

Lisa Patten
Franklin
LD 394

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, My name is Lisa Patten from Franklin. I am writing in opposition to LD394. This bill would give school counselors and social workers full authority over minor children and teens, taking away parental rights regarding life altering decisions involving their minor children. These children are struggling with numerous and serious emotional and mental health issues. During these years of physical and mental development, Their brains are still developing and are incapable of making wise decisions for themselves that will negatively effect the rest of their lives. Giving this kind of authority to school staff members with the welfare of these children is an extremely dangerous step. Decisions and actions such as would be allowed under this bill would give individuals the power to control all decisions regarding these children whom they have no right to have authority over. This sets a precedent that keeping secrets from parents is acceptable and beneficial, when in fact this is the most harmful thing you can do to a child. This bill would create a separation between parents and their children. I personally know a man who has detransitioned after spending 20 plus years as a transgender woman. A decision he deeply regrets. He was involved in the LGBTQ community for over 30 years. These decisions were made as a young teen, after much persuasion and pressure from LGBTQ community. He has suffered numerous and debilitating health issues since beginning hormone therapy. His life was dramatically altered and forever changed due to these changes. I have viewed numerous testimonial videos from other detransitioners who all report the same claims of mental fog and confusion, emotional and physical deterioration and hopelessness with thoughts of suicide every day, since transitioning. Once these steps are taken, they are irreversible. No school staff should ever be given authority over minor children or be making decisions for these young, impressionable children, especially decisions that will have a drastic, negative lifelong impact on their mental and physical health. I urge you to please vote to oppose LD394. Thank you for your Consideration. Lisa Patten