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LD 1735

To the Judiciary Committee,

I was introduced to the world of “gender identity” when I found out my daughter was being socially transitioned by her elementary school teacher and therapist when she was in 5th grade at 10/11 years old. The therapist and teacher were using male pronouns and a new made up name. This was something my child was trying on like a teen would have tried a style like punk or goth in years past. The problem is that it’s hard to get out of once they go down this road, for many reasons, not the least of which are the adults who are encouraging them.

My daughter’s therapist told me my daughter wanted to be in the boys’ cabin for 5th grade overnight camp. It was presented to me as if my daughter requested this but later, after she desisted, I asked my daughter where she got the idea from and she said, “It wasn’t my idea, my teacher asked me if I wanted to be in the boys’ cabin. I wanted to be with my friends, the girls.” She ended up not going on the overnight trip at all because she asked us if she could stay home, but her teacher hadn’t asked her what she wanted; he was saying “Isn’t this what you want?” and she felt like she had to answer yes. He was leading her. I believe this is happening on many levels throughout public and private schools and mental and medical health institutions. I think her teacher thought he was being helpful, but he was actually causing harm to my child and to our family by attempting to do something behind her parents’ backs.

It is exceedingly difficult for a child to reverse course once they have been socially transitioned. Social transition is a powerful psychotherapeutic treatment and it concretizes an identity for a child even though it may not be a permanent identity if the child were left to their own natural exploration. Many of them go on to have medical procedures and take drugs to help them appear like a facsimile of the opposite sex.

These are all children with some form of vulnerability such as issues due to autism, trauma or difficulty being accepted as a gender stereotype non-conforming child. This ideology is packaged in a way that is enticing to children and presented as an answer to all of their problems. It’s a false solution and they feel they have to level up and do the next, more extreme step with the promise of a “feeling of euphoria” that is short lived or not present at all. Now they have to deal with more medical and mental health issues created by medical transition on top of their original mental health issues. It’s like they are chasing a rainbow for a pot of gold they will never reach.

We removed our daughter’s access to the internet and took her out of public school and she is now comfortable knowing she is a girl. If we had not removed our daughter from all of the influences that were affirming her as a boy at age 10 or 11, she could likely have gone down the path of medicalization. I believe school and medical and mental health professionals would have encouraged it. I have learned that I cannot trust these blindly-affirming professionals with my daughter’s medical and mental well-being.

Children need to be left alone and allowed to experiment with different styles and interests without these harmful, irreversible, medical procedures being offered, encouraged and advertised to them. I believe we have only just begun to see the tidal wave of young detransitioners who were irreversibly harmed. I count our daughter as one of the lucky ones, in that we were able to put up guardrails to keep her safe from that particular harm even though the professionals were working against us. We must put a stop to these harmful procedures for children and you

If this bill had been passed before my daughter desisted she may have been encouraged to leave us in order to get to your state and get procedures that are harmful and irreversible. We may have never seen her again. She wouldn’t have had the benefit of the knowledge of her parents to protect her. Instead she is living happily as a girl with her loving family. This bill will be very dangerous for children if it is

passed. Please vote no on LD 1735
Thank you for considering my testimony.