

Jacalyn Lynch
PARIS
LD 227

Regarding LD227

I am the mother of 3, grandmother of 7 and someone who cared for the children of extended family members starting at the age of 11. With 64 years of experience I can tell you that children often have ideas about themselves and the world around them that change or fade over time. Some are fleeting and some last for years.

I have several gay men in my extended family, all who are accepted and loved beyond measure, just as their siblings and cousins are. One of these young men was brought up by a mother who dressed him up as a girl constantly when he was a child. Beginning almost immediately after birth. She would use a female version of his name when they were alone. It took him years once he became an adult and was living independently to realize what his mother had done to him. While he was always attracted to other males he was very confused about who he was. It took him years to figure out and accept that his mother had been suffering from gender disappointment, in that her child had been born a male and not the female she desired. I am happy to say that today he is living a life filled with joy and love that he shares with another man.

We know and it is scientifically proven that the human brain does not fully mature until the early 20's, even up to the age of 25. One reason we do not sell alcohol to those under 21 or give automobile licenses to those under 16. We know it takes a certain amount of maturity and experience before a young person is ready to make responsible decisions regarding these life experiences.

I am not opposed to adults transitioning from one gender to another if, as an adult they feel they will live a happier, more fulfilling life in that role. However, this should take place only as an adult.

Also, it is of the utmost importance that parents be involved in any healthcare decisions that their child chooses or that another adult chooses for them. Example: A child is started on a hormone/medication to start transitioning without the parents knowing. If the child is still residing with the parents and has serious side effects who is responsible? If the parents don't know the child is taking something how would they know what to do.

My hope is that you will use common sense and put LD 227 in the circular file where it belongs.

Thank you.

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