then they are welcome to live as they see fit but, they would at least been given the opportunity to develop naturally and wholly. They would not have had their emotions swayed by cheering adults telling them "you are so brave", "so courageous", "so strong" and "you are a hero". Where will the cheerleaders be when that person is 20, 25, or 30 and no longer able to give birth, father a child or simply know what it was like to go through puberty. What child wouldn't respond to scores of adults fawning over them, taking them to doctors appointments, giving them approval of their actions and attention which every child desires? Who wouldn't think, well of course this must be what I should be instead of what I am? All of the attention and support must feel great to these kids but, do they have an understanding of the life long effect from these treatments? How could a child possibly comprehend what the removing of reproductive organs or chemically stopping them from forming could mean when they have not even fully developed?

Please pass this bill and support it with your vote on the house floor.

Kenneth Masloski
self, graduate student
College Station, TX

I oppose this bill. Trans lives are important and this bill would does only harm, no good.

Cathy Jaster
retired / self
Georgetown, TX

My name is Cathy Jaster and I strongly support HB 1399. Changing the gender of a child without it being a medical emergency or necessity as laid out in this bill is CHILD MUTILATION. Entities within the school system and our culture pressure, encourage, confuse and manipulate children into believing things that are NOT TRUE. Children are easily manipulated and want to please which makes them easy targets for abuse. This child mutilation needs to be a criminal event with appropriate criminal charges and physicians NOT BE protected from liability by insurance coverage.

This is a life changing event and only should only be performed on a competent adult, being made fully aware of the consequences, outcomes and the number of attempted suicides by transgenders.

ashley lacour
self
Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Steve Rudner
Self
Dallas, TX

Representative Klick and Members of the Committee -

My name is Steve Rudner. I'm an attorney from Dallas, here on my own behalf in opposition to HB 1399.

During my 41 years of working at and/or monitoring the Texas legislature, I don't recall ever encountering a bill so offensive and dehumanizing.

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At its core, the bill refuses to reject the existence and validity of transgender people.

If we accept that transgender girls are girls, and that transgender boys are boys – which we know to be true and which every credible medical association confirms – then we are faced with a very clear question.

Is there a reason, other than naked cruelty, that we would force a transgender girl, being raised and supported by a loving family, with a wonderful community of friends and an affirming school and church, to grow a beard, when that can be prevented by medication which is completely reversible?

Is there a reason, other than pure mean-spiritedness, that we would force a transgender boy to develop breasts?

There is no reason, other than to be mean, to use these children as political targets and pawns, and to do something which is absolutely certain to result in an increase in suicide amongst our already most vulnerable population?

Members of the committee, have you no love in your hearts?

You must reject HB 1399.

Chancely Stater

self

Amarillo, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Holt Lackey

Self

Austin, TX

Testimony of Holt Lackey in Opposition to HB 1399
House Public Health Committee, April 13, 2021

My name is Holt Lackey, I am an attorney in Austin and Chair of Equality Texas. I am testifying against HB 1399 because it is an attack on both transgender children and the principles of limited government and individual liberty.

Although it has been about seven years since I left the Republican Party, in which I had served as counsel to Senator John Cornyn and Chairman Lamar Smith, I still believe that individuals and families are usually better than the government at figuring out our own best interest and making our own decisions, including healthcare decisions with the doctor of our choice. And I believe that if those decisions don't harm anyone else, government should usually leave us alone.

As Governor Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas noted in vetoing a recent similar bill, this bill continues the past decade's trend of the Republican Party abandoning these principles. It uses the coercive power of the State to override parents, patients, and health-care professionals on private decisions regarding the medical care of transgender youth. It does so through regulatory roadblocks and insurance regulations designed with the sole purpose of making it more costly and difficult, if not impossible, for doctors to enter free contracts to treat their transgender patients. It is classic big government social engineering.

Doctors provide these treatments because the science says that affirming medical treatment, including in some cases hormone therapy, is medically appropriate for transgender patients. Parents want these treatments because they love their children and want to protect them from the risks of depression, dysphoria, and suicide. Transgender teens tell us that they want these treatments because they need them to survive. When all three of these private parties are in agreement about pursuing the medically and scientifically recommended course of treatment, why does government have any place overruling them?

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This bill represents an unprecedented government overreach into family healthcare decision making. Just as importantly, this bill would harm children and prevent them from getting the care that could save their life. I urge you to vote no.

Jack Sullivan

self

Waco, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424!

Melissa Wilson

Self- business analyst

Fresno, TX

This bill infringes on the health and safety of children and the right of parents to seek their Healthcare. Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Amanda Traphagan

self, attorney

Lockhart, TX

Transition care for transgender individuals is important and life sustaining. Doctors should not be restricted in providing this crucial care to vulnerable individuals. Furthermore, focusing on a made up non-issue like this when our state faces urgent challenges like COVID-19 and the precarious state of our power grid is absolutely foolish. Vote no on this bill.

Aliza Norwood

Self

Austin, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

My name is Dr. Aliza Norwood. I'm a native Austinite, an internal medicine physician who cares for adult transgender patients, and the sister of a happy, healthy, successful transgender man. I have seen the impact of discrimination on the health of transgender people of all ages, and I am deeply worried about the impact of HB 1399, which seeks to punish doctors for providing evidence-based care that is recommended by every major medical organization.

This bill is based on a fundamental lack of knowledge and misunderstanding of what age-appropriate gender-affirming care is. Puberty blockers are used for gender-affirming care are given around the time of puberty, and are reversible. Rather than take away choice, they actually increase the time for decision-making about gender identity, and decrease the need for more extreme interventions like surgery later in life. The patients I now see as adults tell me they wish they had the opportunity to use puberty blockers when they were teenagers because they would have had less need for medical interventions, and used less medical resources, later in life.

It is telling that this bill allows for puberty blockers to very young children for precocious puberty—a key rallying cry for this bill is that puberty blockers are dangerous but yet it acknowledges it's fine to give them to a 5 year old for another reason.

Also telling is that the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Academies of Sciences, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Family Physicians all support gender-affirming care unequivocally. Research clearly shows that gender affirming care decreases suicide attempts in youth - why then are politicians targeting kids instead of doing what we know

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makes their lives better? This bill is cruel. Please let doctors care for patients – we care about them and we will do what is best for them.

Peggy Sullivan

Self

Waco, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Mary Corder

Self

Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

As health care workers we are obligated to do no harm. Unbelievable in this day and age we still have to fight for rights for all. No one should be in healthcare if they do not believe everyone should have equal rights and dignity. I will watch for anyone who votes to allow unequal treatment and actively participate in making sure your name is known and you are not elected again!

Mary Smith

Self, retired

Arlington, TX

I am in favor of HB1399. Having taught for many years I have worked with children and families. Children have wonderful imaginations and love to pretend and play. They pretend all sorts of characters from tv to book characters. They like to dress up and change their speech to identify with the character. My point is simple pretending and acting is temporary. They are exploring characterizations. Having their bodies changed permanently is not healthy and not a choice that should happen. They are too young and at too formative a time in their lives for such drastic change. I support HB1399 to protect children.

Natalie Ferguson

Self

Houston, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Kelsey Nimitz

self - student

Cypress, TX

Please, I implore you to protect LGBTQ Texans and vote NO on HB 1399. If put into action it would prevent thousands of vulnerable Texans from receiving the attention they need, causing both them and their families much unnecessary grief. Right now we need to focus on real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid.

Minaself Clark

Self

Rockport, TX

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Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Laurie Tamber

Self

Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

In June of 2020, the United States Supreme Court rejected discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation in the workplace. The rationale for this ruling put forth by the majority articulates plainly that a person's gender identity and sexual orientation cannot be separated from personhood. We oppose any proposed legislation that eliminates protection from discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in a healthcare setting. The proposed elimination of protections from discrimination in healthcare for a vulnerable population is a clear violation of ethical tenets in the medical profession and civil and human rights laws. We oppose any legislation which, by pointedly denying civil rights protections to LGBTQ people, openly permits health care providers, institutions, and insurance companies to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. We also oppose legislative efforts in Texas. We urge healthcare providers, administrators, government officials, and concerned individuals everywhere to protest the measures by the Texas legislature. All attempts to restrict access to health care and provide for penalties for physicians and parents and all discrimination that promotes inequitable treatment and exacerbates health disparities should not be adopted.

William Milner

WNM Emergency Medicine, PLLC

Austin, TX

My name is William Milner, M.D., I am an Emergency Medicine Physician who has lived and practiced in Austin for the past 23 years. I speak for myself. I am in favor of HB 1399. The practice of surgical and pharmaceutical manipulation of children for the sole purpose of changing their sex has been, is, and always will be CHILD ABUSE. There is NO SUCH THING as a child consenting to have a sex change, or any elective surgery or medical procedure. Psychologically unstable parents do not have the right to permanently alter their child's body and mind in this manner. I have read and completely agree with the testimony given on this bill today by Matt Long. It defies belief that something like this has even become an issue, and that we as an advanced society would consider this abuse to be ok. PLEASE ban the practice of castration, and all surgical and chemical manipulation of children for the purpose of intentionally changing their God-given sex of birth.

Amanda Middlebrook

Self

Bullard, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424. Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424.

Maureen Wittels

Self

Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

To whom it may concern: I am here to give testimonial for the divisive bills being voted on against gender identity rights. First off, I do not feel that our governing bodies have the right to make decisions affecting one's child. This has always been decisions

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made by parents and should continued be. Isn't America the land of the free or isn't it supposed to be? I don't know my America anymore. It has become a very ugly place. I am friends with a family with a transitioning child from male to female. This little boy seemed sad to me early on as he knew he truly had a girl inside of him. It took several years for his parents to make this very important decision that would allow their daughter to live her best life. They gathered lots of direction from counselors and physicians. This was painful and not taken lightly. When that boy became a girl, she was truly a happy and thriving girl. She was exactly where she needed to be. Everyone saw this huge change. I love that that little girl is now living her best life. To take this away from her and her parents is dystopian. It is cruel. It is unnecessary. It is making me, their family friend, feel physically and emotionally ill. This is not my America anymore. Hatred and bigotry abound. Please, I am begging you to dig deep down in your souls and not allow this to happen. It is not anyone's business but her family. I adore them. They are such good people, giving so much back to society. They work hard for the better good. Anyone can be touched by this. Get out of their way and allow this precious, happy, and beautiful little girl and all children who have chosen this path to truly be who they were meant to be! Sincerely, Maureen Wittels Houston, Texas

Joe Acock
self, fundraising
Austin, TX

My name is Joe Acock, and I live in Austin, TX. My zip code is 78753. I wanted to let you know that I adamantly oppose a bill being heard in the Public Health Committee: House Bill 1399, which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and the decision on whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. I urge the Committee to vote against HB 1399.

Sonya Snyder
Self
Spring, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

My name is Sonya Snyder, I am a resident of The Woodlands, Texas, 77380. I would like to take this opportunity to address my opposition to SB1646, HB4014, HB1399, SB1311, and HB1424. My husband and I are affirming parents of a transgender teen and so these bills will directly harm our child and we are committed to taking a stand and feel compelled to submit testimony. All elected officials must act as protective agents committed to the safety and well-being of all they serve, including those who identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community. The expression of transgender identity, or any other form of gender-expansive behavior, is a healthy, appropriate and typical aspect of human development. Therefore, it is irrelevant whether a person's objection to another's gender identity or expression is based on sincerely held religious beliefs. As Representatives and leaders in the state of Texas, you must build your knowledge about the concerns facing everyone in the community by creating and supporting an inclusive environment that is free of racial and gender bias and that is welcoming of all community members will make a positive difference in countless people's lives. Attitudes held by authors and supporters of these bills negatively affects everyone in the community, not only those who identify themselves as LGBTQ+. As leaders you must encourage greater acceptance of diversity and discourage judgments about people based on factors like race, class, sexuality, gender, family structure, ethnicity and religion. These bills are out of step with most Texans' beliefs; The Public Religion Research Institute interviewed 1,100 people, showing six out of ten Texans said they've become more supportive toward transgender rights compared to their views five years ago. It is difficult to understand how one can ignore recent Supreme Court rulings, public opinion and overwhelming scientific evidence, which continually prove that affirmation of one's gender identity coupled with medical intervention, can be a matter of life or death. A recent study from The Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (October 2018) Conducted a study on Transgender Adolescent Suicide Behavior The study found that transgender adolescents whose gender identity is not affirmed disproportionately report higher suicide attempts, substance abuse and violence compared with cisgender adolescents. Transgender youth struggle with a variety of issues in seeking to be authentically seen, including the fear of social rejection and mistreatment or abuse from peers. As a result, many of these students simply survive rather than flourish. I am grateful that my child's experience in her first year of transition at her high school was an overwhelmingly positive experience due to the supportive environment of her school. Please consider what is at stake, our children's lives are in your hands.

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Andrea Massarano
Lira Clinical
Fredericksburg, TX

I am against any use of chemicals or surgery on any children under 18 years of age. It is mutilation. Young people are not wise enough to choose what they need for their bodies. When they are 18 they can do what ever they want. No coverage of insurance or support of these procedures for children.

Edith Rogat
self
Austin, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this legislation. This bill discourages doctors from providing best practice transition care by prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering transition-related care. In effect, it will completely deter the age-appropriate, evidence-based, private, life-saving care that is thoughtfully crafted in consultation with teams of medical healthcare experts, parents/guardians, and transgender youth. I cannot see any reason why this would be acceptable. This does nothing but cause harm to LGBTQ+ human beings who deserve compassion and care, not cruelty and exclusion. Please do the right thing and reject this extremely harmful legislation. Thank you.

Molly Wills Carnes
Self
Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

Hi, there. I am white, suburban, Christian mom living near Houston and the parent of a precious transgender daughter who was assigned male at birth. I am writing today to urge you to vote no SB1646, HB1399 and HB1424. Ironically, by the time you hear this testimony, my daughter will have just turned 18. We have been anxiously awaiting her 18th birthday so we could be more confident her healthcare wouldn't be taken away. But she could still be denied emergency care under HB1424. It's a scary way to live. She told us from a very early age things like "these boy clothes are just costumes because I'm really a girl." By the time my daughter was a teenager and still living as a boy, she was depressed, anxious, and finally suicidal. Experiencing the wrong puberty often triggers suicide so intervention for minors is critical. The thought of living the rest of her life as a man made her want to die. The health care she received saved her life. After seeking advice from qualified specialists, we pursued reversible treatments to address the root of her depression: gender dysphoria – when gender is in conflict with physical sex. The results have been lifechanging for our family. I didn't know how much of my child I hadn't met yet. She has blossomed into a person with a peace in her countenance and a light in her eyes we haven't since very early childhood. She is hopeful. She is funny. She is ambitious. She is kind. We experience wonderful support from our church family. If your religious beliefs influence your vote, here is my caution. Any theology that makes someone want to kill themselves is not the fruit of the spirit. My daughter was created in God's image, for a good purpose and her being transgender gives her a unique perspective to serve the world. She is not broken. The body she travels in is but a temporary home for the beautiful soul she carries. My daughter is 18 but there are thousands of transgender youth whose life-saving care could be taken away. So, I am asking you to move beyond being a sympathizer who feels compassion for us but does nothing to help. Please listen to parents and transgender youth and vote no on these bills. And save children like my daughter.

Brian Sjolseth
Self
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX

I strongly support HB1399 and HB6

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Solange Hommel

self, writer

KILLEEN, TX

As a citizen, a voter, and a human being, I oppose HB 1399. Transgender children are some of the most at-risk in the state and in the country and creating laws that allow medical professionals and insurance providers to refuse treatment on the basis of outdated information and personal biases is unacceptable.

Jamie Hash

Self

APO, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

My name is Jamie Hash, and Texas is my home. I would prefer to testify in person to oppose this legislation, but I am currently serving overseas. I have been a member of the active duty Air Force for a decade, and I consider myself lucky to have been stationed at Joint Base San Antonio (i.e., Military City, USA), Texas for half of that time. I address you now as a private citizen and Texas constituent. || || When I was growing up, I quickly understood that the general social constructs around me opposed how I felt inside, and it took a deployment to Southwest Asia in 2015 to muster the courage to come to terms with my gender identity. After decades of suppressing, denying, and hiding my authentic self, I came out as transgender in 2016 soon after the Secretary of Defense lifted the initial ban on transgender military service. As a transgender service member, I have had to fight for the ability to fight for this country. Even though political forces tried to deny me this honor, I am fortunate that I have been able to continue serving openly and authentically in the world's greatest Air Force while also residing in the great state of Texas. || I can assure you there are transgender service members, and service members with transgender children, currently stationed in Texas. Between Fort Hood, Joint Base San Antonio, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Fort Bliss, and the other Texas military installations, there are hundreds of transgender service members thriving in their respective units because they are finally able to serve as their whole selves. If you vote in favor of this harmful legislation, you will be denying the ability for all Texans to live their lives, work hard, and thrive as their whole selves. || || This legislation not only harms Texas residents who are stationed there under military orders, but it harms thousands of civilian families who choose to live in Texas because of their deep sense of love and pride for the state. This is why it was so heartbreaking to watch brave children like Kai Shapple testify at the Capitol. When Texas children have to take a day out of the classroom to come testify in Austin because their right to equality is under assault, we have a serious problem. || || If you vote in favor of this legislation, you are sending a strong message to those Texas families that you reject their wellbeing, privacy, and right to the American Dream. You are telling them that you would rather restrict their freedom and constitutional right to pursue happiness based on erroneous falsehoods and a red herring issue. The transgender service members and military service members with transgender children stationed throughout Texas continue to uphold the oath to the constitution, so I ask you do the same and vote in opposition of this legislation.

Tj shoaf, patient care coordinator

KIND Clinic

Austin, TX

this is a hateful bill... why are you all attacking our community.....do you now have anything better to do than this....shame on you

Nancy Baker

self, educator

HUNTSVILLE, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

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Rebekah Bryant

Self

Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

Hello. I'm Rebekah Bryant and I oppose both sb1646 & SB1399. I'm a 7th generation Texan and I'm the mother to two kids, one of which is a trans girl who just turned 8 this week. When she was 4 she said "why did you make me a boy, I was supposed to be a girl". I replied "Me and daddy didn't make you a boy, science made you who you are" and she replied "you should have made me a girl I was meant to be a girl". She had no exposure to the idea of being trans, this came from her brain and her heart. || || At first her dad wasn't on board. He was never cruel, but refused to call her a girl or her chosen name. She would tell me in secret "it's ok if daddy doesn't call me a girl, I don't want him to be sad". I would relay to him that our child was changing her behavior to accommodate her adult parent's feelings. He realized his inaction was hurting his child, and chose to open his mind and learn more about what she was experiencing and who she is. We're lucky she told us early, so we had time to seek advice from professionals and other parents who have had the same struggles. One piece of advice we got from a licenced therapist was "don't treat this or her as special. She's not special, don't make it the center of your lives, treat her as if this is normal." And this worked for us as we have the happiest child. || || She's at the top of her class and is very popular. All of her friends know she's trans, but strangers assume she's a girl. This is a source of comfort for us. We're not scared to leave the house because someone might mistake her for a boy or even be angry at her existence. She goes about her life like every other 8 yr old. || || We're very proud that we've been able to raise a happy, confident, child who doesn't hate her body. At some point she will need help from healthcare professionals. If she is forced to go thru puberty she will develop male characteristics like facial hair, a lower voice, and her body and face will appear mascualine. Her freedom to be in public safely will be taken from her. Part of her happiness is a direct consequence of never being bullied or questioned because she looks like a girl. She would one day need expensive and dangerous surgical procedures to correct what puberty did. || || I asked my 8 yr old what she thought about these bills and she said "well I think it should my choice, it's my body." And she's right. It's her body she has to live in it, you don't have to live in her body. And if all of her doctors and both her parents agree she should delay puberty, then she should be given that time. || || This life is hard enough without legislators adding more obstacles. Puberty blockers can be reversed, but puberty can't. || || I would like to formally invite any of you making this decision to visit with my family. Please experience a couple of hours of life with a very normal child and see for yourself, how you would be turning a happy child into a miserable adult.

Blaer Caton

Self and fellow trans individuals

Round Rock, TX

This is an atrocious bill and should not be passed. If a medical provider cannot separate their "religion" from the science they supposedly practice they should not be in the medical field for by passing this bill it would go against the pledge of "do no harm". These are life saving medical assistance and to deny an individual their bodily autonomy is despicable and goes against decades of research and international recognition of trans identities by the world health organization

Alex Fritsch

Self

San Marcos, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

I am a transgender individual who is currently 19 years old. Gender affirming care at a younger age could have prevented many mental health issues and trauma I have faced throughout my life. My dysphoria and general hatred for my body could have been alleviated so much sooner had I known about what being transgender was or have had access to gender affirming medical treatment. Classifying supporting transgender youth as "child abuse" goes directly against science and morality. Myself and many other trans adults will even be impacted by this law, as you are normalizing the opposition to gender affirming treatment. Most importantly, you are teaching young transgender kids that they should hate themselves for who they are, and that their family shouldn't accept them at an extremely vulnerable time in their life. Transgender teens have an extremely high suicide rate already,

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and I am sure that this law will do nothing but increase that rate. Individuals are free to disagree with transgenderism due to religious reasons, but to write it into law goes directly against the separation of church and state. Transgender kids will still exist no matter what laws you write, so we should ensure that they are protected and encouraged to live as their authentic selves. The attack on transgender children is a waste of time, energy, and resources. I hope that you will see that we are people, whether you agree with us or not, and we deserve basic decency and respect.

Shari Lewis

Self

Whitehouse, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Megan Mooney, Dr.

Megan. A. Mooney, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

HOUSTON, TX

My name is Dr. Megan Mooney, my pronouns are she/her/hers and I am a licensed psychologist in private practice and the recent past president of the Texas Psychological Association (TPA). I am submitting this testimony on behalf of myself in opposition to HB 1399.

Research has demonstrated that delaying gender-affirming medical care is related to increased rates of depression and anxiety as well as suicidal ideation. By contrast, children who are able to delay or stop the onset of puberty have more positive mental health outcomes. Similarly, adolescents who have access to gender-affirming hormone treatments have more positive outlooks and improved self-confidence.

We know that at least 44% of transgender youth attempt suicide during their lifetime as compared to the national average of about 4% for teens. The reasons for this increased risk for suicide attempts is certainly complex. But one factor that contributes to increased suicidal ideation is significant gender dysphoria, or the feeling of depression a person may experience when their gender identity does not match their sex assigned at birth. In 2019, after a review of the research as well as professional guidelines, TPA crafted a formal statement in which we concluded that “transgender children fare best when caregivers and treatment providers establish an affirming and supportive environment within which they can understand their emerging gender identity”. Part of creating an affirming and supportive environment for transgender and non-binary youth means developing and engaging with a multidisciplinary team that often also includes psychiatrists, endocrinologists, pediatricians, and/or adolescent medicine specialists.

The care that our therapy clients are provided by their affirming medical providers is literally life-saving. I have personally witnessed time and time again; young people who were depressed and feeling hopeless and scared for their future begin to feel happy and optimistic just by starting medications to suppress puberty or to develop the secondary sex characteristics that align with their gender identity. Given the exceptionally high rates of suicide attempts in these young people, any steps that can be taken to reduce their level of risk should not only be allowed by should be encouraged.

Emily Gerson

Self

APO, TX

I'm a native Texan and the wife of a decorated Airman. We met five years ago in San Antonio when she was stationed there. If we weren't currently stationed in England, I would be there today testifying in person, urging you to oppose the three bills targeting trans Texans. || || These proposed laws are not based on reality, science, or proven need. They are the antithesis of freedom and privacy, and they will do nothing but create suffering for countless Texas families, military families who are stationed in Texas, and the providers who care for them.|| || My wife has spent 10 years selflessly serving our country. She deployed to Southeast Asia in the joint coalition against ISIS. She briefed a two-star general at the Pentagon. She has won countless awards. Her identity as a trans person doesn't impact her work or service.|| || She knew by age 4 that she was trans. According to the esteemed

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Mayo Clinic, "Most children typically develop the ability to recognize and label stereotypical gender groups, such as girl, woman and feminine, and boy, man and masculine, between ages 18 and 24 months. Most also categorize their own gender by age 3 years. However, because gender stereotypes are reinforced, some children learn to behave in ways that bring them the most reward, despite their authentic gender identity." (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/childrens-health/in-depth/children-and-gender-identity/>) || My wife is one of those people. She was taught at a young age that it was not OK for little boys to wear dresses or act feminine, so she shoved her feelings down. As nearly every trans person can tell you, this only works for so long. My wife did everything she could to feel and appear more masculine, but she was born this way, and none of her efforts could change this. || These feelings are not imagined. According to the prestigious Cleveland Clinic, the brains of trans people physically and functionally look more like the brains of their gender identity than their sex assigned at birth (<https://health.clevelandclinic.org/research-on-the-transgender-brain-what-you-should-know/>). In other words, even though my wife was born looking male on the outside, her brain was wired much more like mine. || It's not shocking that in her late 20s, after a lifetime of trying to repress her identity, she was intensely suffering internally. At the time, trans people weren't allowed to serve. She didn't want to give up serving, but she began to feel that she would be forced to separate so she could take steps to live authentically. Also, as a traditionally macho, muscular male-presenting person in the military, she was worried transitioning would cause her to lose all her friends and family. People who transition don't take the decision lightly; they know the massive risks to their relationships, safety, and livelihoods. || Much to my wife's surprise, the initial ban on trans service lifted, and she decided the risks of coming out were worth it,

Douglas Cushing

Self, Doctoral Student

Austin, TX

It is inexcusable that the legislature would even spend its time on such bigoted legislation, trying to "fix" problems that do not exist by imposing a backwards, myopic worldview on Texans, especially after the energy and infrastructure catastrophe of this winter, and amid an epidemic, alongside mass shootings happening regularly, in a time wherein racist attacks on Asian-Americans are on the rise, when poverty is crushing Texans and homelessness is a major problem that needs attention.

Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

Gender dysphoria has been studied for almost 100 years. Ten years ago almost none of the mental disorders known as gender dysphoria existed in girls. Gender dysphoria existed mainly in the pre-kinder male population. In the general population it was identified in 1 in 10,000 or .01% of the population.

What happened? Why the shift from pre-school boys to middle -high school aged girls?

Maybe it has something to do with the record levels of anxiety, depression and self harm in today's middle and high school girls. Maybe the bullying and intimidation in schools by peers, youtube, tic toc, tumbler, and instagram have more to do with these feelings of anxiety, depression and self-harm than issues of gender identification.

Girls in this age group seeking gender modification surgery have quadrupled. Two percent of American high schoolers identify as transgender.

Rushing to gender transition surgery as an answer to the feelings of depression, anxiety and self-harm may in itself cause more harm than healing. The result of such surgeries are infertility, sexual dysfunction and the creation of a lifelong medical patient.

Why don't we protect our children by limiting their access to social media, oppose school curriculums that sow the seeds of gender confusion to the entire student population and instead teach children respectful interactions with all students?

The teenage years have always been highly emotional periods of highs and lows charged with decisions that change from one day to the next.

Surgical decisions that are so life altering should be left to someone who is the adult patient, not the adult representing a child

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patient who will become an adult a few years in the future.

Matthew Apple

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

My name is Matthew Apple. I'm a lifelong Texan who grew up in the Coastal Bend. I am son of a Presbyterian minister. I am a small business owner, and employer. I am father of a transgender son. I never thought that I would have to submit testimony to the state for such a targeted, punitive, un-Texan, and un-Christian bill(s). The bill(s) shows the lack of understanding and unacceptance of gender dysphoria, and the importance of supportive network, or it is possible this bill(s) is designed to target this support network. Never the less, I see two issues with this legislation. The first is it's direct impact on my family. My son has always been the kid he is today. Wanting to play baseball, & football, into comic books and video games, and going toe to toe with other boys in Judo, JiuJitsu, and wrestling. However, he struggled with body image, depression, & acceptance. When he came out as trans we all struggled, and had to educate ourselves, and extended family & friends. With out the support of counseling, medical professionals, family & friends my son would not be the well round individual who has now testified twice on these bills targeting trans gender youth. When you consider the rate of suicide and violence against transgender individuals, we are blessed that my son is here for us and his community. The second issue with the bill(s) is the slippery slope of the government telling it's citizen how they can receive medical care. This invasion of some of the most private decisions people make sets a poor precedence that can cut two ways. If a conservative legislature can pass this bill imagine what a liberal legislature can do to a Christian Scientist, or a Jehovah Witness. But why stop at that? What about surgeries dealing with uterine, ovarian, or testicular? Does the state involve itself there? When does the state tell us that we have to dress a certain way in order to assert what gender we are. I fail to understand how in the great state of Texas we have come to such a violation of personal freedom and privacy. I leave you with two quotes from Sam Houston. 'Texas has yet to learn any submission to any oppression, come from what source it may.' 'A leader is someone who helps improve the lives of other people, or improve the system they live under.' I love you Charlie. -Matthew Apple

Suzi West

Self

Gainesville, TX

Please do not allow dr provisions of liability coverages & parents the rights of twisted actions, where children are the focus, concerning gender reassignment & gender confusion.

Mckenzie Best

Texas Freedom Coalition

Lewisville, TX

Please pass HB 1399 and save our children from this cultural genocide. Yes, genocide by permanently disfiguring children and drugging them in their formative years, sometimes leading to suicide later in life. Parents need to instill in children love of themselves they way they were born. This growing practice is horrific and it is child abuse plain and simple. Stop this now and pass HB1399.

Mckenzie Best

Susan Fountain

RPT SREC SD16

DALLAS, TX

Please pass this bill. Do not let the LBGTO agenda and noise keep you from protecting our children. They are OUR children not

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yours, and the overreach into our families is astounding. This is a legislative priority of the Republican Party of Texas. Thank you.

Jessica Coleman

Self

Plano, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

As a licensed counselor, I work with children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria and who identify as transgender. I have read extensive research, books, first person testimonials, and conducted parent and family support groups, and have seen in my hundreds of clients a directly positive impact from affirming transgender care. This specifically includes medical healthcare, such as puberty suppression hormones (which are fully reversible, with little to no long term consequences) and hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Neither of these medical interventions are done without a thorough understanding of the individuals gender identity, as well as a thorough understanding of the impact on ones' family, health, relationships, and future. I have seen firsthand the 'gender euphoria' an individual feels when they are affirmed, and have seen significant reduction in symptoms of depression, apathy, and social withdrawal when puberty suppression and HRT is provided along with support from family, school, and social relationships. Research has shown that neglecting to provide gender affirming care has a direct correlation to suicidality, depression, homelessness, and mental health crises in general. I am strongly of the opinion that medical and psychological health care policies should be driven by research, science, and data. I am strongly opposed to SB1646, specifically with regards to the statement that providing gender affirming care to minors is considered child abuse. Please protect Texas children, and do not pass this bill.

Christin Bentley

Texas Freedom Coalition

Flint, TX

Texas Freedom Coalition supports this bill, as it protects children from life altering procedures before the age of consent. We know that most children grow out of gender dysphoria by the time they reach the age of consent. Why would we medically change a child's gender and put them on a lifetime of prescription medications that have side effects knowing this?

Michele Thompson

self, retired

Austin, TX

Please pass HB 1399. We must do all we can to protect our innocent children. God bless.

Allo Kerstein

Self

Cyprus, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

I want to tell you about my personal experiences which show just how life-threatening this bill is. Hormone replacement therapy is NOT dangerous. Almost the exact same medications are given for various reasons to non-trans people on a regular basis-- there's estrogen in birth control, testosterone for those with low T levels, and hormone blockers for children who start puberty way too early as well as for many cancer patients, etc. It is just fear mongering that makes people question it in terms of trans youth. Now I will tell you how access to information on trans issues and gender affirming healthcare can be life saving. Since I started puberty at the age of 11, I suffered from depression and an eating disorder so chronic that my body was starting to break down. If I had not gotten help by the time I did, I might be dead--by 14 my menstruation had stopped due to malnutrition and I

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was fainting regularly. Not only this but I also self harmed in other dangerous ways and much of this was due to my gender dysphoria. Today I am healthy and happy. I went from being suicidal and barely alive to being a straight A student at my dream university with multiple merit scholarships. I'm an active part of my community, something I never could've imagined at 14 when I planned on dying before ever attending university. The most effective treatment for my eating disorder and depression by far has been the ability to express my gender how I wish to, access to trans affirming healthcare, as well as LGBTQ+ communities and resources. My illness was triggered by having to experience traumatic changes to my body during puberty that caused me immense dysphoria, something that could've been avoided with hormone blockers. Had I had access to more information about trans healthcare and trans people before my disorder got so bad, maybe I would not have been left with a chronic cardiovascular condition. Although it came too late for that, having it at all saved my life. If you sign this bill you will very likely have blood on your hands. If you care about protecting children, you must veto. This is our lives on the line.

Carson Sparks

self, software developer

San Antonio, TX

This bill is a gross way to punish transgender youth and loving & accepting parents. Vote no to this bill.

Sara Konstantine

Self

Cedar Park, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

For a party that likes to claim they want small government, why is the legislator getting involved in private medical decisions of Texas families. This is none of the business of the State. By moving forward with this law, you will be condemning children to increased levels of suicide and depression. I am sure you have read all the statistics and facts. The AMA and other medical associations are against these laws. They are qualified to make medical decisions, not lawmakers. Stop using transgender people as a dog whistle and open your heart to the facts of the situation. I pray you do the right thing.

Natalie Kinard

Self

Kyle, TX

Insurance companies are for profit, and until you as our legislators do something other than take their money they, and you, serve no one but yourselves. Its deeply offensive that you will acknowledge these children's afflictions while asking they be denied treatment. If the medical community at large acknowledges the need for these procedures, the state has NO BUSINESS interfering in the treatment thereof.

Margaret Lynch-Barone

Self

Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

Today I am speaking out against HB1399 by Krause and HB1424 by Oliverson. HB 1399 by Krause. I have a 19-year-old trans daughter and am concerned about the discriminatory impact these bills will have on, the medical health professionals as well as transgender individuals in providing and receiving best practice medical assistance. HB 1399 is discriminatory against health professionals and will penalize them unjustly by putting an economic burden on them if they provide best practice transition related care for their patients. When my child was 17 year old, we sought consultation from a highly competent and compassionate medical team who, after a thorough 7-10 month review, finally made it possible for my daughter to begin

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receiving medications that she needed to help her feel like she could truly be herself and to gain confidence in the world as opposed to continue with her serious depression. HB 1424 is highly discriminatory and dangerous for the health of transgender persons and makes it possible for health care providers to unethically deny best practice procedural treatment, even to the point of denying lifesaving care for these patients! This bill will be a danger to my child's mental and physical health going forth if it is to be passed. I ask that you please table this bill as the implication for serious harm and potential death of many individuals are at stake.

Gary Schumann

Self - Attorney

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1399. The proposed bill seeks to micro-manage the health care treatment of patients born with ambiguous sexual organs or gender dysmorphia. Dealing with these issues is within the most intensive private purview of families having to deal with these circumstances. How dare the Texas Legislature seek to impose itself into the decision making of doctors and parents who face themselves dealing with these most private of issues. The government has no business whatsoever attempting to control the private medical decision making of families. These decisions are the last place where government should be forcing itself on Texas families. The issues this bill seeks to address are so complicated and so subject to medical expertise - that the Texas Legislature simply has no business whatsoever legislating in this sphere. I strongly oppose HB 1399,

Jerred Sullivan

Self

Houston, TX

To whom it may concern, My name is Jerred Sullivan. I have a 10-year old trans daughter named Cannon Sullivan. She transitioned at 4 years old. It was at that time she was able to verbalize that (in her words) "It's not fair that I have to grow old in this body" and that her mother (Teri) and I had quote, "made a mistake." She went on to say that "she was a girl." Notice what she didn't say. She didn't say, "I feel like a girl." She didn't say, "I want to be a girl." She specifically told us that she was female, despite the sex assigned to her at birth and the messages (both direct and subconscious) sent to her by a society, as society that doesn't understand her yet. On that day, she gave my wife and I the information necessary to properly care for her. To address her needs in-line with anyone else's expectations (other than her own), would have been easily recognized as abusive. The full gravity and damage of that abuse can only be recognized by the abused. The same people testifying against the applicable senate and house bill's today. It's hard for adults to imagine a 4-year old having their own hopes or that their expectations have any inherent value. As a society we value the personal experience above all other. My perspective (basis and tolerance) is based on what I can see, feel, touch, or the narrative I was taught. "My" authentic story. I child can't possibly have "a story," where there is no life experience. So, we dismiss their needs easily and without remorse, because we are acting in their best interest. I imagine many proposing these changes feel this way. I have felt this way. I'm here to testify today that like those who assume they're right, I was wrong. I'm strong and brave enough to admit it. The difference? My child's agenda became my own. She guides me. When I'm smart, I listen to her expertise. No one can speak on behalf of her identity better than she, not even her mother or myself (who both love her unconditionally.) I wish I had her clarity. She knows more about herself in 10 years, than I learned about my own self in 4 decades. That's privilege, something a marginalized person isn't afforded. Testifying is the last thing I want to be doing. I know this because it's the single greatest source of suffering for myself personally when Bill's like the ones before us are proposed. When my wife and I started our journey as parents of a trans child, alleys were quick to tell us how to talk to politicians. We'd be disregarded if we don't say things in a way that our elected officials deemed appropriate. "Never be accusatory, always speak with respect, and never speak idle threats." I mean no disrespect. My viewpoints are my own, and I don't speak for my child, our alleys, her peers, or their care givers. However, I feel obligated to testify to what I have observed in the last 7 years. I think this is important enough that it should be recorded as a part of the public record. For those listening, that don't support these prop

Martha Shoultz

Year

Dallas, TX

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I can't remember if I sent this in previously so forgive me if this is a duplicate. My child is trans-identified and severely mentally ill. I am wholeheartedly in support of Matt Krause's bill because it protects children like mine from being preyed upon by doctors and pharma companies in the gender industry who want to profit off of mentally ill children and youth. Please pass this bill on to the Calendars Committee. STOP THE GENDER MODIFCATION OF KIDS FOR PROFIT IN TEXAS!

Charolett Beshears
Self/Business owner
Bedford, TX

I can't even believe this Bill is a thing. If children are being transgendered, all the people involved in these acts should be in jail. This is severe child abuse. So, the Doctors performing these procedures should be arrested as well. You all are some very sick individuals.

Lauren Brehm Aylor
Self
Pearland, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Annabella Perez
self
AUSTIN, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424.

Kim Jones
Self
Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424!

Irene Smith
Myself - Retired
Fredericksburg, TX

Please protect our children by voting for this Bill HB1399 to ban chemical castration and altering the sex of minor children. Minor children are not capable of making a life altering decision that could effect a future stage of their life. Any attempt to alter the sex of an individual under 21 years of age is child abuse. A sex change will not solve a mental illness problem.

Pleas vote for this Bill HB1399 to protect our Texas children.

Katelynn Garcia
Self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

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Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Michelle Triska-Echeverry

Self

Fort Hood, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

As parents, we are supposed to support and love our children. We are supposed to push them to be all they can be and do whatever it takes for their happiness. We are supposed to give them food, shelter, clothing, and last but not least... medical care. Parents like myself, come before you asking you to rethink this. We realize we can not make you understand how we feel, because you can't be in our shoes exactly. But if your child needed chemo, you would do whatever it took to get it right? Or let's say something less serious. If your child was anemic, you would make sure they got lots of iron. As the parent of a transgender child, I watched my solemn empty son who NEVER smiled... go to a blossomed girl whose straight a student, active in school and her community. This isn't abuse. It's abuse and negligence to NOT give them the medicines and stuff needed. If someone didn't give give your child chemo, or insulin, or even iron... that's medical negligence. Why is therapy treated different? Or medicine? Why is this even HERE. I stand with my child. My beautiful DAUGHTER. I hope you will too.

Carolina Lerma

LGBTQ COMMUNITY

San Antonio, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1422

Clarke D Newman

Self

Dallas, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

Each of these bills is bad public policy that attacks a minority group that has done nothing to any of these people pushing these bills. These bills all make the very personal life choices within a family infinitely more difficult, and they are without merit. I respectfully ask you to vote against these terrible bills.

Lisa Schneider

self

Austin, TX

I wanted to let you know that I adamantly oppose House Bill 1399 which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. I urge you to VOTE AGAINST HB 1399. Trans Texans belong here. Y'all means ALL. This is just cruel, heartless, and lacking in compassion for your fellow Texans.

Jennifer Potter

Self

Manvel, TX

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Supporting and providing access to gender affirming care for transgender children promotes health and well-being. It is not child abuse. This approach is recommended by the prevailing standards of care, best practices, and guidelines endorsed by national and international professional organizations including the World Professional Association of Transgender Health, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Endocrine Society, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the National Association of Social Workers, and the Australian Professional Association for Transgender Health and is associated with improved mental and physical health outcomes. The gender affirmative model of care includes obtaining a child's assent before engaging in any medications or surgical procedures. Until puberty, there are no medical or surgical interventions involved related to gender affirmative care. After the onset of puberty, comprehensive gender health planning — including consideration for medical interventions (e.g., pubertal suppression, hormone therapy, gender affirming surgery) — is completed with interdisciplinary teams, following established guidelines, and only with the assent of the youth. As signatories to this letter, it is our position that all children should be able to express their gender identity without fear of rejection. Supporting transgender children and children who are expressing a different gender than expected includes providing opportunities for the child to explore their gender identity freely. This can include facilitating a social transition where a child is able to live in the gender role that is most authentic to that child. This usually includes a new name, pronouns, attire, hair length and/or style in order to present as their self-identified gender. Parents are also encouraged to seek gender affirming medical and mental health care services from experienced providers to support their child's healthy development and wellbeing. This gender affirming model of care is based on the latest scientific evidence which demonstrates that family acceptance of a child's gender identity and providing gender-affirming care are associated with improved well-being and mental health including reductions in symptoms of depression, anxiety, and suicidality. Children who experience negative family and caregiver responses of indifference, rejection, and/or attempts to change their gender identity or expression are more likely to experience negative psychological and social outcomes including depression, anxiety, suicidality, substance abuse, as well as heightened risk of lower educational attainment and homelessness. The signatories of this statement support parents' rights to support their child's gender identity and access gender affirming care for their child without fear of Child Protective Services' (CPS) involvement. It is a CPS mandate that they must act in the best interest

Katharine Ligon

Houston GLBT Political Caucus

Houston, TX

The Houston GLBT Political Caucus strongly opposes HB 1399 . This bill prohibits doctors from providing best practice transition care by prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering transition-related care, effectively interfering with the patient's rights to medical care.

Scott Macadam

self

Katy, TX

I would like to express my support for this bill. Many so called "trans" children are victims of social contagion and the power of on-line influencers. Especially at risk are girls on the autism spectrum. It is frankly a crime to allow medical practitioners and pharmaceutical companies to benefit from sex change procedures which will likely lead to irreversible damage. This is not "anti-trans", it is pro-children.

Eileen Jenkins

Self - Registered Nurse

San Antonio, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

My name is Eileen Jenkins. I am an RN and the proud aunt of a transgender niece. As it did not affect me or anyone I knew personally, I grew up with all the fears and misconceptions of people who did not conform to a rigid gender identity. Since then I have come to know that that there has always been a spectrum of human behaviors and identity. Transgender individuals have

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always existed they just lived their lives hidden and in fear. It's time to change that archaic view and celebrate and support the entire LGBTQ population including individuals who identify as transgender.

Emily Gray

Self

Austin, TX

Oppose. This legislation is violent and harmful.

Julie Ziegelman

Self - mother

AUSTIN, TX

I thought a long time about what to say to you here today. Like the rest of us who oppose these bills, I wracked my brain for the magic words that would give you the eureka moment of clarity and understanding. Unfortunately, I think I failed even before I started. Unless you have walked in my shoes for the past 9 years or the shoes of these other folks that tell similar stories, I don't think you can understand. I can use words to describe what my child has gone through, her dysphoria. I can tell you how painful puberty was, the wrong puberty, and how she wanted to die because it was just so wrong. I can come close to understanding because I am an expert in my child, but I cannot know exactly how she felt because I am cisgender. Things align in my body, mind, and spirit. I don't dream of being happy, another gender every night, and then wake up in the morning, jolted back to the reality of the betrayal of my body not matching who I am.

I just did a fundraiser for my birthday for the Trevor Project. For those of you who don't know, the Trevor Project is a lifeline for LGBTQ youth in crisis. And I can tell you that the attacks by this legislative body and other legislative bodies are putting our youth into crisis. Being attacked because of who they are. Thinking that those who support them could be put in jail for supporting them, so they fear even talking to allies. This is just so wrong.

When my child told me she was transgender, I had an overwhelming fear at the beginning. The fear had to do with the difficult path she would follow. But more than that, fear of those that would hurt her for who she was. The bullies in school. People in the community that didn't know her. You as legislators, passing legislation that is damaging to her fellow youth of Texas.

Blockers are a pause button for our youth so they, together with their parents and medical teams, can make decisions together. These decisions are not made spur of the moment or as a whim. All involved work to make sure that the decisions made are correct and age-appropriate.

I hope that you can press pause too: take in what I and these other folks that are against these bills are saying. Meet some transgender youth and talk to them at length. Listen to their stories. And I hope that when you do that, you will stop this attack and support them as Texans and the true pioneers that they are. Thank you.

Madison Jacoby

Self - Student

Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

I am a 19 year old, expression fluid female born and raised in Texas. I am currently a student at university and I am opposing the two bills, HB 1424 and HB 1399. Most days my pronouns are she/her, but other days my pronouns are she/he/they. The first time I was mistaken as a sir after my hair cut was unexpected, but it brought this excited feeling that gave me butterflies even though I had never questioned my gender before. I talked to as many gender nonconforming friends as I could until I learned that what I had felt was a form of gender euphoria. I cried from happiness the first time someone had defended me and continued to switch between pronouns when addressing me. After I realized when I liked she/her versus she/he/they, I knew it was all in my feminine or masculine appearance as a woman because I never felt out of place being the gender I was assigned at birth. I am part of a

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fortunate group who are genderqueer and have never experienced dysphoria, but I would expect that it feels as bad as gender euphoria feels good and worse. I am not a strong willed person by nature and I know without a shadow of a doubt from battling my current mental health that is hereditary that I would be dead if I were dysphoric and denied gender affirming surgery. Telling young trans people that they should live a life that isn't theirs isn't the business of the government or anyone, for that matter, and bodies that aren't yours aren't a political argument.

Elliott Beck

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Elliott Beck. I am a 6th generation Texan from Beaumont who went to A&M and Baylor Law School. I write today to adamantly opposed HB 1399. Trans Texans are Texans. They are people who deserve the same rights and respect as any other, and the legislature has no place interfering in private medical decisions between them, their families, and their doctors. The legislature should leave medical decisions to the medical community and focus on real problems such as Texas' maternal and infant mortality rates and access to healthcare.

Julia Holstine

Self

Houston, TX

In opposition for HB 1399:

Hello Representatives, My name is Julia Holstine and I am a trans woman. Words cannot express that amount of fear, pain, and rage I have when seeing bills like these introduced in the state that I call home. Unfortunately, I cannot say that I am surprised to see bills explicitly attacking trans youth in Texas. I have listened to the testimony on the sister bills in the senate and I cannot explain the pain I feel. As a trans person, I would have given anything to have been able to transition as a child. I wish that I had had the words to express who I was and that I lived in a place where I would have been safe. To take away this chance for trans children now is appalling. Based on the language in these bills it is clear that the authors have made no effort to understand the trans experience and it is incredibly that they do not care to understand either. Denying life-saving medical care to children in your state is a level of callous abuse that I thought was impossible. Children will die because of your ignorance. The blood of innocent children who just want to be themselves will be on your hands. I was not able to begin my transition until I was an adult and I live with grief of the childhood I lost every single day. Not a day goes by that I don't mourn for the girl that never was. I am begging you to not take the opportunity to live authentically away from these children. I never thought I'd have to beg my elected representatives to care about my life and the life of so many other constituents but here we are. I am exhausted. Please just let us live. I implore your to vote against these bills.

Adrian Metzger

self

Luling, TX

The GOP, in Texas and otherwise, needs to have more fear for the welfare of children than the fear of the LGBTQ activists. At least 15 state legislatures are already considering bills to protect vulnerable children from gender modification procedures and treatments.

As the LGBTQ movement has increasingly sought to indoctrinate children through radical sex education, efforts to interfere with the development of children has also increased. This is accomplished by having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty-blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a "gender identity" that rejects bodily reality. This is profoundly unethical.

Minors are prohibited from purchasing paint, cigarettes, alcohol, or even getting a tattoo. Minors possess underdeveloped mental capabilities to make certain decisions on their own. We cannot allow minors to make life-altering decisions on body mutilating procedures and irreversible hormonal treatments. They need to be protected from the dangerous and permanent consequences of

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their confusion. Will Texas have the courage to do more than just consider the bills? Will Texas actually take a public stance on protecting minors?

Quinn Kimery

Self

Denton, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

Puberty irreversibly changes the body in many ways. This not only brings on panic, depression, and dysphoria for already vulnerable teens, but causes mental health issues for the rest of these kids' lives. To deny them the chance to pause these changes is inhumane. Even if teens are able to access trans-affirming care as adults, they often must spend tens of thousands of dollars undergoing surgeries to correct the changes brought on by puberty. Since transgender individuals are statistically far less likely to be financially stable or have a support system, this is often not possible, and the dysphoria that begins at adolescence often eventually kills them. Puberty blockers, on the other hand are safe and reversible, and will save countless lives. They are the farthest possible thing from child abuse.

Mila Kuptsova Homen

SELF

Corpus Christi, TX

WE can't allow this in the state of Texas! We can't have left agenda damage our kids. As a mother, as a conservative woman - I would like to see this bill passed.

Michael Vanis

Self. Small business owner

Austin, TX

Trans people know their lives and experiences better than anyone else. The doctors and medical professionals who care for trans patients know how to provide appropriate medical treatment. This bill does not provide support for trans people, but is part of a larger aim to eliminate them from society.

Crystal Main

self

North Richland Hills, TX

I strongly support this bill. This should not be allowed until a person has the maturity to make the decision on their own.

Rocky Lane

Self

Austin, TX

In opposition to HB 1399:

As a young gender diverse child I asked god to end my life. Because I heard adults discuss that my truth was sin. This rips a child apart in ways that are so unimaginable and I would not wish that on any human. We are born so unique and expansive and then we put each other in the box. We deserve so much more! You deserve more. Children deserve to speak openly about how they feel and think and explore. Humanity can be more. Humanity can find compassion for the things we don't understand. We are protecting these children. From y'all. Protect trans youth with care of mental health, stop attacking them, let them play, let them

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live. We are not the victimless scapegoat for political posturing. We are a community that survived despite decades of these choices to try to force conformity. Why are we not listening to doctors that specialize in this medicine worldwide? Why are we not working to bring services statewide to help underserved groups recover and thrive here in the lone star state. People are not governed by policy. People are governed by the heartbeat and truth that lives within them. In my short life, I want to see kids have options that protect them from stigma and shame. Allow honesty and authenticity to reign free. History will search for the times we worked to heal each other. Today is our historical day to choose to investigate and listen to the professionals and not the professors or false narratives. The anger against us uses religious exemption as a shield. I would ask for a shield against that shielded community. Protect us with the power and balance of the state. Sit your uncles and your cousins down. They haven't been satisfied with harmony for years. They hope to keep us busy and confused on intersectional truths. We all have a responsibility to do everything we can to help every Texan. This includes us. Trans rights are human rights.

Christine Suggs

Self

Dallas, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

I am a trans nonbinary individual. The past year has allowed me to find my gender identity and I have never felt happier. I have a pride flag hanging outside my house. One day, as we were sitting down to dinner, a teenager knocked on our door. He'd gotten into an argument with his parents and needed somewhere safe to go. His parents do not approve of his trans identity and took away his phone and read his letters to his sister. My heart broke for him. I told him that this wasn't fair. I told him he is deserving of love. I told him he is brave and wonderful and to come see us anytime. My husband and I hope we said the right things and that he knows how welcome he is in our home. I keep my blinds down every day now, always keeping an eye out for this boy. I hope he comes back. I hope he hasn't been kicked out. When we experienced a snowstorm I increased my vigilance, terrified he'd be out in the cold. I hope he hasn't hurt himself. I hope he finds peace and support. I'd like to raise my own child one day, and my goal is that they will never be scared to be themselves around me. Perhaps by that time I could tell them that their school will support them. That they will not be taken away from me. That they are allowed to have hope for the future.

Marc Pitts

Self

Flint, TX

My name is Marc Pitts. I strongly support HB 1399 and demand that it be passed favorably out of committee.

It is highly disturbing to learn that, in Texas, it is lawful to engage in medical experimentation on minor children. These horrible gender modification treatments and procedures result in serious damage to the physical and mental health of innocent children.

Gender modification of a child is child abuse, plain and simple! I will not accept any excuses for why this bill wasn't passed by the Legislature.

Either you support child abuse or you want to protect children by passing this bill. It's that simple. Cowardice is completely unacceptable. I will not bow to the alleged "sensitivities" of the GLBT community.

An overwhelming number of Texans support this bill. It's easy to see why after considering that up to 97% of children who experience gender dysphoria see a resolution without any medical treatment by the end of adolescence or early 20s. However, if they are permanently damaged via chemical or surgical means, then they will never have a chance at normal life.

Children do not possess the rational and mental capabilities of adults. It is total insanity to allow these decisions to be made before they turn 18 years old. Studies show that the prevalence of suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts among transgender adults is significantly higher than that of the U.S. general population. Why would you risk the future safety and welfare of children without being 100% sure that any purported gender dysphoria will not resolve in early adulthood?

We must ban chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and genital mutilation surgery on all minor children for

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transition purposes, especially since Texas children as young as three years old are being transitioned from their biological sex to the opposite sex.

If you don't support this bill as a Representative, then maybe it's time to consider if you have the requisite courage to remain in office. Texans overwhelming demand that our precious children are protected by law from these horrible abuses.

Nicole Murphy

Self

Katy, TX

I am in favor of Bill 1399.

Amy Sabalesky

Self

Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

I personally know 5 people who are transgender. One is in her 50s, and she never imagined a day when she could live as a the woman she was because she was born in a man's body. So she suppressed herself and tried to fit in even getting married to a woman she loved. To fully feel at peace, she transitioned a few years ago which disrupted her marriage and sadly hurt her wife. If only she had felt able to live as herself years before! I know four young people who are transgender. All suffered from depression and anxiety until they were able to be their true selves. Two have had gender reassignment surgery, two only use hormones. But all are now better mentally for being able to live as their true selves. In America, we should not be interfering in the medical or psychological well being of other people's lives. You hold the right to not wear a mask as sacred yet want to interfere between doctors and their patients, between parents and their patients. Do you know that 41% of transgender individuals attempt suicide before age 25 because of how society restricts and ostracized them?! Stop hurting these young people for just living their truths. You do not have the right to target this already vulnerable population. Shame on you. If you really want to understand, listen to transgender individuals. Listen to their parents. Listen to the science behind it. Don't use transgender people as political pawns. It's disgusting s and it is unAmerican.

Jesse Llanes

Self

Cypress, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

My name is Jesse Llanes and I am testifying against HB 1424 and HB 1399. I'm a firm believer of every single Texan being treated with dignity and respect. Trans Texans are our fellow Texans. As a native Texan, I was raised to appreciate the importance of small government. The kind of small government that refrains from interfering in the private lives of Texans unless deemed necessary to protect us from bigotry and inequality. I will not stand by quietly while my fellow trans brothers and sisters are being attacked. Love thy neighbor and govern friendly the Texas way!

Chris Murphy

Self

Katy, TX

I am in favor of this Bill!

Hannah Thalenberg

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Self, abortion funder

Houston, TX

My name is Hannah Thalenberg, and I oppose House Bill 1399 by Representative Krause. By preventing medical professionals who provide transition-related care from securing liability insurance, HB 1399 would effectively prohibit young transgender Texans from accessing essential health care.

As a trans non-binary person, I feel blessed to be part of a community that celebrates every person for who they are and affirms how they want to show up in the world. I know that there are infinite ways for us to feel at home or not in our bodies, and they are all valid. At the same time, transphobia in its many violent manifestations often makes it hard for us to show up as we are. If this is challenging for me as an adult with a great deal of privilege, I can hardly imagine how it must feel for children. Trans youth deserve our protection, not more barriers to living their truth.

Transition-related care looks different for each and every person and is a decision thoughtfully considered by youth, their guardians, and their doctors. HB 1399 cruelly targets transgender kids and teens who deserve love, care, and support as they come into their own identities and step into their power. Debating the basic humanity and inherent rights of transgender youth and teens is harmful enough. If this bill were to pass, the impact on thousands of Texans would be severely damaging and could cost human lives.

It is bitterly ironic that HB 1399 makes an exception only for procedures that may not be medically necessary and try to force intersex children into binary gender boxes. Genitalia, hormones, internal anatomy, or chromosomes can develop in many ways, and that's beautiful! Children's bodies are too often changed for them because of shame and stigma, and surgeries to change sex traits must be the individual's choice. Ending intersex surgery would be a much better use of this committee's authority than attacks on LGBTQI+ youth such as HB 1399.

Transgender people, and those who love and provide care to them, have the right to live free from discrimination and access the health care we need, just like everyone else. I urge this committee to live up to its mandate of promoting public health and vote against House Bill 1399.

Shayla Startley

Self

Rosenberg, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

I don't think you should be swaying doctor's opinions, nor telling parents what they are to do with their children. I think it's sick that you can categorize a parent who wants their sweet baby comfortable in their skin to be classified with the worst type of people. This entire bill is disgusting and needs to be stopped immediately. Thank you.

Maggie Stern, Youth Civic Education & Engagement Coordinator

Children's Defense Fund - Texas

Austin, TX

The Children's Defense Fund is a nonpartisan child advocacy and policy organization dedicated to lifting up the voices of children and youth, with the mandate to ensure that every child has a healthy, fair, safe, moral, and head start in life, leading to successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For trans youth, transition-related healthcare is a vital part of this mission, and we are deeply disturbed by HB 1399 and other discriminatory bills that discourage doctors from providing best practice transition care.

Gender-affirming care is medically necessary and potentially life-saving for trans kids. Children in Texas already have a hard enough time accessing affordable healthcare. 13% of Texas children below the age of 18 were uninsured in 2019. This number is higher for children of color, and it has increased over the past several years. This is shameful for our state to have so many

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children barred from our healthcare system. We must make sure all our kids have the best possible healthcare, rather than creating new, bigoted barriers that target trans youth.

HB 1399 would harm children. It would force doctors to harm children under their care. It would further marginalize and isolate trans youth, with potentially fatal consequences. We must protect our Texas youth by ensuring that they have the love, care, and medical support that they need to be happy and healthy as children and eventually as adults. We urge this committee to listen to the testimony you will hear from trans children & the people who love them and oppose this discriminatory bill.

Karen M Jambon

Self

Austin, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

It is a travesty and abomination that the legislature is attempting to play doctor with the lives of Transgender children. All of the science, medical and psychological, points to the fact that drugs that inhibit the physical characteristics of puberty are life-saving for those individuals who experience gender dysphoria. Interfering in the medical relationship between doctors and patients is not in the best interests of anyone except for attention-grabbing legislators who know nothing about the subject they are trying to legislate and are trying to appeal to the most base and biased instincts of their base. As a matter of fact, research shows that when a person is forced to live as the gender listed on the birth certificate as opposed to the gender with which the individual identifies, it often leads to suicide. If this bill is passed, those deaths are on your hands.

Marcia Peters, LCSW, Ms.

Self

Houston, TX

The human brain in children is not fully developed in children, so why is there a law that allows them, or their parents to consent to life-altering surgery. Statistics show that not only is there NOT more satisfaction in their lives after this surgery, but the suicide rate is high. If the schools would stop their insane indoctrination of gender “confusion “, we would see less transgender issues.

I speak as a licensed clinical social worker.

Sara Martin

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid.

Ted Kincaid

Self

Dallas, TX

To the Texas State House: As a veteran educator of more than a quarter of a century, I am writing to express my vehement opposition to HB 1399. Frankly, I am appalled and offended that this bill has even exists. Trying to intimidate medical professionals from providing transition related care is such an obscene infringement into the lives and well- being of trans Texans that it baffles the mind that the party of “small government” would even allow this bill to be filed. I have, over many years, had numerous trans youth in my high school classroom. They deserve simple dignity and respect, and this dangerous piece of legislation explicitly and atrociously robs them of this. Denying best practice medical care and support to transgender youth has been shown to contribute to depression, social isolation, self-hatred, risk of self-harm, and suicidal behavior. Research shows that transgender youth whose families support their gender identity have a 52% decrease in suicidal thoughts, 48% decrease in suicide

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attempts, and significant increases in general health. I have taught and mentored these youth. All children, including transgender children, have the best chance to thrive when they are supported and can receive the health care they need. This bill seeks to act like some piece of mafia-inspired scare tactic to medical professionals and seeks to rob trans youth seeking gender-affirming care of their health, well-being and dignity. I urgently ask you to oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Ted Kincaid

Autumn Fikki Urbanovsky

Self

Austin, TX

I am currently in training to become a Nationally Certified School Psychologist, or Licensed Specialist in School Psychology. I am submitting this testimony in response to bills SB 1646, HB 4014, HB 1424, HB 1399, written by Senator Perry, Representative Hefner, Representative Klick, Representative Krause, Representative Oliverson, and anyone else involved in the writing of or support of these bills. I want to acknowledge that I am a cisgender individual and do not have the lived experience of being a trans person. However, I am passionate about working towards a more compassionate, welcoming, and loving world for all people, especially those individuals and communities who society at-large tends to exclude, discriminate against, and marginalize. The transgender community continues to experience this hatred and exclusion and I see the direct results of this in my work with students. It is common for transgender students to experience complete denial and invalidation of their identity by parents, teachers, peers, and others in the community. This results in feelings of rejection, loneliness, depression and is one of the reasons that transgender youth are at a significantly increased risk for losing their lives by suicide. I also see the consequences at a higher level in the research initiatives I am a part of which currently focus on understanding the pathway by which adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) result in future mental health difficulties within the sexual and gender minority community. Importantly, we know that individuals identifying as gender minorities, tend to experience higher rates of ACEs. It is important to understand the direction of this relationship. That is, it is not that because a child experiences high rates of ACEs that they then become transgender. Rather, they are transgender, this is part of their identity, and because of this and how their identity is perceived by many, they are at risk for experiencing higher rates of harassment, abuse, and trauma. Additionally, we also know that trans youth are overrepresented in the homeless population. Again, this is a result of belief systems that deny and perpetuate hate against their identities. Parents will kick their own children out of their home. Please consider how these bills contribute to the discrimination, promotion of hate, and denial of basic human rights to transgender youth. I want to wrap up by emphasizing that a basic assumption I have is that people are good. In this light, I try to uncover the “noble intention” (Tom Sexton) behind human behavior, even behavior that results in harm and is blatantly evil in my eyes. What is the intention here? Sometimes we can intend one thing and end up causing another. We can guarantee that the results of bills like these which perpetuate anti-trans rhetoric, will only result in more hate, more discrimination, blatant denial of basic human rights to life-saving healthcare, and rotten fruit- metaphorically speaking. It will

Lisa Nilsson

self

Boerne, TX

I strongly support this bill.

I am deeply concerned with the unprecedented numbers of children and teens who believe they are transgender. And even more, I am concerned that they NOT be allowed to make life-changing decisions regarding their sexual identity and body parts while they are still, by definition, too immature to fully understand the long-term effects of irreversible surgeries and puberty-blocking drug therapies. Such procedures in minors are not only profoundly unethical, they are child abuse. Rather than giving them what they might think they want, children must be protected from dangerous surgeries and chemical alterations. My heart hurts for anyone struggling with such identity confusion. But, as a matter of policy, we must protect them until they are fully mature and able to weigh all the risks and consequences of medical sex alterations. Please stand up for our vulnerable children and vote to pass HB 1399 today.

Jennifer Potter

Self

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Manvel, TX

In opposition to HB 1399

Supporting and providing access to gender affirming care for transgender children promotes health and well-being. It is not child abuse. This approach is recommended by the prevailing standards of care, best practices, and guidelines endorsed by national and international professional organizations including the World Professional Association of Transgender Health, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Endocrine Society, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the National Association of Social Workers, and the Australian Professional Association for Transgender Health and is associated with improved mental and physical health outcomes.

The gender affirmative model of care includes obtaining a child's assent before engaging in any medications or surgical procedures. Until puberty, there are no medical or surgical interventions involved related to gender affirmative care. After the onset of puberty, comprehensive gender health planning — including consideration for medical interventions (e.g., pubertal suppression, hormone therapy, gender affirming surgery) — is completed with interdisciplinary teams, following established guidelines, and only with the assent of the youth.

As signatories to this letter, it is our position that all children should be able to express their gender identity without fear of rejection. Supporting transgender children and children who are expressing a different gender than expected includes providing opportunities for the child to explore their gender identity freely. This can include facilitating a social transition where a child is able to live in the gender role that is most authentic to that child. This usually includes a new name, pronouns, attire, hair length and/or style in order to present as their self-identified gender. Parents are also encouraged to seek gender affirming medical and mental health care services from experienced providers to support their child's healthy development and wellbeing.

This gender affirming model of care is based on the latest scientific evidence which demonstrates that family acceptance of a child's gender identity and providing gender-affirming care are associated with improved well-being and mental health including reductions in symptoms of depression, anxiety, and suicidality. Children who experience negative family and caregiver responses of indifference, rejection, and/or attempts to change their gender identity or expression are more likely to experience negative psychological and social outcomes including depression, anxiety, suicidality, substance abuse, as well as heightened risk of lower educational attainment and homelessness.

The signatories of this statement support parents' rights to support their child's gender identity and access gender affirming care for their child without fear of Child Protective Services' (CPS) involvement.

Clay Norman

self

Cedar Park, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Alicia Bell

Self

Kerrville, TX

My name is Alicia Bell, I represent myself, and I am in SUPPORT of HB1399

Children do not have the capacity to decide what their gender is. They are not allowed to smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol or have sex. They do not have the capacity to determine make life-altering decisions until they are 18 yrs old. Parents, professional counselors, school administrators and doctors are abusing children when they are telling the child they are something other than their biological gender. I was a tomboy as a child and they would have tried to transition me if I was a child today. I did not want to have my gender changed just because I liked to play with boy's toys. It is child abuse to do this to children.

Ashley Dellagiacomma

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Self - Pastor

Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

As a Pastor in the heart of Houston, there are several people in my community and on our church staff who are transgender. I have witnessed their years of bravely living into who they are simply created to be and held them when it seems like no one is willing to help them to simply exist as healthy and whole people. It is already a desperate struggle for them to find even the most basic levels of medical care. Using bully bills to threaten healthcare providers financially and professionally will only cause a greater health crisis in an already extremely limited field. As a state, we pride ourselves on liberty and hospitality. We would make a mockery of those values to restrict a doctor's full freedom to treat their patients in accordance with best practices. My Christian tradition and my shared humanity holds all life as precious and deserving of care. HB 1399 would undermine and endanger the transgender citizens of our state to whom we have an obligation of care. Far more people will be harmed by a lack of access to affirming care than by ensuring it. I am tired of holding the weeping bodies of those who have been turned away, abandoned, and genuinely left for dead because of fear and lack of understanding. Let us be a state where all our people are free to live their precious lives in safety and dignity.

Ruth York

Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, Texas Family Defense Committee, and myself (Direct Sales)

Cisco, TX

We support HB 1399. Gender transitioning and gender reassignment are not the best options for gender dysphoria in children. Studies show the vast majority of children outgrow this self-perception if allowed to go through puberty. Encouraging or supporting their false perceptions is cruel, not compassionate, and flies in the face of established medical and psychological treatment practices for every other false perception by the patient. Starting off-label hormone treatments to support the patient's wrong perception creates additional serious health challenges, and a lifetime of enslavement to powerful drugs.

This is a decision children and teens are not mentally and emotionally equipped to make, but if affirmed by their caregivers--and allowed by law--such children could wind up on a life-altering course that cannot be undone--one devoid of normal sexual function and procreation. Those are things a child or teen cannot fully assess and value.

Furthermore, delaying the onset of puberty itself creates problems, even for a child who later chooses surgical transitioning. As in the case of reality star "Jazz", sexual organs don't develop normally, meaning there's insufficient tissue to construct pseudo replacements. Muscles from be taken from elsewhere, such as the forearm.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. What a great time to end this particular form of child abuse! Please support HB 1399.

Elitza Ranova

Self

Houston, TX

4-11-2021|| Hello, || My name is Elitza Ranova, and I live in Houston, Texas. I am writing to express my adamant opposition to HB 1399. This bill discourages doctors from providing best practice gender transition care by prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering transition related care. This bill threatens the ability of doctors to provide care that validates the true identity of a transgender child, like my own.|| All children need to feel loved, accepted and supported for who they are. When children's true identities are validated by the world around them, children thrive and are able to focus on what really matters: school, learning, family and friends. They grow to become contributing and productive members of society. When their true identities are invalidated, transgender children suffer deeply and experience lasting damage, which is sometimes life-threatening. || I am the mother of a transgender child, who has directly benefitted from puberty blockers (hormone blockers). Please know that the decision to start treatment was not made lightly. We spent hours research the effects and side effects of blockers; we talked in depth to the doctors on our family's healthcare team; we discussed this as a family and researched some more. After the treatment started, we have not regretted it for one bit. || Hormone blockers delay puberty. The effects are completely reversible and

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temporary. Puberty blockers are a standard part of gender transition healthcare because they allow children to mature and gain more clarity about their gender and identity, without the potentially damaging experience of seeing their body develop in ways that does not match their sense of self. || Hormone blockers have allowed my child to thrive, to become more confident and feel happier. In a word, my child is blossoming. They are active in after-school activities, spend time with friends and do well in their studies. And yet HB1399 threatens to take that away. As you can see, this is absurd. If a child is thriving, happy, healthy, and supported, the government has no business going into a family's home or a doctor's office and interfering. || Bills like HB 1399 are a distraction. They take away from legislators' focus on substantive matters that need urgent attention, such as dealing with the pandemic and its impacts, infrastructure, and public education for all Texas children. In fact, it is taking away time and energy from many parents like myself, who instead of focusing on their jobs, small businesses and children, are doing the work of exposing the misinformation and ideological agenda behind these bills. || I am pleading with you—vote NO to HB1399. Let's put an end to the distraction and get down to real business. || || Thank you,|| Elitza Ranova

Patricia Lynch-Dopkin

Self

Houston, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

Transitional care provided by medical professionals is a necessary and life saving service that prevents thousands of trans youth from living their lives in misery and prevents untold number of suicides. It is inhumane to sent medical doctors from having insurance to cover this care! Vote against HB 1399

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I strongly support this bill, and urge you to report it favorably out of committee. Our youth must be protected from procedures that they are not mature enough to decide upon, that may have long lasting adverse health effects, that they may deeply regret later, and most importantly, are against biblical principles that the Triune God created Male and Female in their image. I pray for the success of this legislation. Thank you and God bless.

Mark Copeland

Self

Cypress, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

How can anyone believe that you would attack and punish the medical profession for doing just what they sign up to do for their calling. To help and provide medical care for all Texas children. You should be ashamed of trying to deny medical care to my child.

Jayne Piana

Self

Houston, TX

In Opposition to HB 1399

When I read about the bills recently passed in Arkansas, I was scared. Scared as a parent, scared as a Texan. But I thought (not for the first time and certainly not for the last), "Thank goodness I'm a Texan!" Texas – the only state to have ever been its own country. Champion of individual rights! There is no legitimate reason behind these laws and Texans are smarter than to be fooled

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by this bigotry dressed up as medical concerns, this discrimination dressed up as “protection.” I was shocked when I read that Texas now has several bills pending that go against everything we stand for as Texans – individual rights, small government, trusting experts to make the right decisions for individuals, and trusting parents to make the right decision for their kids.

House Bill 1399 targets medical professionals providing transition-related care by preventing them from providing such care and also preventing them from securing liability insurance.

And yet, there has been absolutely no evidence introduced to establish there has ever been an issue with youth receiving inappropriate care. None. Indeed, these bills are opposed by organizations dedicated to children’s health, including the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the National Association of Social Workers, and more. Puberty blockers and hormone treatments are completely safe and have been around for decades. Who is the Texas legislature to second guess the expert advice of these medical professionals? In addition, doctors caring for transgender youth – like all doctors caring for minors – must involve the parents before any treatment gets started. Who is the Texas legislature to second guess the opinions of these loving and dedicated parents? Are you telling me you know better than I do what is appropriate for my child?

Allowing physicians to provide this type of care – under the watchful supervision of parents – is in the best interest to protect these Texas children and their families. Why are you doing this?

As a loving parent to a nonbinary kid, who is currently being treated by a mental health professional and by a physician, I’m asking you to vote no on all these bills. We’re smarter than this, Texas. We’re better than this.

Lauren Rodriguez

Self

Uhland, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

Thank you chairman and committee members for your time today. My name is Lauren Rodriguez, I am testifying on my own behalf, and I live in Hays County. I am testifying against HB1399 which is a trans medical ban. My son is a 17 year old transgender Texan and this bill will not only hurt him and other kids like him but it will hurt his doctors, nurses, and his medical team as a whole. By not allowing my sons affirming doctors to be covered by insurance you are limiting their ability to help my son flourish and live his best life. My son transitioned over four years ago and during that time with the help of his medical team we have watched him blossom into an amazing young man who has confidence, bravery, self-esteem, and who knows his worth. Because of the loving care and treatment my sons doctors provide him he has decided this fall when he leaves for college he will major in nursing. He realized through his amazing doctors and nurses, most of whom we now consider family, that he wanted to follow in their footsteps and make his life about caring for others. When my son first started his transition I was scared. I did not know what I was supposed to do or where to turn. Thankfully I found amazing support from friends, fellow parents, co-workers, and family. They were able to direct me to physicians, nurses, and specialists who could not only help my son and family but also teach us and lead us on this journey. They cried tears of joy with us when after a long battle with my ex-husband we were able to get my son on puberty blockers. They celebrated with us when my son was able to begin Testosterone two years ago. And last December they sent us gifts, called to check in on us, and helped us navigate his recovery from top surgery. They have always gone above and beyond for our family and countless other families like ours. They didn’t have to call me back when I was worried and questioning each step, but they did. They didn’t have to send us lunch via delivery while my son was recovering from surgery, but they did. They also celebrated with us this January when my son was admitted to his top choice college. They told me how relieved they were that he will be escaping Texas to another state where he will be safer. Please do not ask me, after they have provided lifesaving care to my son for the past four years, to ask them to risk their licenses just so that my son can live his authentic life. Please don’t ask me to make them choose between what they know is best practice medical care and their careers. Please vote NO on HB 1399 and leave the medical decisions with the doctors and staff that know best, and the parenting to the parents who know their children best. Thank you for your time.

Alisa Miller

Self

San Antonio, TX

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In Opposition to HB 1399

I'm the mother of an amazing 19-year-old daughter. For several years, starting when she was about 10 years old, she spiraled into a very deep depression. She quit participating in school. She crawled into a shell of isolation. She rarely smiled or laughed anymore. When she was 14, she came to me one day and explained that she is transgender and wanted to begin to transition. We started slowly with changes like the clothes she wore and her hair style. Eventually, in coordination with her doctors and therapist, she began taking hormone blockers, and then later, hormones.

Almost immediately when she began transitioning, I started to see my daughter come back. It was like a weight was lifted from her when she came out. She still struggled with depression for a few years, but working with her psychiatrist, the depression eventually lifted.

After many years of treatment from her doctors and support from her family, my daughter is now doing so much better. She no longer struggles with depression and has recently started college.

If my daughter hadn't had the treatment she received from her doctors, I can only imagine where she would have ended up. It is not a stretch to think she may have taken her own life. She certainly wouldn't have been able to complete school in the state she was. The prescriptions my daughter's doctor wrote for hormone blockers and hormones were as important to her well-being as the prescriptions her psychiatrist wrote for antidepressants. The care she received from all her doctors was absolutely a lifesaver for my daughter.

I implore you all to consider what might happen to other people who might be going through something like what my daughter experienced and not be able to receive the care they require. Instead of supporting HB 1399, I beg you to give the gift of life to transgender people by allowing them access to physicians who can provide what they need to become healthy and successful just as my daughter has.

Johanna Eckler

Self

Austin, TX

In Opposition to HB 1399

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

My name is Dr. Jo Eckler, and I am a licensed clinical psychologist with nearly 20 years of experience with transgender patients. I have given invited presentations at transgender healthcare conferences and provided inservice training to local agencies. And I have personally witnessed the beneficial effects of gender transition. I have seen patients who suffered severe depression, social anxiety, and suicidal thoughts for decades despite antidepressant medication become happier and more outgoing once they were allowed to live as their true selves. Although I only treat adult patients in my own practice, I can tell you that the same miraculous transformation happens for transgender children when they get to be themselves. Even something as simple as using their preferred name can reduce the risk of them committing suicide. The most recent National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health conducted by the Trevor Project found that more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth had strongly considered suicide in the past 12 months, and 60% of them had done some form of self-harm. You don't have to be a mental health professional to understand that these kids are in a lot of emotional pain.

The good news? Transgender and nonbinary youth who reported having their pronouns respected by all or most of the people in their lives attempted suicide at half the rate of those whose pronouns were ignored. Additionally, transgender and nonbinary youth with access to items such as binders, shapewear, and gender-affirming clothing reported lower rates of suicide attempts over the previous 12 months compared to those who couldn't access these essentials. If simple things like words and clothing can reduce suicide rates, can you imagine what allowing them access to gold standard medical care for gender dysphoria can do? Now, can you imagine what a bill like this can do? Depriving transgender children of access to best practice medical care for gender dysphoria can be a death sentence, or at the very least a sentence to unnecessary years of misery and a greater cost to the healthcare system for treatment such as psychiatric medications and hospitalizations after suicide attempts. Not to mention the cost to their families in time, energy, time lost from work--and heartbreak.

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The Standards of Care from the World Professional Organization for Transgender Health state that 'Refusing timely medical interventions for adolescents might prolong gender dysphoria and contribute to an appearance that could provoke abuse and stigmatization. As the level of gender-related abuse is strongly associated with the degree of psychiatric distress during adolescence (Nuttbrock et al., 2010), withholding puberty suppression and subsequent feminizing or masculinizing hormone therapy is not a neutral option for adolescents.' Some people are pretending that this bill somehow protects children.

Claire Andrefsky

Self

Austin, TX

Texas State Legislature Attn: Representatives Krause and Oliverson; Senators Perry and Hall; To Whom it May Concern; My name is Claire Andrefsky, I am a Licensed Master Social Worker here in Austin, TX. I currently work at a therapy practice here in Austin that serves children, youth, and families. I have been privileged enough to walk alongside adolescents and young adults who are part of the transgender community. But I have also been part of conversations that are unfathomable for many, especially anyone who has a child in their life that they love. Many of my clients experience suicidal ideation and have made suicide attempts that are in response to the overwhelming emotional impact of a continued sense that they are living in a world where they are not safe, where they cannot be themselves, and where they hear rhetoric that they are not worthy of good care. House Bills 1424 and 1399 and Senate Bills 1646 and 1311 continue to perpetuate the narrative that not all children and young people are worthy. We as a community want to do whatever we can to make sure that each child has a chance to live to their full potential. For transgender youth that can only be achieved when access to medical providers, therapists, and the bevy of support people who help make decisions in a child's life are available—even if it is never accessed. The option to gain access to education and information to make a health care decisions is essential. Every major medical association supports the necessity of transition related care for youth because the physical health and mental health impacts of access to good care are immense. If you could imagine preventing 48% of a specific group from attempting suicide, would you? Studies have shown that access to transition related care, reduces the rate of suicide attempts by transgender youth by 48% and a 52% decrease in suicidal ideation. I have seen how access to supportive environments that is affirming and offers safe access to information and care has improved the lives of my clients. It has been an honor to be part of that supportive process. That has meant supporting parents as well through education, therapeutic family counseling, and good old-fashioned listening. As a therapist and a social worker who has worked in a large hospital that has a leading clinic in supporting children, adolescents, and families in finding the right individual health care choices, I want to personally say that much of the information presented in these bills is misleading. I would encourage you each to think about how it has been for you to access health care or therapy for yourselves or children. Now that you have pictured that experience, what would it be like if the treatment needed was illegal because of the way it is misunderstood by the greater public, or perhaps your state's legislature. Imagine how infuriating, disheartening, and scary it would be to know that there are ways you could receive the needed care, but decisions w

Scott Anderson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

In Opposition to HB 1399

I am a parent and teacher in Fort Worth. Both my daughters and many of my students know and/or attend school with transgender teens. It's largely a non-issue with the students and my daughters. They simply shrug and move on with their day, because these are just other people to them. I wish I could say the same for adults, and, apparently, elected officials. I would like to see Texas adopt a more stand-offish, more nuanced approach. A more Christ-like attitude, if you like.

As a parent, at no time do I want elected officials hanging around our doctors office, following us into exam rooms, and then dictating to medical professionals how they can and cannot treat my child. For anything. I doubt you would accept the same, if other elected officials would follow you as your take your son or daughter to the doctor, and then force your family to accept only the care this outsider deems appropriate to himself or herself. Can you son be treated for a venereal disease if I object? Can your daughter start taking birth control if some other parent not in the room objects? These are not decisions for elected officials to moderate.

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These are private decisions between a doctor, a patient and the patient's parents. These are not decisions to be voted on, in public, by other people. You would not accept government overreach in your son's or your daughter's medical decisions, I ask you to afford your friends, your neighbors, your loved ones—your fellow Texans—the same rights you would insist that you have. It is unconscionable that you would seek out children who commit suicide at a much higher rate than other children, and deny them rights. Let that sink in. These humans currently have rights, and you are singling out children who simply want to be left alone, and you are working to take away their rights. Children. Who currently have rights. Who cause you no harm. Who cause your children no harm. Who cause no harm to the community. Who cause no harm to Texas. Who simply want to live their lives—without having a roomful of elected officials crowding into their doctor's exam rooms to bully the doctor, and to take away the rights of children. We Texans used to be better than this.

Hiram Mojica

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Emily Beasley

Self

Austin, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

My amazing child is non-binary. They are looking forward to having puberty blockers so they may make a decision later as an adult without having to deal with distressing physical characteristics. I know this is difficult to understand for people who have never experienced this. It may seem strange, or like I fad. I assure you that it is not. My child is real, they're experience is real. My kid needs to be able to choose to get help from medical professionals. Please do not take away their right to medical guidance.

Diana Markuson

Self

Spring, TX

In Opposition to HB 1399

Hello, my name is Diana Markuson and I am giving testimony against bill HB 1399 (Krause). I am a retired psychiatric nurse and since this bill puts up major roadblocks for allowing medical personnel to follow AAP, APA, and AMA best practices, it's unethical. The legislature should not be involving themselves in the medical field. Perhaps in the legislature's LIMITED time you should quit playing doctor's and therapists and start doing your real job. May I suggest that you address fixing our electrical grid, helping our schools, may more attention to the covid vaccinations and testing, just to name a few.

Quinn Kimery

Self

Denton, TX

In Opposition to HB 1399

The doctors who have provided care to my trans friends and I are the most compassionate and effective doctors I have ever met. They understand that trans people are just humans, and treat us with the same dedication you would hope for in a medical professional. They do not deserve to be punished for doing their duty to protect Texas' citizens and your constituents.

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Ashley Dellagiacoma

Self

Houston, TX

In Opposition to HB 1399

As a Pastor in the heart of Houston, there are several people in my community and on our church staff who are transgender. I have witnessed their years of bravely living into who they are simply created to be and held them when it seems like no one is willing to help them to simply exist as healthy and whole people. It is already a desperate struggle for them to find even the most basic levels of medical care. Using bully bills to threaten healthcare providers financially and professionally will only cause a greater health crisis in an already extremely limited field. As a state, we pride ourselves on liberty and hospitality. We would make a mockery of those values to restrict a doctor's full freedom to treat their patients in accordance with best practices. My Christian tradition and my shared humanity holds all life as precious and deserving of care. HB 1399 would undermine and endanger the transgender citizens of our state to whom we have an obligation of care. Far more people will be harmed by a lack of access to affirming care than by ensuring it. I am tired of holding the weeping bodies of those who have been turned away, abandoned, and genuinely left for dead because of fear and lack of understanding. Let us be a state where all our people are free to live their precious lives in safety and dignity.

Lisa Moore

self Superintendent of Grace Christian School of San Antonio

San Marcos, TX

I am strongly in favor of HB 1399.

Shelly Skeen

Self

Dallas, TX

In Opposition to HB 1399

Elitza Ranova

Self

Houston, TX

In Opposition to HB 1399

4-11-2021

Hello, My name is Elitza Ranova, and I live in Houston, Texas. I am writing to express my adamant opposition to HB 1399. This bill discourages doctors from providing best practice gender transition care by prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering transition related care. This bill threatens the ability of doctors to provide care that validates the true identity of a transgender child, like my own.

All children need to feel loved, accepted and supported for who they are. When children's true identities are validated by the world around them, children thrive and are able to focus on what really matters: school, learning, family and friends. They grow to become contributing and productive members of society. When their true identities are invalidated, transgender children suffer deeply and experience lasting damage, which is sometimes life-threatening. I am the mother of a transgender child, who has directly benefitted from puberty blockers (hormone blockers). Please know that the decision to start treatment was not made lightly. We spent hours researching the effects and side effects of blockers; we talked in depth to the doctors on our family's

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healthcare team; we discussed this as a family and researched some more. After the treatment started, we have not regretted it for one bit.

Hormone blockers delay puberty. The effects are completely reversible and temporary. Puberty blockers are a standard part of gender transition healthcare because they allow children to mature and gain more clarity about their gender and identity, without the potentially damaging experience of seeing their body develop in ways that does not match their sense of self. Hormone blockers have allowed my child to thrive, to become more confident and feel happier. In a word, my child is blossoming. They are active in after-school activities, spend time with friends and do well in their studies. And yet HB1399 threatens to take that away. As you can see, this is absurd. If a child is thriving, happy, healthy, and supported, the government has no business going into a family's home or a doctor's office and interfering.

Bills like HB 1399 are a distraction. They take away from legislators' focus on substantive matters that need urgent attention, such as dealing with the pandemic and its impacts, infrastructure, and public education for all Texas children. In fact, it is taking away time and energy from many parents like myself, who instead of focusing on their jobs, small businesses and children, are doing the work of exposing the misinformation and ideological agenda behind these bills. I am pleading with you—vote NO to HB1399. Let's put an end to the distraction and get down to real business.

Thank you,
Elitza Ranova

Kebra Albrecht

Self

Austin, TX

Please support HB 1399 to protect children in Texas. Supporting this bill does not make me anti-LGBT. I support it because transitional hormone therapy permanently effects the developing child, and cannot be reversed. Please view Blair White videos in You-Tube regarding this issue. She is a Transgender Woman. She has lived with gender dysphoria and does not support this irreversible treatment for children. Parents with children suffering from gender dysphoria should be able to have noninvasive treatment for their children. The current political climate makes it hard for doctors not too immediately recommended transitioning drugs. In Texas we need to stand up for children.

Jennifer Tolar

Self

The Woodlands, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

My name is Jennifer Tolar and I oppose bill HB 1399 because I believe it has no merit and is unethical. It violates the very freedoms for which this country was established and should not even be considered by legislators. They should be focusing their time on COVID protocols/responses, public school funding or even our electrical grid here in Texas as they have critical impact on our state's citizens. They should not, however, be involving themselves in the personal medical decisions of individuals and their families.

Katie Tolar

Self

Spring, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

I vehemently oppose bill HB1399. It is superfluous and outrageous. Every American deserves the right to healthcare. Despite the protections put in place that prohibit discrimination, our American transgender children face uphill battles EVERYDAY. Our country proudly proclaims itself to be the land of the free, yet our elected officials continuously dehumanize and attempt to strip

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their civil liberties. Children require supportive families, counsel and guidance from medical professionals, and assistance/facilitation from government officials. We need to refocus our efforts, specifically, toward educating the members of our legislature who think bills like this are necessary.

Elizabeth Callahan

Self

Jersey City, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

This measure will do real and lasting harm to trans youth who are already systemically marginalized. Criminalizing their care for political gain is wrong. It protects no one and hurts Texas families.

Darren Liu

self, student

Sugar Land, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Genevieve Ruble

Self

Rowlett, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

For the record, I would like to state that loving care is not something we should punish in America. We all have the right to the pursuit of happiness, which includes gender expression, among many other things. Trying to arrest or otherwise penalize/punish doctors for helping children live better lives, is reprehensible. They have a duty to 'do no harm' which they cannot fully perform, if they are restricted in this way. Children will not be hurt by proper care, they'll be hurt by a society telling them that they can't have the freedom that our country guarantees. You owe these children their rights as citizens, period.

Carolyn Lux

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I am in favor of passage of this Bill. Gender reassignment in children is child abuse. Please vote for this Bill.

Thank you.

Carolyn K.Lux

Robin Jackson, Mrs

Self

Kerrville, TX

I agree with everything that Matt Long has said. There should NOT be any procedures and/or treatments to modify the gender for any children (under of the age of 18 years of age) included in any insurance coverage or out.

Doug Greco

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Self

Austin, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

This bill interferes with the decisions best made between doctors, parents, and their children. The State should not play the role of medical provider here.

Indigo Giles

Self

Austin, TX

In Opposition to HB 1399

Hello. My name is Indigo Giles, I'm 19 years old, and my pronouns are they/them. I'm a born-and-raised Texan and a current university student and I am here representing myself to oppose HB1399.

When I was 14, I realized that there was something different about me. I knew I wasn't a girl, but I didn't feel like a boy either. When I finally found the language to describe myself as nonbinary, it felt like a relief. But I still felt uncomfortable in my own body. I struggled greatly with gender dysphoria, which caused deep depression and even behaviors of self-harm. Finally, at age seventeen, after a year of waiting, multiple disheartening delays, and many, many discussions with my doctors to determine that this was the right choice for me, I received gender-affirming surgery. The first time I was able to get out of bed post-op and see myself in the mirror wearing just a regular t-shirt, I started crying. I was so unbelievably happy. I felt like I could finally recognize the person in the mirror.

If I was not able to receive the medical care that I did at the time I did, I can guarantee that my mental health would have continued to suffer greatly. I know several children just like me whose lives were saved because they were able to access best-practice, affirming medical care. And I know without a doubt that if this bill is passed, so many children just like me will suffer mentally and physically.

I want other trans children who are going through the same things I was experiencing to have access to best-practice medical care. I don't want any child to be denied the same joy and relief that I was able to experience.

Politics and legislation have no place in a decision that should be made between a patient and their team of doctors. Trust the experts to provide best-practice medical care. Let our bodies be our own bodies, and not a political battlefield. Vote no on HB1399.

Karen Ditty

Self

Cypress, TX

My name is Karen Ditty and I OPPOSE HB 1399 because any bill penalizing medical personnel for following best practices supported by the AAP, APA and AMA is unethical. The mention of sterilization surgery is uninformed, as this surgery is NEVER performed on children under 18 and ultimately will be the decision of the individual with the council of their medical provider. Legislation of this kind demonstrates a lack of knowledge of life-affirming care for children who need medically approved care. Without care, these children have an 85% risk of committing suicide as compared to their non-transgender peers as a result of rejection, bullying and other victimization. Do not let HB 1399 go forward, please oppose this bill.

Sharon Parham

Self

Cypress, TX

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My names is Sharon Parham and I oppose HB 1399 because any bill penalizing medical personnel for following best practices supported by the AAP, APA, and AMA is unethical. The very mention of sterilization surgery is uninformed as this surgery is never performed on children under 18 years of age and is ultimately the decision of the individual with the council of their medical provider. Without medical care, these children have an 85% risk of committing suicide as compared to their non-transgender peers as a result of rejection, bullying and other victimization. I, unequivocally, oppose this bill.

Jo Ivester

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Jo Ivester and I am testifying against HB 1399, which effectively bans puberty blockers, hormones, and gender-affirming surgical treatment for transgender teens by prohibiting medical liability insurance coverage for this medically required care. This ban is contrary to the best medical opinions. It is government interference in the relationship between doctors and their patients. This is personal for me. Thirty-one years ago, we welcomed our son Jeremy into the world as what we thought was our daughter. We were wrong. We'd never heard the word transgender, nor did we know about the medical care that could have made him so much happier. Of his middle school days, during which he played football as what was viewed as the only girl on the team, he has said, "When we were on the field, my teammates didn't think of me as a girl. But I felt left out because we were no longer friends off the field. I thought sixth grade was tough, but seventh grade was even worse. I'd think, It's okay that they don't want me around. I can deal. But I couldn't. I couldn't make the feeling go away. My throat hurt and my chest tightened, and I felt isolated and deserted as I thought about how long it had been since I'd hung out with my teammates like when we were little kids. I no longer had a social life." If only my husband and I had known, we could have provided him with the teenage years he deserved. What's more, if he'd been prescribed puberty blockers, he never would have gone through female puberty and developed breasts, and thus would have avoided the need in his mid-twenties to have top surgery. We are one of the fortunate families. Jeremy, unlike 40% of transgender teens, never tried to die by suicide. Today, my son is happy as the man that he is. Isn't that what every parent wants for their children? Please vote against HB 1399.

Samuel Joseph

Self

Spring, TX

In opposition of HB 1399:

Stop targetting transgender children. Mind your own business and actually work on fixing the real issues in our state. If you really want to help, why don't you do something more useful like stopping unwanted surgeries on intersex children? Quit wasting my tax dollars on non-existant problems. We are suffering from COVID and the past winter storm still.

Cari Land

Self/School Counselor

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424
Thank you for supporting Equality!

Donna Clancy

Self

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

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David Pickup

Self

Houston, TX

In support of HB 1399:

I am David Pickup, licensed psychotherapist and co-founder of the National Task Force that has lobbied many state legislature committees over the past nine years in speaking about gender and sexuality rights.

HB1399 is simply based on two facts. Gender Dysphoria is not an inborn, genetic issue, and current forces in Texas are insisting that you create education and laws that promote a belief in a genetic nature of transgenderism. There is not one conclusive research study that has proven genetic causation of dysphoria. Dysphoria is caused by an extremely traumatic attachment disorder within a person's first years of life. For whatever reasons, if a child does not bond enough with their parents, they are very likely susceptible to deep and unresolved inner trauma. For some children the only way out of this abandonment is to take on the gender of this parent so they won't have to be aware of, and won't have to feel, how painful and frightening it is to not experience this essential bonding. These are cases of deepest identity insecurity in which a child takes on an identity that will "comfort" the pain and terror of abandonment. These mistaken identities are always unconscious efforts of a child to be safe, and they feel inborn to the transgender person because this happens in the first years of life.

And now, the political jargon of transgender philosophy has sailed into every state government and many public schools and universities in the US. Their philosophy is based on the idea that there is such a thing as a man born in a woman's body and vice-versa. Politically speaking, a Tsunami of transgender philosophy has entered the realm of state laws pushed by activists who are stopping at nothing to ensure that all people accept transgenderism completely or be labeled as hate-filled people who should be prosecuted for discrimination.

Texans are being indoctrinated and threatened with harassment if transgender philosophy is not sealed within these institutions. It's all being done in the name of compassion for those children with dysphoria. Let me be clear. Persons with gender dysphoria deserve our highest and deepest sense of compassion for the extremely painful and terrifying issues they experience. But, there is no such thing as compassion without truth.

One of my clients is a 45 year-old man who was about to have transgender surgery before he underwent psychotherapy for his dysphoria he had since childhood. Through much healing psychotherapy, this man is resolving his dysphoria, feeling comfortable in his male body. He's moving toward complete resolution. Those on the other side of this issue are loathe to let this kind of information out since it shows the flaws of their philosophy. Ask them why they don't offer this! Please pass 1399. It will address the truth of this issue and help guard against further medical operation abuses to children because of its additional emphasis on insurance issues and liability.

Kelly Canon

Self

Arlington, TX

Please PASS this bill favorably out of this committee. It's a good bill! Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment electronically!

Corey Burge

self

Plano, TX

I support this bill. The ability to permanently alter their body should not be allowed to happen before they're old enough to actually understand the consequences of such a choice. We don't let kids drink before 21, we should NOT let them change their body before then either.

Raven Micketto

Self, LE

GEORGETOWN, TX

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I adamantly oppose two bills being heard in the Public Health Committee: House Bill 1399 and House Bill 1424, both of which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and the about on whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. Further, religion should not be twisted into a tool to excuse doctors from doing their jobs and serving all Texans equally, as HB 1424 would do.

Elizabeth Cross

self, disabled

SPRING, TX

Vote NO on this bill. It is imperative to allow certain children access to treatments and procedures to align their bodies more closely with their souls. It's absolutely wrong to deny them this life-saving, life-changing, life-affirming access to transition. Parents do enough as it is to shepherd their children and prevent them from prematurely making permanent alterations to their bodies, and finances already prohibit a vast array of people from obtaining the medical care that would help them live a better life. Placing more roadblocks in front of an already vulnerable population is abhorrent.

Frank Holman

Self

Austin, TX

I am in favor of HB 1399. I ask you to vote to send this Bill to the House Floor for a vote.

Trayce Bradford

Self

Grapevine, TX

I strongly support HB1399. This experimentation, on children no less, with puberty blocking drugs and/or surgeries is beyond comprehension. When the child turns 18, then they can pursue for themselves these treatments. That is entirely different than allowing feelings and confusion to place a child in the driver's seat of a massive life decision. Doctors, parents, counselors and others who should be a guiding force in a child's life are instead aiding and abetting these children in what would be a devastating decision. Hormone treatment and mutilating a child's body is not common science and the consequences are questionable at best and gravely dangerous at most. Please consider this legislation that would serve as a stop gap on this dangerous and new phenomena. Thank you.

Lauren Womack

Self / Project Manager

Plano, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Limiting healthcare to 'certain' children is discrimination, pure an simple.

Jessica Jones

Self / Library director

Bryan, TX

Gender affirming care is not the business of the state - it should be between the child's family and their doctor. Denying these children and their families care is discriminatory and unethical.

Susan Welch, Mrs

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Self

Katy, TX

I support HB 1399

MArk Welch

Self

Katy, TX

I support this bill and do not believe children under the age of 18 are qualified to decide to change their sex.

Jessica Nemergut

Self

The Colony, TX

I object to this bill. This issue should not be legislated, it should be attended to by private individuals and related healthcare professionals.

Tallulah Breslin

Harmonic Speech Therapy

Austin, TX

I am very concerned to see that the Texas legislature is considering passing a bill that would make providing life-saving care for gender diverse individuals a crime. Given that more than 41% of individuals who are transgender attempt suicide at some point in their life, the most important thing that is needed for this population is access to gender affirming medical care. When necessary treatment is provided this rate of suicide attempts is cut in half. The decision about what medical care is appropriate for an individual is best left to the trained medical professionals who understand the biological conditions that cause the incongruence of gender identity and sex assigned at birth. Klinefelter syndrome is a genetic condition in which a boy is born with an extra X chromosome, causing low testosterone levels. Transgender women often have a longer version of a receptor gene for the sex hormone androgen, which reduces its effectiveness at binding testosterone, which plays a critical role in the forming of male sex characteristics. Decreased exposure to testosterone in utero increases the likelihood that there will be incongruence between gender identity and sex assigned at birth. The loss of a female specific CYP17 T -34C allele distribution pattern is associated with transgender males. There are correlations between gender identity and brain structure. These are biological differences that individuals have no control over. The intense, persistent discomfort with how someone's body and mind relate to the gender they are perceived as is difficult enough to undergo without legislators trying to legislate away their right to survive. For some, transitioning medically can alleviate the painful experience of dysphoria, and save their lives. The most basic task an elected lawmaker has is to keep their constituents alive. Doctors undergo many years of medical training to understand the treatments and conditions they work with, and they and the individuals they treat are the best equipped to make medical decisions.

Aiden Juge

Self-Student

College Station, TX

I cannot understate how detrimental this bill is to the health and safety of youth. Medical guidelines already state that in order to access gender-affirming hormone treatment or surgery, a transgender person must receive a letter or letter(s) from a mental health professional indicating that such treatment will be beneficial. Minors must furthermore seek the consent of their parents, many of whom deny their transgender child treatment regardless. These measures, in addition to financial constraints and lack of providers, already substantially limit access to gender-affirming care (Hughto et al 2017). However, multiple scientific studies have found evidence that allowing trans youth to access treatments such as hormone suppressants is associated with beneficial

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effects on mental health, including lower risk of suicidal ideation (Sorbara et al 2020, Turban et al 2020). If this legislature wishes to ensure the survival of young people, it is vital to safeguard access to gender-affirming care for minors.

Sorbara JC, Chiniara LN, Thompson S, Palmert MR. Mental health and timing of gender-affirming care. *Pediatrics*. 2020; 146(4):e20193600. doi:10.1542/peds.2019-3600

Turban JL, King D, Carswell JM, Keuroghlian AS. Pubertal suppression for transgender youth and risk of suicidal ideation. *Pediatrics*. 2020;145(2):e20191725. doi:10.1542/peds.2019-1725

White Hughto JM, Rose AJ, Pachankis JE, Reisner SL. Barriers to gender transition-related healthcare: identifying underserved transgender adults in Massachusetts. *Transgender Health*. 2017;2(1):107-118. doi:10.1089/trgh.2017.0014

Carolyn Rospierski

Texas Impact

Cypress, TX

Oppose....overreaching regulation that attacks a small population. Leave coverage decisions to insurance carriers. Not a decision for the state.

Sarah Beatty

Self, Consultant

Dallas, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424.

Skyler Korgel

Self, Manufacturing Engineer

Weatherford, TX

I oppose HB 1399 and urge the committee to not report this harmful legislation out of committee.

House Bill 1399 would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare during a critical time in their bodily development that can intensify the child's gender dysphoria each month, week, and day that passes. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and the about on whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. I urge the committee to vote nay on this bill in committee and, if it progresses, on the House floor.

Vineet Mansukhani

Self - Business Owner

BEDFORD, TX

Based on 5,000 years of human historical statistics on sexual morality, J D Unwin found that every human civilization/nation relaxed its sexual morality after attaining a level of affluence. This sexual immorality, like cancer, metastasizes rapidly in 3 generations/75 years leading to 100% of these nations to PERISH, subsumed by a superior culture.

The minimum standard for sexual morality for a culture is premarital chastity and post marital lifelong monogamy. Gender transitioning is the final 3rd generational metastization of a nations decay in sexual morality and demise.

By not moving this bill forward to the house floor, this committee is complicit in undermining the very existence of Texas.

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A very good, short, and insightful summary of J D Unwin's work can be found at rebrand.ly/JDUnwin

Sydney Kubes, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

HB 1399, HB 1424 I am totally against these bills regarding transgender children. They are based on ignorance and intolerance will lead to increased incidents of suicide by transgender children. Decisions about them should be made in consultation with their health care providers, NOT the government.

Jennifer Beamer

Self/Homemaker

SPRINGTOWN, TX

It is so important that you support HB 1399, because our children, who are so precious, are vulnerable. They should not be coerced or persuaded or tricking into make life-altering decisions regarding their bodies at a young age. It is child abuse. Please protect our children by voting FOR HB 1399. I do have to say, however, that in regard to Section 164.052 (a)18)A,B,C about the cases in which abortions can be performed, I totally disagree. I believe that a baby's life begins at conception and should always be protected. However, when a child is viable, the term for removing the child from the mother should be called delivery, giving the child a chance to survive outside the womb, not to be called abortion, in which case the baby is being purposefully killed. If the wording can be changed to protect the child being delivered through surgery, that is extremely important. Thank you for your consideration!

Donald Beamer

Self/Follower of Jesus

SPRINGTOWN, TX

It is so important that you support HB 1399, because our children, who are so precious, are vulnerable. They should not be coerced or persuaded or tricking into make life-altering decisions regarding their bodies at a young age. It is child abuse. Please protect our children by voting FOR HB 1399. I do have to say, however, that in regard to Section 164.052 (a)18)A,B,C about the cases in which abortions can be performed, I totally disagree. I believe that a baby's life begins at conception and should always be protected. However, when a child is viable, the term for removing the child from the mother should be called delivery, giving the child a chance to survive outside the womb, not to be called abortion, in which case the baby is being purposefully killed. If the wording can be changed to protect the child being delivered through surgery, that is extremely important. Thank you for your consideration!

Lorri Haden

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

Please vote NO on HB 1399.

Angela Smith

Self

Fredericksbueg, TX

I am in favor of this Bill. After watching what has happened to the Younger family and also what I know of the ability of a child to make decisions of this magnitude, I find it unbelievable that Texas has not already provided protection for children whose parent has decided to ignore the science of a child's ability to decide on irreversible treatments. This is tragic! Such decisions

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should be reserved for adults. Prohibiting insurance to pay for these actions affects all insured as we should not have to bear these costs financially in our premiums.

Mandy Kirkland

Self, pharmacy tech

Tennessee Colony, TX

I support HB 1399 because gender modification of minors is Child Abuse and needs to be outlawed. We must protect these innocent children from doctors who stand to benefit financially from these procedures. There are crazed parents who think that because their son played with a doll or carried a purse at 3 or 5 years old, he wants to be a girl. That is simply kids being kids and experiencing life. These procedures are life changing and there is no undoing it once the deed is done. I urge you to protect children and vote this Bill out of committee today.

Adam Foster

Self

Austin, TX

I am against this bill.

Y'all stop picking on kids and leave this to the trained medical professionals.

Cindi Castilla

Texas Eagle Forum Whild children

Dallas, TX

A society that willfully harms it's children cannot be called civilized.

In recent years it has become popular to attempt to heal internal wounds by taking actions to change the outward appearance of their birth sex. This is now trending among children, especially girls. Society and even our schools are pushing the idea that a person can change their sex.

This much promoted idea is doing much to steal the innocence of childhood. While children should be allowed to explore their world, use their vivid imagination and enjoy the limited period of time in their life where they can be relatively free from the burdens of overwhelming adult ideas. It is a heavy burden to be a child and told you should determine if you are really the sex you were born. Children are not equipped to think through that. They cannot understand the ramifications of infertility, loss of sexual sensation as an adult, or even biology in general.

We MUST stop the Texas Medical Community from following a child's idea that they should be the opposite sex. It is malpractice to destroy components of a healthy child's body as the child cannot in any way give informed consent. Please support this bill and let our children grow up and then make adult decisions.

Note: Children showing anxiety and undo stress have likely had something happen to them that needs attention. To refuse to get to the bottom of the issue but skip to a gender change cannot be acceptable. As we listen to adult transgender people share their stories, they often involve bullying, sexual abuse, trauma, or other hard things. Sometimes it was just an issue of a child's mind not being able to comprehend something they saw or heard. We OWE children to help understand frightening things they have experienced. We are wrong when we allow the solution to their anxiety/stress to be putting them through the process to help them pass the opposite sex. This path to "healing" doesn't make any sense. It actually seems evil.

Please support true healing of our children and stop Doctors from hurting their bodies with inappropriate drugs and surgeries. Let them heal and make this adult decision as adults.

Cindi Castilla

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Texas Eagle Forum

Joel Nilsson

Self, Physician

Boerne, TX

This is such a no brainer. Children do not have the capacity to make life changing decisions such as re-assignment of gender and are easily swayed by adults who inflict their hangups on their children. This is just another form of abuse and although I believe in parental rights, in this case these kids need to be protected from parents and a culture that has quite literally gone off the rails. As a physician I voice my strong support of this bill that would block this abuse from occurring in this vulnerable population. I voice my STRONG SUPPORT of HB1399 and represent myself in this matter.

Joel B. Nilsson, MD

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director

Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Flint, TX

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC, speaking for the organization:

Grassroots America strongly supports HB 1399.

We urge the House Public Affairs Committee to pass this bill out of committee.

Interfering in a child's physical development by preventing the biological pubescent process from occurring in an emotion-driven attempt to affirm a gender identify that rejects biological reality and science is profoundly unethical.

We support conscience protections for health care providers who believe (as we do) that children should be allowed to grow up and mature before they make drastically life-altering decisions. Puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgical procedures are permanent. Even if stopped prematurely, chemical transitioning can cause infertility. A child cannot possibly understand what this means for his/her future because children do not understand the concepts of "lifetime" or "permanent."

We believe mutilating surgical procedures to alter a child's sex is abusive and experimental. It is wrong. Health care providers who object to performing such procedures whether due to their scientific, ethical, and/or religious beliefs should be protected from societal and cultural tyranny.

Gender is biologically defined as male and female and there are unalterable God-given distinctions between male and female. We urge you to especially protect children under the age of 18 from surgical or pharmaceutical efforts to change their physiological nature. Please save Texas health care providers and children from being used as social, cultural experiments at the hands of science-denying adults. HB 1399 is a good start.

We ask the House Public Affairs Committee to also set HB 68 (Rep. Toth), HB 2693 (Rep. Toth) & HB 4014 (Hefner) for a hearing. 94.57% of 2020 Texas Republican Primary voters supported a ban on gender transitioning of minor children. That is a very strong mandate.

Pat Fry

Self-retired

Round Mtn., TX

Supporting HB 1399, I believe it is strictly to protect children under 18, from being treated with methods that would cause irreversible damage to their bodies. Children are not able to make life altering decisions. They 'think' ice cream would be great for every meal.. Truth matters! First, the truth is God created male and female and His order and design are supreme. Those

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who resist God's order not only are fighting God's design, they are fighting nature and science as well. Such resistance would only bring self inflicted problems which comes with departure from the truth. Secondly, studies and research show 80%+ of children that have gender dysphoria will outgrow it once they get past puberty. I am a living testimony, along with countless others, having been a tomboy while a young girl, happily, wearing my brother's hand-me downs, playing with and thinking I was more like a boy, was reinforced with the loving truth that came from my Grandmother who reared me and said, "Remember, you ARE a girl". TRUTH matters. The TRUTH will set you free. Please hold TRUTH to the highest standard in deliberations.

Peter Ledoux, Dr.

Self/plastic surgeon

San Antonio, TX

We all do things as teenagers that we regret as we get older ...getting tattoos or body piercings , driving a car drunk, experimenting with drugs etc. but the steaks have been raised to an entirely new level. Changing one's gender? Changing one's gender is a monumental decision. It goes against our biological sex ... our DNA. this decision, to change ones sex either chemically and/or surgically should only be done when the person involved reaches full brain maturity , which is at approximately age 25. Allowing teenagers to make decisions that would alter their body permanently is unwise and irresponsible. Studies are starting to show that some people who change their gender in their teenage years have regrets later in life. Let us do the prudent thing and make sure a person is fully mature before making this decision

Stacy Marshall

Self, Licensed Professional Counselor

ARLINGTON, TX

This bill aims to deny life saving medical interventions to children. As a children's counselor who specializes in working with LGBTQ+ individuals, I have seen firsthand the damage that is done to children who are denied the opportunity to be their true selves. Children who's gender identity is not supported by those around them are far more likely to attempt suicide. Doctors prescribe hormones and perform procedures on cisgender children as part of their regular services, and transgender children are no different. These interventions and procedures are legitimate medical practices, and it should be between the patient, parents, and the doctor to decide if they are right for the patient. The Texas legislature should not be intervening in standard and evidence-based medical procedures.

Diana Richards

Self - Volunteer

Sherman, TX

As a Native Texan of 7 generations and mother, I am FOR HB1399. Please pass it favorably out of Committee for a vote by the full House. Puberty isn't a disease and must be allowed to progress naturally for both sexes to facilitate healthy muscle, bone density (due to growth spurts after puberty starts) and brain development. Our sex is determined by our chromosomes. A female mother's body even knows whether she has had a baby boy or a baby girl and adjusts the protein and carbohydrate levels in her Breastmilk accordingly.

We also have to look at the underlying root of the transgender movement dating back over 80 years. Alfred Kinsey, Harry Benjamin and John Money pioneered this movement at the same time that they were also advocating behind the scenes for pedophile rights. Drs. Money and Benjamin set up a clinic at Johns Hopkins University where they promoted rehabilitation of pedophiles in 3 weeks at their facility. The clinic was shut down by Johns Hopkins, though, due to the horrific amount of suicides committed by the patients who had undergone Money's transexual surgical experiments.

If it is codified into law that a minor child can legally consent to social, hormonal and surgical gender re-assignment, what is to stop those who would like to push the "consent" issue even farther? The implications are far reaching, because it could then be argued by that eliminating the "age of sexual consent", or the age for consent for medical treatment, vaccinations, and abortion should be codified as well. Changing your sex/gender by way of hormones, puberty blockers and surgery must be done by a legal adult of 18 years or older. There is absolutely NO chance that a child/Teen can fully comprehend the life-long consequences of

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these inventions performed to their physical bodies for gender dysphoria mental health conditions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rebecca Silverblatt

HRC

Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424. Thank you for supporting Equality!

Patricia Harris

Self, data analyst

Austin, TX

Protect queer/trans/LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! PLEASE VOTE NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424 !!!

Candace Berrier

Self

Austin, TX

It's incredibly important that we allow children to be who they are. Denying them the opportunity to be true to who they are has life threatening consequences. This bill is harmful to kids, their self esteem, their confidence, and their lives.

Alison Mohr Boleware, Government Relations Director

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter

Austin, TX

The National Association of Social Workers – Texas Chapter (NASW/TX) opposes HB 1399 (Krause). This bill is extremely harmful to transgender and gender nonconfirming minors in Texas, and the professionals that provide them with evidence-based, age-appropriate, and life-saving healthcare. Social workers believe in the right to self-determination, the inherent dignity and worth of all people, and always acting in the best interest of the client and their wellbeing. This bill goes against these values, and does not reflect the strategic and complex transition healthcare practices of today.

HB 1399 comprehensively prohibits gender-affirmative treatment for minors, and removes liability protections for the health professionals that provide this care. This is a form of gatekeeping; wherein governmental bodies decide the validity of a trans or gender nonconforming person's identity, then empower themselves to authorize or deny access to transitional care.

Puberty blockers, for example, are prohibited through this bill. The Mayo Clinic states, that for young people who have gender dysphoria, suppressing puberty can, "Improve mental well-being, Reduce depression and anxiety, Improve social interactions and integration with other kids, Eliminate the need for future surgeries, [and] Reduce thoughts or actions related to self-harm."

Puberty suppression alone, however, may not totally ease gender dysphoria. Which is why access to other hormonal and surgical procedures - that come only after all other treatment options have been exhausted as a part of a broader comprehensive treatment plan made with the client and their parents - is also necessary.

This bill not only infringes on the rights of youth and their parents to make autonomous and informed decisions, it also negates the comprehensive, well-researched, and exhaustive Standards of Care that medical organizations such as the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and the Endocrine Society, have developed. Social workers stand against this bill

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and request that the committee listen to all perspectives from the professional medical and mental health community, and the individuals and families that would be impacted by this legislation. NASW/TX will continue to stand for LGBTQIA+ Texans and their civil rights.

Phyllis Milner

Retired teacher and educational administrator.

Plano, TX

I'm for this bill so that the insurance companies will have the legal freedom to deny gender operations performed on children. Please pass this bill.

Jane Whittaker

SELF, a wife, mother, grandmother and Registered Nurse

Cypress, TX

After having heard a young "female," (in her latter teens or early 20's) speak, and as a previous surgical registered nurse, this is a procedure that will never allow that human to truly know what, in totality, has happened to their body, both physically and psychologically. As 'she' expressed herself, she could/would never know what to even feel as a 'normal' human female (or male). She would never know what her life could have been or how to even "feel" about most situations she could have had as she aged. Even at the point she was speaking, she stated she did to know how to be a female by sexual standards nor would ever know what she could have been or feel.

As a registered nurse, these procedures, literally, dehumanize and become a deformity for a child of any age. No parent should ever be able to consent for a young child that is not fully formed in mind or body. I feel this is a criminal misfortune for anyone to endure.

Mercedes Garin, Mx.

Self

El paso, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Paulette Carson

Self

Apple Springs, TX

I am in support of HB1399. Gender modification for minors is unacceptable. I respectfully request this bill be favorably passed out of committee.

Tanya Robertson, SREC SD 11 Committeewoman

Republican Party of Texas

Taylor Lake Village, TX

IN FAVOR of HB 1399

This bill aligns with the Republican Party of Texas's Legislative Priority that states:

Abolish the following practices for minors: intervention to prevent natural progression of puberty; administration of opposite sex hormones; and performance of any type of gender reassignment surgery.

Children are miracles from God and should not be modified in an unnatural manner against His will.

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The Legislative Priorities Committee has adopted this bill to advocate for and urge Chairman Paddie to bring it up for a vote in committee along with asking committee members voting it out of committee favorably.

Thank you for your time!

Ileana Isern-Flecha

Self

Austin, TX

If we are believers of God creating every life, we should believe in supporting treatment of children that were created by God and that require medical procedures associated with gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria. Those children (nor their parents) chose to be born that way, and they deserved the necessary medical procedures that will enable them to live a normal life. Please do not support this bill. Please protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities (.e., COVID relief, the power grid and improved training for our police so that they can be more effective for all races).

Ileana Isern-Flecha, Dr.

Self

AUSTIN, TX

If we are believers of God creating every life, we should believe in supporting treatment of children that were created by God and that require medical procedures associated with gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria. Those children (nor their parents) chose to be born that way, and they deserved the necessary medical procedures that will enable them to live a normal life. Please do not support this bill. Please protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities (.e., COVID relief, the power grid and improved training for our police so that they can be more effective for all races).

Diane Velasco

self, my 3 children and 4 grandchildren

Hurst, TX

I support this bill. It protects minors from unprincipled doctors and pharma cos seeking to profit from mentally disturbed parents and/or minors. It is nonsensical & hypocritical for the state to regulate minors' access to cigarettes, alcohol, etc. yet allow access to medical mutilation and destructive hormone-distorting drugs that have harmful, life-altering, irreversible effects. It is equally nonsensical & hypocritical for the state to remove minors from their homes & charge parents with child abuse for spankings, "unhealthy environments," "neglect," variety of safety issues, yet, again, allow medical mutilation and use of destructive hormone-distorting drugs. All of nature testifies against what is being called "gender modification"; no other species on the planet engages in such behaviors. No society in human history has endorsed, embraced and institutionalized men attempting to become women and vice versa. It remains to be seen how this aberrant sexual behavior will impact our society. But you have the duty to do everything in your power to protect innocent, helpless children from being guinea pigs in this extraordinary social experiment, whether they are willing guinea pigs or not. Moving HB1399 through this committee is your first step.

Jeremy Schwab

Joel 2:25 International

Carrollton, TX

Please support this most important bill and stop the destruction of Texas children. No one is born in the wrong body.

Jonah Martinez

Self

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El Paso, TX

As a Texas resident, born and raised, I ask that you terminate this bill as it is harmful not just to transgender children but also to intersex children.

Jennilyn Salinas

Representing myself

San Antonio, TX

Thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Jen Loh Salinas and I'm testifying in support of HB1399. I represent myself. Im a Texas Native born and raised in the border town of Laredo, Texas, I listened to the testimonies given on Monday in the Senate from home and decided I had to come here and let my voice be heard. I became horrified watching a little boys testimony of how his parents began transitioning him when he was 3. He stated that at the age of 3 and 4 he's been having to explain his gender to everyone. If a child CAN NOT get a TATTOO until they are 18, who in their right mind would allow a child to transition to the opposite gender they at just 3? When my child was 3 years old she couldn't even choose what cereal she wanted for breakfast, but we are allowing children to make very permanent and life altering decision as young as 3? My daughter loved dinasours and has never really played with girly toys. This is clearly child abuse perpetrated on this child by his parents. I'm not going to assume my daughter is identifying as a boy because she likes remote control boats and dinosaurs. You do not further confuse a small baby boy at the tender age of 3 and convince him he's a girl because he likes dolls and glitter. This is EXACTLY why this bill MUST pass. Our children are being used to push a radical agenda. This cannot stand in our State of Texas. I'm outraged that this type of child abuse is being done in our communities and allowed. A mother was testifying yesterday claiming her 7 year old girl learned about the term "transgender" so she began wanting to transition , so the mother complied to the CHILDS wish to be a boy. These are not children's wishes these are parents suffering from their own mental disorders. There are TWO GENDERS, Male and Female. That will never change! This is just common sense no matter which side of the aisle you are on. This is a radical agenda for the lgbqt community being pushed by adults as you are seeing here today. I ask them to stop using children to push their agenda. Vote YES on this bill and save thousands of children.

Noemi Vaglienty

719712

Houston, TX

I am seeing a concerning trend of having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a "gender identity" that rejects bodily reality. This is profoundly unethical.

Children should be protected from dangerous surgical and hormonal treatment procedures that have permanent life-altering consequences. It is time for Texas to address this issue.

Please stand up for vulnerable children all across Texas.

Thank you for your time and service.

Carrie Holley-Hurt

Sel

Austin, TX

Good afternoon/morning Chair and Committee Members. My name is Carrie Holley-Hurt and I am here in opposition to HB1399. In an a seminarian and my faith compels me to testify today. I am a mother of a non-binary kid and that great responsibility compels me to testify today. I oppose this bill for three reasons.

First, this bill is creating an issue where there is none. But there are issues like our failing energy infrastructure, the fallout of the global pandemic, and the fact that a quarter of all children in this state are food insecure (Baylor). Those are the issues that y'all have 47 more days to address and as a Texan, I sincerely hope you do.

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Secondly, while this is a non-issue it will have real-world implications for the trans community, a community that is already vulnerable to violence. With this bill and others like it, you are further normalizing discrimination towards your own constituents. Towards my child.

Finally, as a mother of a trans child, I want you to know that when parents see their children for whom they really are, releases everything they thought their child's life would be like to accept who their child is at the core of their being, every single thing they do from that point they do with the utmost concern and love for their child. This is not a matter for the state. No one but the parents, the child, and their well-qualified doctor should have any say what does and does not happen. No one seeks the medical route lightly. I urge you to let this bill die in committee and get back to the work that needs to be done.

Phoebe Wesley

self, homeschool teacher

New Caney, TX

I support this bill. As a mother of two boys and two girls, I am acutely aware of my duty to help them grow into the people God created them to be. I must not impose my own desires upon them. As God created humans as clearly biologically male or female in the vast majority of cases, we should honor the created design of our children. It is right that no one in Texas should be allowed to modify a child's biology before he or she is able to give clear, reasoned, informed consent as indicated by mature age.

Emily Williams

Self

Melissa, TX

Support

Keith Dietrich

Self

Buda, TX

My name is Keith Dietrich and I live in Buda. My zip code is 78610. I wanted to let you know that I adamantly oppose two bills being heard in the Public Health Committee: House Bill 1399 and House Bill 1424, both of which would place huge barriers between transgender Texans and healthcare. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and the about on whether or not a transgender child will start transitioning medically is one that needs to be made by the child, their parent(s), and their doctor; not state legislators. Further, religion should not be twisted into a tool to excuse doctors from doing their jobs and serving all Texans equally, as HB 1424 would do. I urge the Representative to vote against both HB 1399 and 1424.

You can record that you made a call in our CTA Tracker!

Senate State Affairs Committee

Chair: Bryan Hughes, bryan.hughes@senate.texas.gov, 512-463-0101

Vice-Chair: Brian Birdwell, brian.birdwell@senate.texas.gov, 512-463-0122

Member: Donna Campbell, donna.campbell@senate.texas.gov, 512-463-0125

Member: Bob Hall, bob.hall@senate.texas.gov, 512-463-0102

Member: Eddie Lucio, Jr., eddie.lucio@senate.texas.gov, 512-463-0127

Member: Jane Nelson, jane.nelson@senate.texas.gov, 512-463-0112

Member: Beverly Powell, beverly.powell@senate.texas.gov, 512-463-0110

Member: Charles Schwertner, charles.schwertner@senate.texas.gov, 512-463-0105

Member: Judith Zaffirini, judith.zaffirini@senate.texas.gov, 512-463-0121

House Public Health Committee

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Chair: Stephanie Klick, stephanie.klick@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0599
Vice-Chair: Bobby Guerra, bobby.guerra@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0578
Member: Steve Allison, steve.allison@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0686
Member: Elizabeth "Liz" Campos, elizabeth.campos@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0452
Member: Garnet Coleman, garnet.coleman@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0524
Member: Nicole Collier, nicole.collier@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0716
Member: Jacey Jetton, jacey.jetton@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0710
Member: Tom Oliverson, tom.oliverson@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0661
Member: Four Price, four.price@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0470
Member: Reggie Smith, reggie.smith@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0297
Member: Erin Zwiener, erin.zwiener@house.texas.gov, 512-463-0647
MAKE AN ONLINE COMMENT (HOUSE)

You can make an online comment for the House hearing on HBs 1399 and 1424. Fill in your contact information, then select "HB 1399 by Krause" or "HB 1424 by Oliverson," and submit your comment.

TESTIFY

You can have our partners at the Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT) submit your testimony on your behalf as Public Testimony. Sign up [HERE](#). Note that you'll need to submit testimony separately for each bill.

Senate

If you can be in Austin to testify in person:

Senate meets in the Senate chamber. Hearing notice.
House

House hearing will be in JHR Room 140. Hearing notice.
Witness registration.
You can watch a live video of the House hearing [HERE](#).

FOR MORE

BATHROOM BILL 3.0: A coordinated attack against trans k

Joan Baukman

Self

Pasadena, TX

I am in support of this bill. Please protect our children. Thank you!

Dee Martin

Self. Citizen of Texas

Cross Plains, TX

I implore you to vote a resounding "NO" to this bill. If you choose to participate in this evil, you should be held responsible and feel the full weight of justice.

LaDonna Olivier

My family and America

Pecos, TX

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Vote "NO" on anything that has to do with reassignment or changing gender transitioning of any child! There is no justification!

Rebecca Martel, Dr.

Self, physical therapist

Kyle, TX

Ms. Howard, please vote NO to this one.

Anesma Hestle, Mrs

N/A

Ft Worth, TX

Vote NO!

Tamra Snell

Self - Librarian

Pflugerville, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid. Vote NO on HB 1399. Thank you for supporting equality!

Sharamie Cooper

self

Houston, TX

VOTE NO on HB 1399. Protect LGBTQ Texas youth and their families, focus on helping Texas through the COVID crisis and less on punishing trans youth. Consult with a doctor or gender therapist to help inform yourselves.

Halle Libby

Self

Houston, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid!

Gabe Griffin

Self

Houston, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and focus in the real priorities like COVID and the power grid! Vote NO on hb1399 and hb1424

Alexis Gonzalez

self

Houston, TX

In denying people insurance coverage to provide gender affirming surgeries and treatments, you are robbing them of their

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identities which will lead to mass suicides and need for mental health care.

Heather Roell Oshman

self

Austin, TX

I am against this bill. Kids need this healthcare. It needs and should to be provided to Texas youth. This bill does not help kids that need this life saving care.

Valerie Wilson

Self/ Business Owner

Ennis, TX

Please vote to protect our children from gender altering medications and procedures. As a mother and grandmother, I can attest that children do not have the capability to determine such a life long decision. There are some adults, parents included, who have disregarded what is best for the child to be part of a culture statement. Please allow that child the ability to grow up to make his or her OWN decisions at an age appropriate time.

Beverly Roberts, Mrs.

Texas Values, Texas Mass Resistance

Houston, TX

Children have many fantasies about "who they are", including animals, superheroes, movie stars and even inanimate objects. To subject a child to a life of medical and/or surgical intervention to change their gender (which is impossible), is an abuse by doctors of the Hippocratic oath. You cannot correct a mental disorder by filling the body with unnecessary hormones, with the intention of eventually mutilating healthy body parts. Please pass this bill to protect children from this travesty.

The fawning adulation of the boy with long hair and wearing a dress was disturbing. Does that child have a penis and testicles? Does he have XY chromosomes? Then HE is a BOY!! And nothing can alter that fact.

The ridiculous statement by intelligent people that gender is "assigned at birth" is enough to discredit anything else that the person says. We yap about "following the science" when discussing the hoax of climate change and then pretend we don't know that gender is innate in the DNA of every human being.

I cannot believe we have to have these absurd discussions.

Susan Blanton

self housewife

Sherman, TX

Please support HB 1399. We are a Christian nation and should be walking in our faith. It is a horrible idea to change genders of a minor, Thank you.

Jerome Tarnopol

Jerry Tarnopol

Houston, TX

I am opposed to this bill. It is sad that you continue to come up with these bills. My son in 4th grade was being made fun of and I said no matter what your sexuality I will love you at 24 he is still gay. Kids know who they are please let them express themselves at whatever age. Parents do not want their kids to be bullied or hurt put protections in the form of bills to not allow bullying towards anyone. Do not put a target on the kids. Do you really believe you know better than the families, doctors and therapists. You are hiding behind lack of knowledge and religion to discriminate against these kids. I have 4 children 2 cis gender

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1 gay and 1 trans. By the way a mastectomy is reversible with implants. All I want for my kids are equal rights not better rights. What do you want. By the way listen to the Representative that is a doctor testify all night is wrong he nothing more than a very prejudice person and is more than welcome to call me anytime to discuss my thoughts. I thought republicans stood for less government not more. Anyone may call me

Janie Brittain

Self - Retired Systems Engineer

Garland, TX

My name is Janie Brittain. I am a retired systems engineer, and I am testifying for HB1399.

I have been aware of the James Younger case since late 2018. I couldn't believe a Mom would use a McDonald's toy as an excuse to try to transform her son into a girl, and that the courts, schools, and CPS would be complicit. I have been doing my small part to try to stop this insanity ever since, including trying to get a bill written and passed in the 86th legislature. Representative Matt Krause said "we missed our opportunity to do so in the 86th session. We won't miss the next one." I pray he is right.

There is an important concept we seem to be glossing over when it comes to this discussion, and that is this: Some things are just true. Namely:

A Male Cannot Become a Female
A Female Cannot Become a Male

Let me repeat that.

A Male Cannot Become a Female
A Female Cannot Become a Male

These statements are not transphobic. They are not lacking in compassion. They are simply true.

The treatments HB1399 outlaws for children include puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and so-called "sex-change" surgeries – in which healthy body parts are cut off and pieces of a child are moved from one location on the body to another. These experimental treatments try to do the impossible. They are a pathetic attempt to change a male into a female, or a female into a male. But it can't be done, and there are a growing number of detransitioners who can testify to that truth.

Dr. Michael Laidlaw is a Specialist in Endocrinology and has extensive expertise on this issue. He writes: "These are really radical experiments on human bodies such as have never been done before in the history of humankind, being perpetrated on children and justified by our medical societies because these political groups have brought their ideology into medicine, but there's no science behind it. You just can't justify it."

As others have stated, gender confusion in children should be addressed with proper counseling that addresses root causes, rather than with medication and surgery which cause irreparable harm to the child.

Please pass a strengthened version of HB1399 that will stop child medical abuse in Texas. You have the power to Save James and thousands of children from permanent mutilation.

Thank you for your time. Matthew 18:6

Patsy Pollock

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote NO on this bill. Studies have repeatedly shown that children that are supported in their gender identity live longer

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happier lives and are MUCH less likely to suffer from Clinical Depression. Please help keep kids alive by allowing their medical professionals to attain and retain their professional liability insurance.

Keena Miller
self/education
Austin, TX

OPPOSE

Brooke Imm
Self / Mobile Expert
Austin, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans and Focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and power grid! Vote NO to HB 1399.

Muneeb Aslam
Self
Austin, TX

To Madame Chair and committee members. My name is Muneeb Aslam and I'm a biochemist who graduated from UT Austin. I'm here to testify against HB1424 and HB1399 because the language of the bills puts the LGBTQ+ community at risk of discrimination and not being able to receive life saving care. First I'd like to say that biological sex is not binary as even this bill acknowledges the existence of people who are born intersex who are so often ignored in these narratives. Second gender is a social construct that is also not binary, which is a truth that has transcended over millennia. Cultures throughout the world (from Indian Hijras to Native American two spirit folks) have celebrated these gender and sexual variances (which are rooted in nature) for centuries up until European colonizers violently criminalized anything that didn't fit their own binary ideology. The relics of these white supremacist ideals are still echoing today as I keep having to show up to the capitol to plead against bills that are refuted by biology, leading experts on the topic, and trans people who live that existence. I'd like to point out that Texas ranks 31 in healthcare and 45 in healthcare access— is this body going to listen to a few medical professionals' opinions or will we listen to medical experts in the field throughout the nation?

Overwhelming research suggests it is best to affirm trans kids for their psychological well-being. The Endocrine Society's (comprised of leading medical experts, physicians, scientists and researchers) Guidelines recommend that mental health providers who are well versed in child development help spearhead the process for children who are trans to be able to get gender affirming care.

Trans children have existed for all of humanity and will continue to do so and I hope this committee finds it in their hearts to amend or kill these bills to save a Texan child's life from experiencing any more pain than they already face in our society. I also challenge this committee to fact check the testimonies provided by their invited speakers as there were multiple myths and false statistics presented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Adrian Osella
Self - Transgender Advocate & High School Computer Science Teacher
San Antonio, TX

I am writing in absolute opposition to HB 1399. I attended this hearing and was not able to testify due to time. The amount of misinformation that was delivered as testimony, including an out of state witness' testimony, leads me to believe that the committee did not come to sound support of such a complex bill. It is extremely troubling that this bill has passed through the public health committee a mere 20 hours after hearing public testimonies. The committee expressed clear confusion about the differences, effects and administration of puberty blockers, hormone replacement therapy (HRT), and surgeries.

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As stated by the endocrinologist who testified against HB 1399, puberty blockers have been used in children's healthcare for decades, with most concerns being about bone density. Bone density complications occur from many common children's medications, so this is not a reason to decrease access to puberty blockers for transgender youth. I thought, at minimum, the committee would amend this bill to not include puberty blockers. That is an egregious error, and displays unsound judgment.

The psychologist who testified in favor of HB 1399 based a significant portion of his testimony stating falsities about hormones replacement therapy. First, it is crucial to know that hormones are not steroids. Our bodies naturally produce both estrogen and testosterone. When you begin HRT, it takes several months to several years to see the changes based on HRT, both physically and physiologically. Anyone beginning HRT has multiple months to stop treatment if they don't like the very small, "fast" changes. The only irreversible changes would be that IF the individual's voice had changed at all, it might not revert.

I am 30 year old transgender male who has been on testosterone consistently for 3 years, and even if I stopped taking testosterone today, my body fat would redistribute back to that of a woman's body, my beard would fall out, my skin would become soft, and worst of all, my estrogen levels would revert back to what they were before HRT. Beginning puberty blockers and hormones, and even some surgeries, are more reversible than any witness stated.

The psychologist stated many horrible lies about being transgender that I don't have space to respond to. He stated that being transgender is akin to being schizophrenic, the positives of HRT were like using meth, this is all categorically untrue. He stated that no children could make decisions for themselves that are considered sound. This is false. Should we not believe children when they are suffering from depression or abuse? He stated that transgender people who have surgery will never have sex or be in a relationship. I'm getting married next September. Transgender adults and children have existed throughout all of human history. I knew that I was trans when I was 5, and even though I tried to suppress this, I am still, proudly, transgender. Do not hurt trans kids and take their access to care.

Daniel Vuong

Self - independent contractor

Plano, TX

Protect LGBTQ Texans & focus on the real priorities like COVID relief and the power grid! Vote NO on HB 1399 AND HB 1424

Angel Diaz

Self

Ft Worth, TX

Oppose

Madilyn Chen

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is discriminatory and inhumane. I am ashamed to be a Texan if this bill is passed. All people deserve health care. Reject this bill.

Denise Seibert, Mrs

Self

Belton, TX

I am in support of HB 1399

When I read this bill, I can't believe we are talking about children under 18 years of age. I had to look up what even the terms meant. As an adult I am unfamiliar with these terms and I'm 58 years old. I am not a doctor or a nurse but a parent and

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grandparent, so I apologize for not pronouncing these words correctly.

HB 1399 States that .. A physician or other health care provider may not: (1) perform a surgery that sterilizes the child, including: (A) castration; (B) vasectomy; (C) hysterectomy; (D) oophorectomy which is a surgical removal of one or both ovaries; (E) metoidioplasty creation of a penis; (F) orchiectomy a surgical removal of one or both testicles; (G) penectomy removal of penis, all or part; (H) phalloplasty reconstruction of a penis ; and (I) vaginoplasty; (2) perform a mastectomy; (3) provide, administer, prescribe, or dispense any of the following prescription drugs that induce transient or permanent infertility: (A) puberty suppression or blocking prescription drugs to stop or delay normal puberty; (B) supraphysiologic doses of testosterone to females; or (C) supraphysiologic doses of estrogen to males; or (4) remove any otherwise healthy or non-diseased body part or tissue.

We are talking about children under 18 years of age. This is not temporary surgery this changes a child's anatomy, his or her body structure or body parts. This is serious surgery here. And the prescribed drugs that block their normal puberty development. This could be a life long change not just days or years.

I support HB 1399.

Griffin Smith

Self. Chemical engineering

Magnolia, TX

I support this bill.

We need to protect our young people (under 18) from making permanent changes to their genitals and sexuality without true genetic basis, which is extremely rare.

Lynn Tooley

Self/Disability

Port Arthur, TX

I vote in favor of HB1399. I am a 57 year old male that has been dealing with gender issues for over 50 years. I have dealt with every type of abuse imaginable including sexual. This led to severe depression, anxiety, PTSD, Tourette syndrome and serious suicidal thoughts. I attempted suicide with full intent to kill myself 4 times, once before transition and 3 times after. I spent about 40 years in the lgbt community, transitioned and lived as a woman for about 20 years. I transitioned socially, with hormones and gender reassignment surgery. I have now de-transitioned and again living as a man, Jesus healed me and I now live healed and whole.

Transgenderism and gender dysphoria is very real. Transgender people deal with a level of pain that very few people can comprehend. The discrimination we face is fierce. Most of us lose the relationship and support of our families and loved ones, and have minimal support within the lgbt community; the Church has largely rejected us, where do we turn?

There are transgender children who deal with true gender dysphoria, others whom have a parent(s) who encourage their child in the opposite gender for their own reasons, and there are those whom do it for reasons of peer pressure and various other reasons.

There is a growing trend for affirmation only care which says if you think you are the opposite gender you must be. That person is then affirmed and all treatment goes in the direction of transition and none is directed in dealing with the underlying issues. This practice is very dangerous and leads them down the path of the most invasive health care imaginable with very serious side effects, and complications. The quality of psychological and health care this community receives is extremely lacking, and so much goes undocumented.

Children are far too young to make these decisions or understand the consequences. Much help is needed for these children, but medical intervention at this point is not it. Furthermore, if you let the child go through puberty they will often have better surgical results with fewer complications, especially in the male to female population. If you treat the underlying conditions, often the gender issues will go away. A transgender person will never have a successful outcome with surgery if they don't deal with the underlying issues first.

Gender de-transition is also very real and is happening at alarming rates. I see many female to male transgender who have had

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hormones, top surgery, and hysterectomies and now are de-transitioning at about the age of 21 and have lost their breasts, can't bear children and feel their life is over. The needs of the de-transitioning community are great and there is little to no resources and support for us.

The transgender community has many urgent needs that need to be addressed. There is a tremendous need for all sides to come to the table to discuss the needs and come up with real solutions. I make myself available for further questions.

Jennifer Haar

self/Realtor

Katy, TX

Permanently altering the physicality of minor age children (under age 18) in order to "transform" them from one biological sex to another is not only barbaric, it's unscientific. Please protect children from well-intentioned adults. True compassion sometimes means saying "NO" or "Not now."

Lauren Morris, Ms.

The Centrist Project, a 501c3 as CEO/Founder; and Self as the Owner of Audio Evidence Forensics

Manchaca, TX

Dr. William Low who conducted work between 1930 and 1950 approximately. He was an esteemed psychiatrist and Director of the Psychiatric Institute of Illinois. He wrote 60 papers on the brain and disorders and was the founder of Recovery Inc. His book entitled Mental Health Through Will Training (available on Amazon) is a program manual to help people self-regulate and self-lead for controlling abnormal thoughts and behavior. His section on Intellectualism and Self-Realism opines that to coddle feelings and pamper thoughts that are not the facts prepares the ground work for a self-imposed mental incapacity. Patients claiming to suffer from frightening sensations, overpowering impulses and torturing thoughts are actually suffering from distorted perceptions of their own reality and philosophy. These feelings must not be affirmed to the incapacity of one's biological sex.

Cecilia Wood

self attorney and lobbyist

Austin, TX

Registered FOR the bill. Children should not be permitted to make the irrevocable decisions contemplated by this bill. The Supreme Court of the United States held that children have three characteristics that differentiate them from adults: 1) a lack of maturity leading to reckless and impulsivity; 2) greater vulnerability to outside influences and pressures with a greater inability to extricate themselves from a bad decision; and 3) character traits that are less fixed. *Alabama v. Miller*, 567 U.S. 460 (2012). If they are barred by law from entering into a contract, smoking, and marrying, which are all revocable, how can we permit them to make this irrevocable decision?

Catherine Hudak, Mrs

self

San Angelo, TX

We should not be doing this there is only female and male . Needs to be voted NO to HB1399

Keilin Rodriguez

Self

Kyle, TX

I oppose HB 1399. Gender-affirming care saves lives.

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Rebecca Marques, State Director

Self

Austin, TX

I'm against HB 1399. This is a discriminatory piece of legislation that hurts trans kids.

Rebecca Marques, State Director

Human Rights Campaign

Austin, TX

I am against this bill since it's discriminatory. This will hurt trans children.

Andrea Segovia

Self

Houston, TX

I'm against this bill and bills similar to this because this would affect almost 27,000 trans youth in the state of Texas.

Emmett Schelling, Executive Director, TENT

Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT)

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose this bill, it will deeply hurt-if not cause death for trans kids in Texas, which we know based on sound facts and data are among our most vulnerable populations within children.

Lydia Schelling

Myself

HOUSTON, TX

If this bill passes, trans kids WILL die.

Bea Cannon

Self & our children

Houston, TX

It is absurd that this topic has even to be discussed. It is entirely beyond the realm of possibilities. We are born either male or female regardless of someone's misconceptions, and now even more egregious to try to fill young minds with this abomination. Our society has lost its way.

Arthur Thomas IV

self / programmer

Live Oak, TX

This is anti-free market and anti-liberty under the guise of "for the children". Parents, their children, and medical professionals are involved in these decisions. Politicians should not be dictating such complex and difficult choices. This is troubling that

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politicians would go to such lengths to interject their beliefs on free people to "solve" something that just is not a problem. This is immoral, anti-freedom, and harmful "lawmaking" to the extreme. Quit trying to dictate and normalize how everyone lives based on your personal standards and beliefs.

If someone believes a child is being harmed then we have a legal system for that. This is just ruling over people using personal petty beliefs. This is now how this should work at all and even bringing this forward as a way to dictate how Texans should live is shameful. You're not doctors and no election will change that. Stop trying to get between parent, children, and medical professionals.

Melissa Lopez

Self

Austin, TX

Opposition to HB 1399

I am writing in opposition of all bills targeting trans medical care - but especially HB1399. Healthcare decisions are private, between patients and their doctors. Government should not be intruding in these private matters. In addition, all major medical associations support trans medical care, for adults and children. Doctors should not be targeted and punished for providing this medical care in any way. As the mother of a trans child, now an adult, I can say that healthcare for my child when she was younger was life-saving, and most definitely not child abuse. My adult child should not have to worry about having her access to healthcare defined by the government, and she most definitely should not be deprived of life-saving healthcare because of someone else's misguided beliefs and transphobia. Surely the legislature has more important issues to tackle that impact Texans, such as making sure the electrical grid does not fail again, dealing with a pandemic that has disproportionately impacted communities of color, and ensuring schools are able to open up safely for all involved. These bills are punitive and scapegoat a group of people that just want to be left alone to live their lives just like everyone else.

Marcella Oyagarde Rangel

Self

El Paso, TX

In opposition of HB 1399

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Marcy Rangel and I took a plane to come to see you folks all the way from El Paso. I am submitting this written testimony since I was not allowed to speak to you in person. Since August 3rd of 2019, El Paso has adopted the mantra of 'El Paso Strong'. You see it on a bunch of buildings around town and it really resonates with a lot of people. But I am here today to tell you that I am not strong. In fact, I find myself to be a bit of a coward. I'm afraid of so many things: spiders, snakes, public speaking...so many things. But lately my fears are not so trivial. You see, ladies and gentlemen, I have a 15 year old transgender son. I'm afraid when he goes to the bathroom by himself. I'm afraid that he'll be assaulted for the simple fact that he needs to urinate. I'm afraid that people will be cruel to him because they are preoccupied with his genitalia. I'm afraid that he'll be denied a house or a job because someone doesn't understand biology. My newest fear is of HB1424 and HB1399. These bills deliberately disrupt the medical care professionals oath of first doing no harm. In my eyes, I've always seen doctors and medical care professionals as being superheroes. People who have a genuine concern for the well being of others, and especially now in the age of COVID, people who go above and beyond to save lives. HB1399 in its most simplest form is a way to bully healthcare professionals into not performing life saving services and HB1424 is a way of excusing bigoted people from performing services they took an oath to execute. I mentioned earlier that I'm a coward. But, ladies and gentlemen, my son is not. When he came out, he took the risk that everyone he had ever known would not accept him. That they would withdraw their love. That they would ridicule him. He left the all girl school he had attended since pre-k. He left his award winning all female robotics team. He left the Girl Scouts. He left the safety net of his childhood friends. He is fearless. He held his head high and went out into the world. Fearless. And it is because of the help from endocrinologists, psychiatrists, general practitioners and psychologists that my son is a happy, thriving young man. Today I ask you to join my son; put away your prejudices. Stand up to these unjust bills and their discriminatory authors. To Be fearless.

Andrew Maglich

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Self

Leander, TX

In opposition of HB 1399

My name is Andrew Maglich, I'm a Leander resident, I use he/him pronouns, and I'm here today in solidarity with my trans friends and siblings to urge each and every one of you to vote down House bill 1399. I am speaking on behalf of myself only. I planned to speak against HB 1424 as well, but unfortunately this committee cut off in-person public testimony. I believe if this committee plans to open the door to discrimination against LGBTQ Texans, you should have to sit here and listen to our stories all night. HB 1399 would ban all gender-confirming medical care for trans youth, putting the government in between doctors and their patients. This legislation is misinformed, ill-intentioned, and downright deadly. All major medical associations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, and the Endocrine Society oppose this legislation. This legislation addresses false concerns, including the idea that minors are being given vaginoplasties and phalloplasties before the age of 18. Under current medical guidelines, these kinds of surgeries are not offered to minors. I will, as you all should, defer to medical experts on the intricacies of trans healthcare, but what I do know is this. Currently, around the time puberty is set to begin, trans children, at the recommendation from their doctors and psychiatrists, can take puberty blockers, which are a SAFE and REVERSIBLE form of treatment that is already used for various other medical issues, including on cisgender children with an early onset of puberty. Puberty blockers essentially give children more time to discuss with their families and their doctors whether they feel the need to begin taking estrogen or testosterone treatment at a later age. Current medical guidelines recommend that these treatments are generally not provided until age 16. All currently existing data tells us that access to hormone treatments is associated with improved mental health outcomes and significant decreases in suicidal thoughts and behaviors. By banning these forms of gender-affirming care much needed for struggling kids, you are directly denying trans children the right to exist as themselves, and are effectively contributing to the unnecessary deaths of trans children who will undoubtedly, tragically die by suicide if they are forced to endure puberty without hormone treatment. According to a study from Harvard Medical School and the Fenway Institute, access to puberty blockers during adolescence is associated with lower odds of transgender youth considering suicide. There is no place for government intervention when it comes to doctors performing safe, medically sound treatments on trans children with the consent of their families and the recommendations of their physicians. Sadly, I am begging you to vote no on House Bill 1399.

Sarah Chavez

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 1399

My name is Sarah Lynn Chavez, I am a resident of Fort Worth, Texas, and I oppose HB1399.

James Jackson

Self

Denton, TX

I oppose HB 1399

My name is James Jackson. I'm a communications strategist at the University of North Texas in Denton. And after 25 years of feeling wrong in my body, of feeling like I was lying to everyone around me, of believing that I would die before I turned 30, but not understanding why, I realized I was trans. Now, I use my time, my energy, my life to fighting for trans lives and to mentoring trans youth. I don't want any other trans person to feel the way I did: a young person ready to die rather than live their truth because of the overwhelming fear that I was a sinful abomination in direct opposition to what God created. I'm so glad I figured out that wasn't true. I didn't have a mentor. I didn't have parents that supported me. By God's will, I accepted who I am so that I could help other people like me. Ever since I came out to myself and to my friends and family, I have considered myself very lucky that I am able to afford hormones and a bilateral mastectomy even though my insurance as a state employee doesn't cover any transgender related care. If you vote in support of these hateful bills, you are increasing the likelihood that a trans person will

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die. If their healthcare provider can refuse treatment or best-practice care for their transition-related needs, what happens then? Denial of the human right to healthcare is blood on anyone's hands that set that denial into motion. Trans people are people. Trans right are human rights. Please consider trans people when you vote on these healthcare bills and ask yourself how you would feel if you went to the ER or to your doctor for an emergency only to be told you would not be given the care you need to stay alive because of your gender. Never mind the fight that got you here, never mind the continued fight to stay alive in a society that openly persecutes you, never mind the nights you lay in bed asking yourself why you were made this way, never mind the daily remembrance that you were made this way for a reason and you're proud to be transgender because well, you're living your truth. No one can take that away from you. Please oppose HB 1399 and HB 1424. Fight for us, not against us.

Sophia Stanzo

Self

Celina, TX

Opposition to HB 1399

I am writing to express my opposition to the many bills which are being considered that would limit the ability of Texans to provide or access gender-affirming care - including HB1399 and HB1424. These bills attempt to limit what is widely considered by medical professionals to be best practice health care. I also have personal reason to believe that denying transgender Texans access to health care could be extremely dangerous for them. When I was in high school, my best friend was a transgender girl. She experienced intense feelings of distress because her body did not match her gender identity. Because her parents would not accept her gender identity, she could not access gender-affirming medical treatments until she turned eighteen. During her adolescence, she struggled with intense bouts of depression that caused her grades to slip and her overall health to decline. It got so bad that she nearly took her own life. However, once she turned eighteen and was able to receive the medical treatment she needed, her mental and physical health began to improve. She got into college and is now doing much better. Words cannot express how grateful I am that she is alive and well. I told this story from my life to emphasize just how important it is for transgender people to receive gender-affirming care. Any kind of legislation that would diminish the ability of doctors to provide this care would be an invasion of government into private health care decisions, but that is not even the worst of it. This care is absolutely lifesaving. Without it, I know that my friend would have died. If these bills are passed, I fear that terrible outcomes will become more common for transgender Texans. Therefore, I am asking the Texas legislature to firmly reject these bills and leave health care in the hands of those who it concerns.

Sonya Snyder

Self

Spring, TX

Opposition to HB 1399

My name is Sonya Snyder, I am representing myself, and I live in The Woodlands, Texas and I oppose HB1399. I registered to testify in person against this bill but never got the opportunity to speak. My husband and I are loving, affirming parents of our transgender daughter; this bill will cause emotional and physical harm or even potentially death if she is prevented from receiving appropriate gender affirming care or denied life saving medical care. When it became clear that our daughter's survival was dependent upon her receiving medical intervention in order to relieve her gender dysphoria, we began to look for doctors to help her and also to guide us and help us access the resources necessary for her gender affirming journey. As parents, it was such a comfort to know that the very best medical and psychological resources were going to be available to our daughter, and that we wouldn't have to travel to another state to get the very best medical care. In fact, isn't that one of the things Texas is best known for? Let me quote from the The Texas Medical Center (TMC) facts and figures page: "The Texas Medical Center is the largest medical complex in the world—is at the forefront of advancing life sciences. Home to the brightest minds in medicine, TMC nurtures cross-institutional collaboration, creativity, and innovation because together, we can push the limits of what's possible." It seems to me that this bill is the very antithesis of TMC's statement and indeed the very spirit of Texas. If this bill is passed, great medical talent will go elsewhere, to states where they can honor their oath to always do the best they can for their patients, and to practice freely without threat of loss of insurance or risk of criminal charges. It would be our great loss, and all Texans will suffer, not just transgender Texans. As elected officials, you must act as protective agents committed to the safety and well-being of all you serve in Texas, even if you don't agree with it personally, I implore you to put your trust in the very competent medical

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community we have here in Texas and vote 'no' on this bill.

Patricia Scheurich

Self

Frisco, TX

Opposition to HB 1399

I am the parent of an LGBTQ youth. The bills being sent to your committee are important to me and my family. We have experienced first-hand the importance and value of thorough medical care and therapy for our LGBTQ child. I cannot imagine trying to save my child's life without the therapists and doctors that came to our aid. We are eternally grateful that we had services available to us in our area to provide urgent and ongoing treatment to our child. I urge you to reject the following bills and leave them in committee to die. Our transgender and LGBTQ youth deserve to have access to scientifically based medical care and therapy. They deserve to have social workers and educators that are working for their betterment. The legislature really has no place interfering with these private doctor/patient relationship. Our kids have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These bills would strip them of these rights. We as parents should be able to seek treatment for our kids that is scientifically based and right for our family. We need the State of Texas to respect our rights in this matter. Finally, transgender care in particular, is suicide prevention. There is a very high percentage of transgender youth that attempt suicide. The number I have read is up to 40%. We need to be enacting supportive legislation and not detrimental legislation.

Jacob Meade

Self

Austin, TX

In opposition of HB1399

Trans healthcare is a human right that should be protected. Gender affirming healthcare being taken away would not only severely impact the mental health of trans patients, but their physical health as well. It is the duty of the elected legislature to keep their citizens safe, and by passing HB 1399 and HB 1424 you are putting thousands of people in the state of texas at risk. I am calling for the protection of trans people, one of the most vulnerable and oppressed people on our country.

Salem Smith

self

College Station, TX

Against HB 1399

To see so many bills that target trans youth and parents of trans youth is disheartening. In high school I had many transgender friends, many of whom have now been lost to suicide due to policies like these unfairly targeting people trying to live their lives truthfully and honestly to themselves. I urge you all to consider the impact legislation this has on human life, on your constituents— and take action against these targeting, discriminatory, horrific bills. We need to support all Texans— it is your job as elected officials to do what's best for your constituents, not unfairly target innocent people, threatening their lives and safety. Oppose HB 1399

Raisa Behm

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Opposition to HB 1399

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These bills limit healthcare access for transgender patients as well as limits the providers ability to confidently care for these patients needs. Texas has a limited health care resources for transgender people. Putting these bills into law will further widen this gap and increases health disparities for trans people. Transgender youth in our country have the highest rates of suicidal attempts. Often, mental health needs for anxiety and depression are not being met. Healthcare providers have an oath to render aid and care to those in need. When providers are allowed to let biases interfere with medical decision making, then it is no longer a practice of healthcare. Please vote NO for HB 1399 and 1424 and any other bans on trans health.

Chris Rhodes

Self

Austin, TX

Oppose HB 1399

My name is Chris Rhodes and I run the clothing line. I am not a medical professional or political but I am advocate for trans rights as a trans man myself. My clothing line helps provide funds to trans folks fundraising for gender affirming, life changing/saving surgeries. In 6 years we have raised over \$30k for 13 different trans folks. From my personal experience with access to hormones and surgeries to my experience with the community we service and individuals we help — I have to urge my representatives to vote no against any anti trans legislation including HB 1399. I have parents who email our business that their trans child is confident for the first time wearing one of our binders, teachers who buy stickers to give to their trans students and show support, and trans folks themselves who thank us regularly for having a brand made for and by trans people. Trans medical care is necessary, for trans youth as well. Denying healthcare will not make trans people any less real or valid, it will just cause detrimental harm to many people who deserve access to the care they need for their bodies.

Summer Easton

Self

78704, TX

Oppose HB 1399

I am a 16 year old transgender girl who is against the bills in the legislature prohibiting transgender youth from getting the drugs and care they need to transition, and also against the bill that will exclude transgender people from participating in the sport they choose. I am ready to talk about my story and tell the house or the senate. Shame on you for not allowing my voice to be heard before your vote. Vote no on HB 1399

Holly Novak

Self

Spring, TX

Oppose HB 1399

Thank you committee members, my name is Holly Novak and I live in The Woodlands, Texas. I am representing myself and I oppose HB 1399. Healthcare decisions should be made by families and doctors, not by legislators. It is imperative that doctors in Texas be able to practice medicine that is considered by several major medical organizations as best practice care. I have a wonderful 16 year-old transgender son. Each transgender person is unique and their care should be tailored to them and their families. I love my son more than I could possibly explain to you and my primary job is to keep him safe, healthy, and happy. I've spent my career evaluating scientific data that have large degrees of uncertainty. I am very familiar with risk/benefit analyses and complicated science-based decision making. I have approached my son's healthcare no differently but also with love and compassion. Over the last 4 ½ years, we have taken a very measured and informed approach to treating my son's gender dysphoria. We've been fortunate to work with an exceptionally qualified psychologist and pediatrician. I've read the peer reviewed research published in reputable scientific journals. My son's own treatment goals have led the way and we've critically evaluated the options. Our healthcare team has always clearly stated the treatment choice is ours to make as a family and have not

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pushed us in any direction. The informed consent process for any medical treatment is lengthy and thorough. In addition, medical ethicists (Dubin and others, 2019, Journal of Medical Ethics) state that transgender youth can give informed consent to cross sex hormone therapy at the age of 16. This is also the official position of The Endocrine Society and The American Academy of Pediatrics. We know our child best. We are well informed about the risks and benefits of gender affirming care and are making a well-evaluated, science-based decision for our child's safety and well being. Please vote no on any bill that would deny my son's access to life-saving gender affirming healthcare.

Michelle Triska

Self

Fort Hood, TX

Oppose HB 1399

Hello esteemed members of government. My name is Michelle Triska-Echeverry. I the mother of 2 amazing kids, one whom is transgender. My daughter Phoenix was born Clarence Gillman. She is now 13 years old, loves things like yugioh, chess, and minecraft. She's been in tournaments for the first 2 for the last several years. She has been admitted into Beta club back in Kentucky, and next year is looking forward to her AP classes. From the time she was born, she's always been insanely smart and quiet. I got sole custody of her and she went from living off snacks and microwave meals to having favorites of meat, fruit and vegetables. I remember the first time she had Venison. She looked at me and said 'Mmm mom. Bambi tastes good!' I remember the day she came to me 3 years ago and said mom... I don't feel like a boy. I got her into counseling and she was diagnosed with Gender dysphoria. In the last 2 years, I watched her go from a scared lonely boy to a outgoing young lady who has friends she regularly makes plans with. Her grades went from C's, D's, and F's to A's with the occasional B. I see to halves of the same very unique coin. You see a 'boy pretending to be a girl.' I write this before you today and tell you there is no pretending. She likes barbies and pinks and glitter. She lives for make up and boy bands. I am begging you. Don't let these bills pass. Forcing her to participate with boys on 'male sports' or getting involved in her medical... that's HER choice. Let my child be her true self, her happy self. vote no on HB1399