

Valentina Vukovic-Skarep  
Eddington  
LD 227

Bill LD227, hurts me as a parent. It hurts because it's targeting our children. Studies have shown that children who suffer from gender dysphoria typically grow out of it and instead identify as gay later in life. Or, those kids realize that they were not gender dysphoric at all and were just going through the pains of puberty and trying to fit in. We're not using correct science and correct mental health treatment when analyzing what these children and their families need.

Most children are uncomfortable with their bodies during puberty, and telling these kids that the solution is to pump their body full of drugs that long term use for these applications haven't been studied, is wrong.

Or even worse, telling them to mutilate their bodies will solve the issues they're having. We're doing our children a disservice and potentially other kids from other parts of the country, a disservice.

As adults, we need to analyze the situations surrounding the children's mental health instead of jumping to the conclusion that they need to change themselves to fix what's going on. Perhaps they need to change their mindsets or their environments, I can agree with that. These children's environments are constantly filled with over stimulation, so many opinions, and outside voices that don't have their best intentions at heart and we see this clearly with this bill. This bill allows for the destruction of a child, not their uplifting.

On top of this, this bill allows for the destruction of a child all together. My background is in mental health. We find that women, and men, who are involved in an abortion, the destruction of a child, have lifelong mental health issues as a result. They carry guilt, shame, PTSD, depression, anxiety and potentially suffer with infertility for the rest of their lives. The common sentiment that abortion saves a parent from lifelong struggles and saves parenthood for when they're ready is a fallacy. The fact is, they're already a parent. And they'll carry the grief of killing their child for many years to come. We're not helping mothers, we're hurting them. We need to put systems in place to safeguard these parents and have a system in place that they'd be happy to put their children into. The foster care system is deplorable, and adoption is very expensive. We need to change this system so that any person who wants and is capable of becoming a proper caregiver and or parent is able to.

More money, doesn't equal a better quality of life or better parent. Often times with more money we see more neglect, less social intelligence skills, and less quality time with caregivers, on top of multiple types of abuse. This also exists within lower income households of course as well, but my point is it can exist in any family. The parents in these situations being evaluated is more important than their bank account. We need these kids to have a safe place to go to. And we need to start advocating for better systems for them instead of being scraped out of their mom's wombs, killed with acid, or poisoned to death. We wouldn't even allow a common dog to be treated in such ways, and yet we do it to human children.

I believe dads should also have a say in their children's lives. I believe dads should have representation and reproductive rights. It's their child as well. And they can suffer from depression, anxiety, and PTSD just the same. Where is their justice? Where is their children's justice?

Why are we sacrificing children to have more "freedom"? Studies show that most abortions happen by repeat offenders and by those in relationships. Why aren't we doing more to have those people have better access to birth control or reproductive education? I can't change peoples hearts, if they're going to commit deplorable acts such as sacrificing and murdering a child, I likely can't stop them. I can however try to stop laws that allow for the killing of innocents from being put into place. 3200 children a day is frankly concerning. And it snowballs into other parts of society. We have a lack of human decency and it's lead to humans killing each other in all other

aspects as well as themselves. We need to stop this snowball before it turns into a bigger avalanche. We need to stop this now. We need to give parents justice, instead of lies. We need to do better for our future.