

Testimony of Ann E. Gillies Ph.D., Trauma Specialist

Representative Osher, Senator Carney, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

My name is Pauline Heath, I reside in Chelsea, Maine and I am here to testify on behalf of Dr Ann E Gillies, Ph D Trauma Specialist, in opposition to L D 1735

Dr Gillies writes

As of 2016, fewer than one in 10,000 adult natal males and one in 30,000 adult natal females experienced Gender Dysphoria ¹

Despite this fact, there has been an exponential rise in referral rates of children and adolescents to gender clinics world-wide, since 2009

The United Kingdom's Tavistock Clinic which saw an explosion of referrals, is now closing after an investigation into the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones that found the ***current model of care is not a safe or viable long-term option*** ²

"The current evidence does not support informed decision making and safe practice in children" ³ There are approximately 1,000 lawsuits currently pending⁴

United Kingdom National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (N I C E) evidence review states

"Any potential benefits of gender-affirming hormones must be weighed against the largely unknown long-term safety profile of these treatments in children and adolescents with gender dysphoria" ⁵

¹ Zucker, KJ, et al Gender Dysphoria in Adults Annu Rev Clin Psychol 2016 12:217–47 (P 217)

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62335665>

³ <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/-/media/Files/Policy/A-Z-policy/2019/RCGP-transgender-care-position-statement-june-2019.ashx?la=en> ["15" C Heneghan, T Jefferson, 'Gender-affirming hormone in children and adolescents, BMJ EBM, 25 February 2019]

⁴ IBID

⁵ <https://arms.nice.org.uk/resources/hub/1070871/attachment> and <https://arms.nice.org.uk/resources/hub/1070905/attachment>

This isn't the only gender clinic revising its standards of care Sweden, Finland, Australia and now Norway have followed suit, after finding that the *risks* of puberty-suppressing and gender-affirming hormonal treatment currently outweigh the possible benefits ⁶

An Archive of *Diseases in Childhood* letter referred to puberty-blocker treatment as "***a momentous step in the dark***"⁷

Gender-dysphoric children present with ***3-5 pre-existing*** mental health concerns The majority have an "***existing diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition***" (ASC), or are likely to obtain one ⁸ They present with a history of self-harm, suicidal ideation, somatic symptom disorders, ADHD, oppositional defiance, and conduct problems ⁹

What these children need is not to be fast-tracked into cross-sex medicalization, but to receive psychological care for their pre-existing traumas and co-morbidities

Thank you for listening Please vote ought not to pass on LD 1735

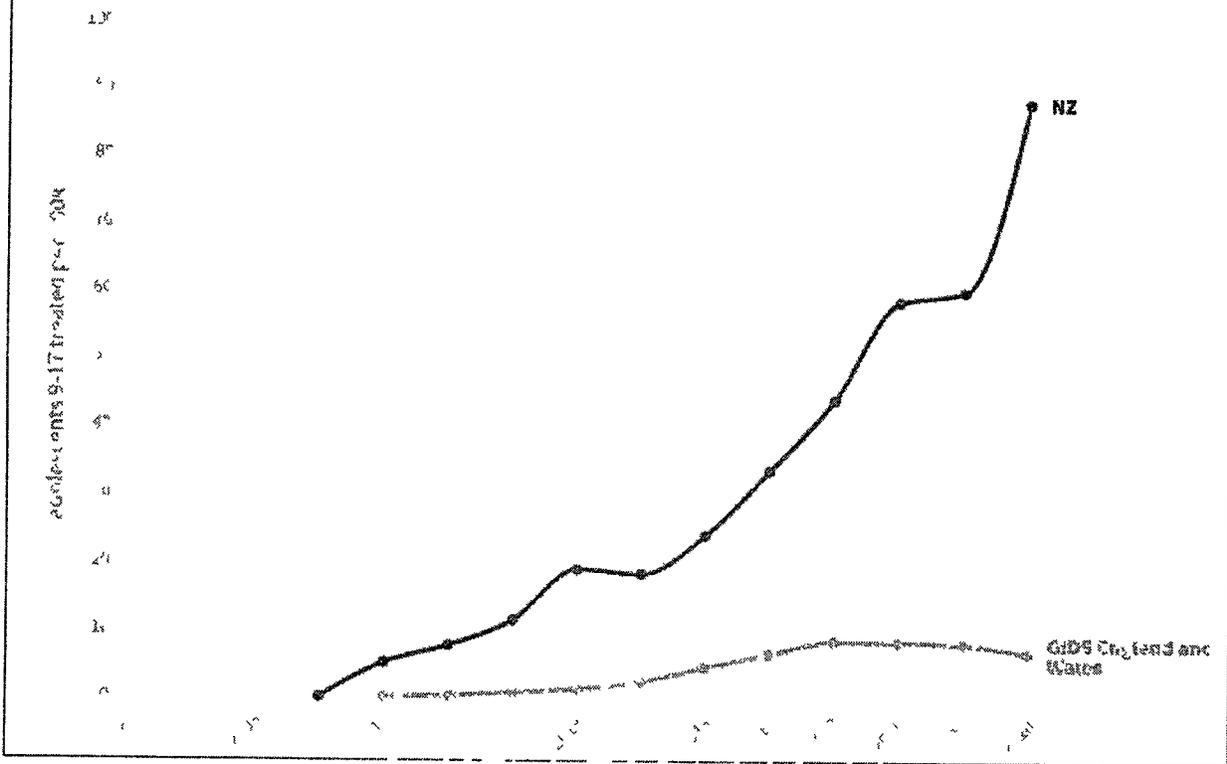
⁶ The Swedish National Council for Medical Ethics <https://www.transgendertrend.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/SMER-National-Council-for-Medical-Ethics-directive-March-2019.pdf>

⁷ Referencing (Richards C, Maxwell J, McCune N Use of puberty blockers for gender dysphoria a momentous step in the dark Archives of Disease in Childhood 2019,104 611-612)

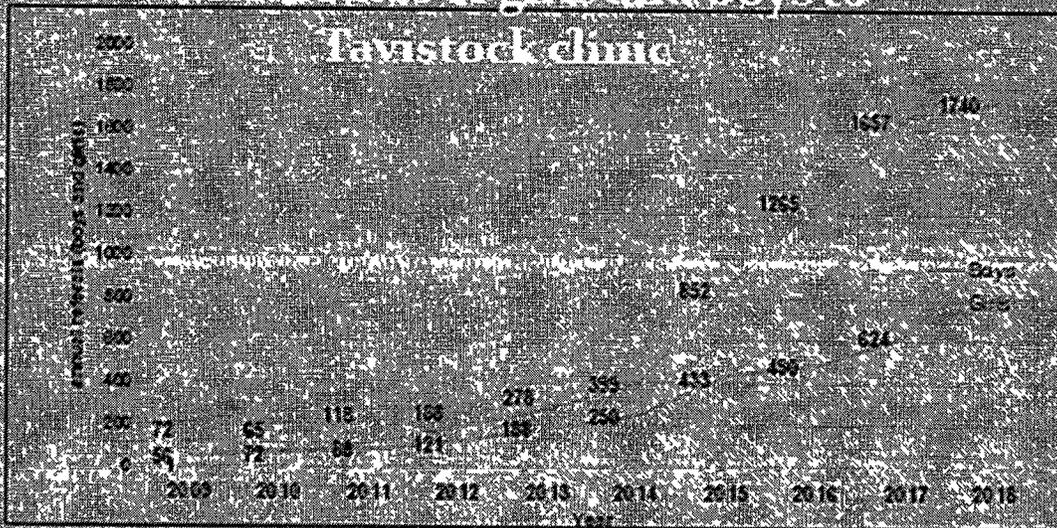
⁸ Clarke, Anna Churcher, and Anastassis Spiliadis "Taking the Lid off the Box' The Value of Extended Clinical Assessment for Adolescents Presenting with Gender Identity Difficulties " Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry, vol 24, no 2, 2019, pp 338-352, doi 10.1177/1359104518825288

⁹ Russell DH, Hoq M, Coghill D, Pang KC Prevalence of Mental Health Problems in Transgender Children Aged 9 to 10 Years in the US, 2018 JAMA Netw Open 2022,5(7) e2223389 doi 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.23389

Estimated GnRHa treatment for gender dysphoria rate: NZ vs GIDS England and Wales



Referral rates of girls and boys to Tavistock clinic



In 2018 there were more than 5,000 referrals

Ann E. Gillies Ph.D.

Education

PH.D – PHILOSOPHY OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING – LIBERTY UNIVERSITY (2013)

M A –MASTERS OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING LIBERTY UNIVERSITY (2000)

B R E – BACHELOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EMMANUEL BIBLE COLLEGE (1997)

Continuing Education & Specializations

Adult Attachment Inventory

(Psychometric measurement for coding early childhood attachment)

University of Western Ontario – London, Ontario(2009),
University of Minneapolis – Minneapolis, Minnesota (2010)

Mental Health and Family Therapy

- Family Transitions & Couple Therapy Theories, – University of Guelph (1998)
- Grief and Crisis Counselling – Toronto (1998)
- Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy Externship and Advanced Supervision – University of Ottawa (2001, 2002, 2003)
- Basic – Orangeville Fire Department (2001)
- Psychological First Aid (2003), Barrie CISM
- Assisting Individuals in Crisis (2004), Barrie CISM
- Pastoral Intervention (2006), BGRR – The Cove
- In His Presence (2006), BGRR – The Cove RRT Chaplain Coordinator Training – Calgary AB, December 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Specializations in Teaching CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Complex Trauma (Sexual, Emotional and Physical)

- Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Detection and Prevention of Childhood Sexual Abuse
- Psychological First Aid
- Conflict and Communication
- Anxiety, Panic and Fear

Emotional Healing

Gender & Sexuality

The Kinsey Saga
Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria

Grief and Loss

Marriage and Family

- Blended Families
- Early Adolescent Sex and Brain Development
- Family Losses and Personal Crisis
- Parenting
- Separation, Divorce and Remarriage

Overcoming Depression & Rejection

Therapeutic techniques for PTSD

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