

Susan Dexter
Appelton
LD 1002

As written, the bill allows parents of minor children to provide written permission for their child to be treated and addressed as the child desires (both name and gender). During testimony of the bill's author, she made a significant change; now parents are required to legally change the birth certificate to reflect the child's wishes.

The reasoning for giving the parent's desires priority over the child's is because the child is a minor. Kids have personal preferences in many areas in their lives, preference that evolve as they develop. Minor children are limited in their legal rights because they are not mature enough to understand the complexity of many binding legal decisions.

So, an 8 year old child, named Mary at birth, self-identifies as a boy and wants to be addressed as David. The parents want to respect and support their child's feelings and wishes, even though the 8 year old may change their mind at 10 and want to be called Mary again. Now, as being snuck into the legislation, in order for their child to be respected at school, parents must go to court and legally change a birth certificate.

This legislation enlists the school to enforce a government imposed barrier to person's freedom to their identity. It denies the rights of both the child and the parents unless... the parents go through the expense and time to legally alter a birth certificate. How is this empowering parents?