

My name is Anita Bartholomew. I'm an author and journalist—and a lifelong liberal—who's spent the last 2+ years researching and writing ***SACRIFICIAL LAMBS: A Liberal Reporter Exposes How the Progressive Left Harms Children in the Name of Gender Ideology***. It's a highly detailed and deeply researched book that will be published by [Pitchstone](#) later this year. What I uncovered in my research is quite relevant to Colorado House Bill 1312.

I only learned about this bill a few hours ago. I thought about all the families and individuals I've spoken to who have been harmed by gender beliefs, and wondered how I could adequately convey why this proposed legislation is dangerous when I had so little time to prepare.

Then I realized that the dozens of families I've written about in ***SACRIFICIAL LAMBS*** had provided the answer for me. I didn't have to scroll through reams of data. I could just tell you about what's happened to some of them, and their children.

- Beth's daughter Elisa was introduced to the idea that she could change gender at eleven years old, in school. Although Beth went along with name and pronoun changes, she wouldn't go all the way to approving chemical "transition." As a result, Elisa decided to live with her father—and Beth had to fight to keep her ex from acquiescing to cross-sex hormones. Though Beth and Elisa are still estranged, Beth is relieved to have learned that her daughter has desisted from a cross-sex identity, dresses like the teen girl she is, and has a boyfriend.
- Veda's* 10-year old daughter Maia* (*pseudonyms) was persuaded by her fifth grade teacher that her dislike of wearing a dress meant she was actually a boy. Although Maia eventually realized she didn't want to be a boy after all, her teacher kept emailing her, attempting to coax her to maintain a "trans" identity, and even tried to get Maia to leave home and move in with her. So terrified was Veda that the teacher could somehow legally kidnap her child, she sent Maia to live with the girl's grandparents in India.
- It's not clear where Jeannette's daughter Sophia learned about transgenderism, but Sophia knew that Jeannette didn't believe that people could change sex. So, at the tender age of 12, she decided not to return home after a visit with her father and stepmother, both of whom were willing to let her claim a male identity. Now 18, Sophia has started wearing girl's clothing again and no longer claims to be a boy.
- Eva* has four grandchildren, three of whom began questioning whether they were really the sex they were born to be. The oldest, Natalie*, started calling herself

“Nathan” * and had her breasts removed within months of discovering this new “identity.” But now? You guessed it. She no longer claims to be a boy. But she no longer has her breasts.

I could go on with examples like this for several more pages. The common thread: no matter how vehemently these kids claimed to be the opposite sex, and demanded to be treated that way, they grew out of it.

A trans identity in a pre-teen or teen is rarely stable. It’s nothing like being gay (although gay kids are especially susceptible to being persuaded that they were “born in the wrong bodies” due to internalized homophobia).

In term of how durable a teen’s or pre-teen’s “trans” identity is, it’s more like being goth. Or punk. Or emo. (How many of you would like to be stuck with your teen angst fads for life?)

And that’s why Colorado House Bill 1312 is so wrongheaded.

It presumes that kids have chosen their path and nothing will ever change that. But kids aren’t equipped to make such decisions. They’re kids.

When kids claim to be a different gender, they’re most often doing so for one of several reasons: they’re following a trend that allows them to stand out if they’ve never before been among the “cool kids”; they’re looking for a way out of the ordinary angst of adolescence, or the extraordinary angst that comes from mental illness; or they’re trying to deal with the emotional tumult of realizing that they are gay when they wish they weren’t.

This bill ignores all that. It ignores decades of evidence that shows that kids who are confused about their sex as toddlers almost always grow out of it. It ignores the fact that there has NEVER, in the history of psychology, been such a thing as adolescent onset gender identity disorder before, and now it’s rampant. It ignores the fact that parents love their children, want to do what’s best for them, and except in rare cases, know what “best for them” actually means.

Aside from all the reasons above, this proposed law would be in direct conflict with federal law and the US Constitution. As lawmakers, I assume some, perhaps many of you are also lawyers, so you must be aware that the Supreme Court has already ruled that parents, not you, have the right to decide how to bring up their children. I’ve been told by lawyers (I am not one) that state interference with these rights could give rise to a 14th Amendment due process claim. You probably all know this but if some of you don’t, look it up before you consider voting for this bill.

You also must know that the 1st amendment to the US Constitution bars compelled speech, yet House Bill 1312 repeatedly provides for punishment for “deadnaming” and “misgendering” —even suggesting that parents should lose custody for calling their own children by the names they lovingly chose for them at birth.

This is so wrong on so many levels. Please, I urge you to reject this monstrosity of a bill. Allow children to grow up whole, and cared for by their loving families, who know better than you what their children need.

Some of you have children yourselves. And you have deeply held beliefs about how to raise them. If another legislative body decided that you had to change the way you care for your children or lose them, how would you react?

Don't do this. I beg you. Let kids be kids. Let families be families. And stay out of their lives.

Thank you.

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for reading my comments.

I am a member of the LGB community, a lifelong Democrat and I am a former “trans” kid. As a child I was insistent, persistent, and consistent that I was a boy.

I have no doubt that if the option to take puberty-blockers and cross-sex hormones had been available, I would have done everything I could to obtain them, including threatening suicide. It would have been so much easier to kill myself as a girl and become the boy I thought I was rather than work through the underlying issues that triggered my gender dysphoria.

In the short-term I would have felt better. Testosterone is a controlled substance and almost anyone who takes it initially feels a sense of euphoria. It would have boosted my confidence and increased my energy and most importantly, I would have felt safer. It would have allowed me to completely dissociate from myself as a girl and create a new persona who could pretend that the horrible trauma that triggered my gender dysphoria didn't happen to me. It would have been so much easier to pretend that I was not the little girl who was brutally sexually assaulted.

But in the long term, it would have reinforced all the mistaken beliefs that caused me to develop gender dysphoria:

That being a girl was bad.

That it was my fault that those men hurt me.

That my body was a mistake.

That it was too dangerous to be a girl.

If I had been medically transitioned, I wouldn't have gotten the help I needed to work through my self-hatred and shame and anxiety but rather I would have been told that all my fears were valid. That I was indeed inherently flawed and the only way I could survive was to become a different person.

I never would have realized that my transgender identity was a coping mechanism.

It breaks my heart that so many children and young adults who struggle with similar issues as I did are now faced with the irreversible damage done by puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, and elective cosmetic surgery such as double mastectomy.

I am so thankful that my school psychologist put me on a healing path. I am grateful to other therapists who helped me understand that my transgender identity was a result of the sexual assault and being a quirky autistic girl, not because I was born in the wrong body.

Puberty blockers retard normal growth and development. Cross-sex hormones cause an otherwise healthy body to become dysfunctional. The combination of both puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones results in sexual dysfunction and sterility.

In the short term, these interventions allow children to avoid the difficulties they are facing, whether that be grappling with homophobia, struggling with autism, or trying to recover from a significant trauma.

It is natural for people to do what they can to shut down difficult feelings. We know that encouraging people to run away from their pain and struggles is not the solution even if it makes them feel better in the short term.

Because of loving, caring, and supportive therapists and teachers, I got the care I so desperately needed to process what happened to me. They gave me the gift of healing and I am so incredibly grateful. HB25-1312 would do the opposite for children who are struggling with gender confusion and in fact, punish parents who do not accept ideological belief that a child can be born in the wrong body. It will punish parents who do not want their child to kill who they are to become someone else.

I have talked to many detransitioners over the last six years, and the pain they face is unimaginable. They feel betrayed as the cause of their desire to become someone else was never addressed by those who were supposed to help them, and in fact the very people who were supposed to help them did them incredible harm. HB25-1312 will deepen that betrayal.

This is me as a child struggling to accept myself as a girl.



And this is me with my beautiful daughter, who I likely wouldn't have if I'd been put on puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones as a child.



Please vote no on HB25-1312

Thank you, Erin Brewer



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Re: Registration Confirmation - House Judiciary 04/01/2025 Upon Adjournment (In Person)

1 message

Cody Lyman <codylyman@yahoo.com>
To: LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 9:22 PM

Whoops! I had meant to testify in writing! I am for this bill because Colorado has the opportunity to be on the right side of human rights here. This matters.

Thank you-
Cody Lyman

On Apr 1, 2025, at 9:19 PM, LCS Committees <LCS_Committees@clics.ganotes.state.co.us> wrote:

Thank you for registering to testify In Person at the following hearing:

Committee Name: House Judiciary
Date Time: 04/01/2025 Upon Adjournment
Hearing Item: HB25-1312
Room: Old State Library
Position on the Hearing Item: For

Committee Information

The committee chair determines the order of testimony and may limit the time allotted for public testimony. In most cases, testimony is limited to 2 to 3 minutes per witness. Witnesses may be called to testify at any point during the hearing as determined by the chair.

Hearings may be delayed or rescheduled. Please check the House and Senate calendars posted on the General Assembly's website for updates. You can track committee and floor action through this link: <https://www.leg.state.co.us/public/display.nsf/index.html>

This memorandum provides additional information on testifying before a committee of the Colorado General Assembly: <https://leg.colorado.gov/publications/public-participation-legislative-process>.

Thank you
Colorado Legislative Council Staff



31 March 2025

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of Moms for Liberty El Paso County, we encourage you to vote NO on HB25-1312. The bill, “Kelly Loving Act”, is a complete disregard for and violation of parental rights in the upbringing of their children and a violation of persons’ first amendment rights by compelling speech. Firstly, Sections 2 and 3 are government overreach in requiring the judicial system to apply specific information regarding to transgender ideology in custody cases. Parents are the sole providers and protectors of their children and should not be required to be punished by the court system in custody cases by making responsible decisions for their children that can have life-altering and irreversible consequences. Secondly, Sections 4, 5 and 6 are also government overreach and compels speech by requiring a chosen name policy to be inclusive of all reasons for the chosen name and restricting specific policies and actions for dress codes based on gender. The bill will have negative psychological impacts on children through multiple aspects of their lives.

We encourage you to honor the fundamental rights of parents including, but not limited to, the right to direct the education, medical care, and moral upbringing of their children. We ask you to advance policies that strengthen parental involvement and decision-making, increase transparency, defend against government overreach, and secure parental rights at all levels of government.

In Liberty,

Megan Schulze

Legislative Lead

Moms for Liberty - El Paso County, Colorado

House Judiciary

04/01/2025 Upon Adjournment

SB25-009 Recognition of Tribal Court Orders

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Arnold Hanuman For Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC)	(No verbal testimony/written only): The Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC) wishes to register its formal support of SB25-009 and thanks the legislative sponsors collectively for bringing forth, and this committee considering and passing, the proposed legislation.

An Honest Analysis of Suicide and Transitioning

From *Transing Our Children* by Erin Brewer and Maria Keffler

Transgender-rights activists parrot *ad nauseum* the propaganda that if kids are not transed, they will kill themselves:

- If everyone doesn't use a transed child's new name, he will kill himself.
- If everyone doesn't use a transed child's preferred pronouns, she will kill herself.
- If transed children are not allowed to wear the clothes they want, they will kill themselves.
- If transed children are not allowed to get the haircuts they want, they will kill themselves.
- If transed children are not allowed to use the opposite sex's bathroom, they will kill themselves.
- If transed children are not allowed to compete in the opposite sex's sports, they will kill themselves.

And of course, if transed kids are not allowed access to all the medical interventions they want, they will kill themselves. These medical interventions include puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, and surgeries.

Parents of daughters are told, "You can have a dead daughter or a live son."

Parents of sons are told, "You can have a live daughter or a dead son."

Threats of suicide are not only emotional blackmail, they are also potentially incredibly dangerous. Such propaganda communicates to children that if they don't get what they want, the appropriate response is suicide. It trains them to manipulate others to get what they want, and it also puts children in danger of self-harm.

Just as transing is a social contagion, so is suicide. In other words, telling children they will kill themselves is likely to result in children killing themselves.ⁱ

Children should never be taught, told, encouraged, or in any way led to believe that suicide is an appropriate response to any of life's challenges. To do so would be to embrace suicide as an option. If it is an option, the likelihood of children attempting and completing suicide will increase. Instead, children need to be taught that they can handle difficult feelings.

Activists propagate wild lies about transing interventions being "lifesaving medical treatment," when, in fact, the data shows exactly the opposite.

As Dr. Kevin Stuart, executive director of the Austin Institute for the Study of Family & Culture reports, "multiple studies have shown that over the long run, those who transition have increased rates of suicidality, not decreased."ⁱⁱ

* * *

Susie Green, the CEO of Mermaids (an organization that pushes children's transition) and a mother who transed her own teenage son, makes the outrageous statement that transing kids "is literally lifesaving treatment" and that any efforts to regulate it will result in "the inevitable rise in self-harm and suicide."ⁱⁱⁱ

This abusive and untrue narrative launched decades ago via doctors like Stanley Beber^{iv} and Norman Spack,^v who first pushed the absurd notion that something akin to a gender spirit could accidentally be housed in the wrong body. This belief has gained traction over the years as more and more adherents have joined the transgender movement.

The claims from those pushing this narrative are prolific, unsubstantiated, and bizarre.

The ACLU claims, "Gender-affirming care is medically necessary care that can be life-saving for transgender youth."^{vi}

Dr. Elizabeth Miller claims, "My sense is cross-sex hormones, pubertal blockers are absolutely medically necessary."^{vii}

Dr. Colton Wasserman says, "It's vital for trans people, especially young trans people, to access the supportive, affirming health care *they* choose."^{viii}

Dr. Michelle Forcier makes the absurd assertion that, "Puberty blockers are safe and effective and this is totally reversible," and as such, "it is sort of a no-brainer to make these available."^{ix}

Activist Max Mowitz says, "Gender-affirming care is lifesaving and essential."^x

Dr. Keith Hansen testified that medically transing children, "has demonstrated significant reductions in suicidal ideation, suicide, depression, anxiety, and self-harm."^{xi}

In fact, however, the very opposite is true.^{xii, xiii, xiv}

Bev Jackson from the LGB Alliance is alarmed about what amounts to calculated lies by those pushing the medicalization of gender dysphoric kids, saying it is "very unfortunate, false suicide statistics that are bantered about." She goes on to say, "I think this is so irresponsible, and what you want when you have children in distress is to find out what the causes are of their distress."^{xv}

It is horrific that so many medical professionals would rather push children onto a regime of experimental drugs, which come with significant risks and side effects, than to explore the real, underlying issues causing the child's distress.

* * *

Though we don't yet have any valid longitudinal data on children who have been transed, all of the credible and professional research suggests that over the long term, those who transition have poor outcomes.^{xvi}

Dr. Patrick Lappert laments, "Parents are being bullied into believing that the risk of suicide is so great that they must accept all these terrible effects. This is not true. The only solid long-term data in a population study that is not biased by the sampling errors and short follow up, shows us that persons who have completed all of the medical and surgical treatments have a suicide rate that is nineteen times higher than matched controls."^{xvii}

Such numbers are staggering. Based on the longitudinal study Lappert cites, transing actually increases the likelihood that a child will die by suicide.

Not only do activists harm children by encouraging the suicide narrative, there have even been instances of mental health professionals encouraging children to fake a suicide attempt in order to medically transition.

Canadian psychologist Dr. Wallace Wong, who makes a comfortable living by encouraging kids to transition, was captured on tape saying, “Pull a stunt. Suicide every time. They will give you what you need.”^{xxviii}

Dr. Andre Van Mol explains, “Therapists and doctors are being brow-beaten. In fact, bullied, you know that, ‘Hey, you either support transition or it’s suicide.’ And the classic line parents are hearing in counseling is, ‘Look, you want a live son or a dead daughter?’”^{xxix}

Dr. Quentin Van Meter reiterates, “So the suicide is a myth. It’s a total myth.” He continues, “It’s used as a hammer to guilt parents into doing this, and it’s criminal.”^{xxx}

Dr. Susan Bradley reports that parents are put in a terrible position. “A lot of [parents] are faced with messages, some from the trans community, that if you don’t accept your child [medically transitioning], they’re going to go out and commit suicide.” She adds, “And so you have to be accepting of them. And so they’re caught between a rock and a hard place in terms of what, what do I really do now? Because I think this doesn’t make sense, but I don’t want my child to commit suicide.”^{xxxi}

Of course this message is effective. A child’s suicide is one of the worst things a parent could experience.

The 2020 documentary *Transforming Gender* illustrates the effectiveness of this emotional manipulation technique, as a father who transed his child asks, “Do I really want to see my kid attempt suicide? No.” Like so many other parents, this dad didn’t even question the wisdom of transing his child.^{xxii}

The mother of Max, a nine-year-old girl who is being transed, has completely bought into this lie as well. “This literally is a matter of life and death for so many young people who are dealing with these issues of identity, it’s life or death, because the rate of suicide attempts in the trans community is 40% as families try to support their children and lessen the potential for self-harm.”^{xxiii}

The reference Max’s mother makes is most likely from the findings in the 2015 Transgender Survey published by the National Center for Transgender Equality. This survey is based on retrospective self-reports from a self-selected group identifying as transgender specifically recruited from trans activist organizations. The report states “Among the starkest findings is that 40% of respondents have attempted suicide in their lifetime—nearly nine times the attempted suicide rate in the US population (4.6%).”^{xxiv}

Kimberly Shappley admits she suspected that her son was gay but rather than accept her effeminate son, she transed him, telling others, “I am a mom of a little girl who has a 41% suicide rate.”^{xxv}

Activists like Shappley use the 40% cited in the 2015 Transgender Survey or the 41% pulled from *Injustice at Every Turn: A report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey*, published by the national Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force,^{xxvi} to claim that if children who have been transed don’t get what they want (or in cases like Shappley’s, what the parent wants), the child will attempt suicide.

But if these numbers are accurate, they actually suggest that transing dramatically *increases* the rates of suicide, a compelling argument against transitioning as a recommended treatment for gender dysphoria.

What these parents either haven't been told or don't understand, is that kids who are not transed don't actually have these high rates of suicide attempts or completed suicides. Children who do not transition are able to find ways to manage or resolve their difficult feelings.

Dr. Marcus Evans, who used to work at the Tavistock clinic in the U.K., said that there is a belief that transing kids is a “magical cure,” when in fact these are kids who often are struggling with complex issues. Being told that transing will cure any suicidal ideation is not only wrong, but it is harmful to tell children that all their problems will instantly vanish upon transing.^{xxvii}

Lou, a detransitioner, said that she was never given another treatment option. Healthcare professionals told her that if she didn't transition, “‘You will self-harm and you will kill yourself.’ I became convinced that my options were transition or die.”^{xxviii}

Luca, another detransitioner shared a similar story, “‘They told me that I have a gender dysphoria, and I said, ‘Well, what is that?’ And they explained it to me and, and I said, ‘What are my options?’ And they said, ‘You can have sex change or you can commit suicide.’”^{xxix}

Ethical doctors are working hard to dispel this dangerous suicide myth using credible research and reliable data.

Dr. Paul Hruz says, “‘The prevention of suicide is driving most of these recommendations. The claim is that if you do not participate in this care, your child will die by suicide. But when we look at the scientific evidence, it doesn't support that assertion.’”^{xxx}

These claims of suicide are completely unsubstantiated, in fact the Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist for the state of Texas, Dr. Alan Hopewell testified in early 2021 that he was unable to document a single instance where a child completed a suicide as a result of not being given transing medical interventions.^{xxxi}

* * *

Shappley's suicide claim is nothing less than an attempt to manipulate school officials into allowing her son into the girl's bathroom.

We often hear from activists that since “41%” of those who have transed are suicidal, children should be transed. Or we hear that a “41%” attempted suicide rate proves that society should be coerced into using the pronouns and names of those who claim a transgender identity.

But the numbers don't in any way corroborate activists' claims.

If 41% of those who transition attempt suicide and the rate of completed suicides for those who medically transition is nineteen times higher than those who don't transition, the logical conclusion must be that transitioning dramatically increases both suicide attempts and completions.

Are there any other conditions, which can almost always be resolved on their own or with appropriate talk therapy, where healthcare providers intervene with a “treatment” that results in a dramatic increase in suicidality? Such a situation would be outrageous.

And yet, this is exactly what is happening.

Doctors and therapists are putting children on a treatment path of medicalization and increased rates of suicidality for a condition that is treatable with watchful waiting or talk therapy. Transition interventions damages children's bodies, cause lifelong complications, and profoundly increase their risk of death by suicide.

Unthinkable.

UCLA doctor Dr. Brandon Ito seems to understand this. "Approximately 40 to 50% of transgender adults [report] a prior suicide attempt in their life. When we compare this to the general US population statistic of less than 5%, we can see that this is definitely an increased and serious issue that we want to make sure to address."^{xxxii}

The outcomes for children currently being transed are likely to be even worse than they've been historically, because children today are taught that they can't handle difficult feelings and that transing will cure them. Children are lied to by the very people who should help them.

Dr. William Malone is incredulous as he watches vulnerable children being treated on the basis of an ideology rather than science. "The long-term studies show that in terms of psychological functioning, it doesn't help. It doesn't work. You know, suicidality actually increased."

Describing what should be obvious, Dr. Malone goes on to say, "You're supposed to do the experiments first to show that the treatment works, especially when you're talking about infertility and sexual dysfunction, long-term, and a four-fold, a four times increased risk of heart disease and a two to three times increased rate of development of blood clots and strokes. And the data we have now shows a twenty-fold increase risk of suicide long-term. So if we're going to go down that treatment protocol, there better be very good evidence that it works, and that evidence does not exist."

Such evidence does not exist.

Dr. Malone concludes, "This entire approach runs contrary to how we practice medicine in every other area."^{xxxiii}

Addendum

The American Association of Suicidology, in collaboration with numerous other groups, has important recommendations for how the media should cover stories involving suicide, because studies have shown that suicide can be a social contagion. When children see reports of suicide, they are more likely to consider suicide an option. Studies have found that that suicide attempts go up when media coverage of suicide increases. Dramatic headlines and repeated coverage increase the rate of suicides, and the American Association of Suicidology cautions the media to be careful in how suicide is reported: "The way media cover suicide can influence behavior negatively by contributing to contagion or positively by encouraging help-seeking."^{xxxiv}

When trans-rights activists insist that children will kill themselves if not granted everything they demand, activists generate a self-fulfilling prophesy; their rhetoric increases the likelihood that children will kill themselves.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-TALK (8255)

-
- ⁱ <https://www.hhs.gov/answers/mental-health-and-substance-abuse/what-does-suicide-contagion-mean/index.html#:~:text=Suicide%20contagion%20is%20the%20exposure,in%20suicide%20and%20suicidal%20behaviors>
- ⁱⁱ Dr. Kevin Stuart's Testimony on SB 131: <https://youtu.be/zhRW02Sn3Nw>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Puberty blockers: Under-16s "unlikely" to be able to give informed consent, BBC Newsnight ^[sic] Susie Green, the CEO of Mermaid to Charity, <https://youtu.be/0A6dFxAf8wY>
- ^{iv} An Evening With Dr. Stanley Biber 1997, Dr. Stanley Biber: <https://youtu.be/R4b4U9zjlsk>
- ^v Gender Dysphoria Treatment, Dr. Norman Spack: <https://youtu.be/0tqil7Audws>
- ^{vi} <https://www.aclu.org/news/lgbtq-rights/doctors-agree-gender-affirming-care-is-life-saving-care/>
- ^{vii} How Trans Kids And Their Parents Decide When To Start Medical Transition, Dr. Elizabeth Miller: <https://youtu.be/QD720mHFqW0>
- ^{viii} <https://www.advocate.com/commentary/2021/5/03/im-doctor-gender-affirming-care-saves-trans-lives>
- ^{ix} <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/23/health/transgender-puberty-blockers-suicide-study/index.html>
- ^x <https://fearlessbr.com/lgbtq-gender-affirming-care-guest-opinion/>
- ^{xi} HB1057 Senate Committee Hearing: Vulnerable Child Protection Act, Dr. Keith Hansen: <https://youtu.be/AHDpZ7Sf78>
- ^{xii} The Tavistock's Experiment with Puberty Blockers* Michael Biggs Department of Sociology and St Cross College, University of Oxford (version 1.0.1, 29 July 2019): http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sfos0060/Biggs_ExperimentPubertyBlockers.pdf
- ^{xiii} Correction to Bränström and Pachankis. Published Online: 1 Aug 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.1778> correction <https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.1778correction>
- ^{xiv} Sweden's Karolinska Ends All Use of Puberty Blockers and Cross-Sex Hormones for Minors Outside of Clinical Studies, https://segm.org/Sweden_ends_use_of_Dutch_protocol
- ^{xv} Puberty blockers: "We need facts and evidence, not ideology," Bev Jackson: <https://youtu.be/OEAkU0asJZg>
- ^{xvi} Pennsylvania State House, Dr. Stephen Levine: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0092623X.2017.1309482?scroll=top&needAccess=true>
- ^{xvii} VCAP Hearings, Alabama 2020, Dr. Patrick Lappert.
- ^{xviii} Wallace Wong, 27 Feb. 2019: <https://vimeo.com/326339802>
- ^{xix} Transgender Surgery Provides No Mental Health Benefit, Dr. Andre Van Mol, <https://youtu.be/f4cX1ZdE8PY>
- ^{xx} Pediatric Endocrinologist Fights Against Harmful Trans Ideology, Dr. Quentin Van Meter: <https://youtu.be/lcYrDrzV7DY>
- ^{xxi} Pediatric Endocrinologist Fights Against Harmful Trans Ideology, Dr. Quentin Van Meter: <https://youtu.be/lcYrDrzV7DY>
- ^{xxii} Transforming Gender (Transgender Documentary), Olie's Father: <https://youtu.be/B67OVJTvV0I>
- ^{xxiii} How Trans Kids And Their Parents Decide When To Start Medical Transition, Max's Mother: <https://youtu.be/QD720mHFqW0>
- ^{xxiv} National Center for Transgender Equality US Transgender Survey, 2015: <https://www.ustranssurvey.org/>
- ^{xxv} How Trans Kids And Their Parents Decide When To Start Medical Transition, Kimberly Shapley: <https://youtu.be/QD720mHFqW0>
- ^{xxvi} Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NTDS_Report.pdf

-
- xxvii The Keira Bell Case and A New Therapeutic Model, Marcus Evans: <https://youtu.be/HC3KzgtEW08>
- xxviii Transgender Kids Who Knows Best, Lou: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b088kxbw>
- xxix House Health and Human Services Policy Committee, part 1 2/13/19, Luca Groppoli: <https://youtu.be/2NEK9M-EjIs>
- xxx Transgender Moment Conference: Panel on Medicine, Dr. Paul Hruz: <https://youtu.be/bhHjsvr1AcM>
- xxxi Vulnerable Child Protection Legislation: Texas Hearings Senate Bills 1311 and 64: <https://youtu.be/RxAtDk5wXh4>
- xxxii The Role of Behavioral Health in Gender Affirming Care, UCLA MDChat, Dr. Brandon Ito: <https://youtu.be/XZR5OFfdEWI>
- xxxiii The Hormone Health Crisis with Endocrinologist William Malone, MD, Dr. William Malone: <https://youtu.be/z4RY175zdMY>
- xxxiv Recommendations for Reporting on Suicide: <https://www.datocms-assets.com/12810/1577098761-recommendations.pdf>

The trans visibility movement is relatively young, attacks on people who do not fit into societal stereotypes are not. When we're children we're curious about the world and ourselves. I worry for those who want to break from the mold of 'boy' or 'girl' facing issues in the one space they should feel unquestionably safe: at home with their caregivers. I am fortunate to have a healthy relationship with my parents today but that is because of work in both parties. On ourselves and with each other. We would not have the strong and loving relationship today had we not been there for each other when we wanted to explore other aspects of who we are as. We are stronger for it. I know I can come to them with any issue or struggle I face and they will help in whatever way they can. I think of a child wanting to try a different name, or wear a dress, or have a short haircut, and facing a bully that holds their every security in the balance. It is because of the supportive relationship I have with my own family now that I support keeping children with guardians that give children the freedom to explore their own identity in the safety of a loving and supportive environment.

Protecting Transgender Children: A Moral Imperative

My name is Camryn Bricker. I am a graduate student at the University of Colorado Denver and a former educator. I am here to urge the passing of HB25-1312, not as a mere political stance, but as a matter of life and dignity for children who deserve safety, love, and respect.

As an educator, I worked with students who identified as transgender, students who carried the unbearable weight of secrecy because they feared the people who were supposed to love them unconditionally: their own parents. Behind closed doors, they lived in homes that denied them acceptance, where being themselves meant facing emotional abuse, isolation, threats, or even abandonment. I have seen the fear in their eyes when they spoke about home. I have seen the way they shrank into themselves, burdened with the knowledge that their safety was not guaranteed.

The statistics are undeniable. Research from Georgetown University reveals that children with supportive parents experience higher life satisfaction, greater self-esteem, and significantly lower rates of depression and suicide attempts. But what about the children whose parents are not supportive? What about the ones who dread going home, who face punishment for simply existing as they are? These children deserve more than silence from our legal system. They deserve protection.

I know this pain on a deeply personal level. I was eight years old when my parents divorced, and even then, I knew which home was safer for me. My mother was emotionally unstable, abusive, and an alcoholic. My father, in contrast, provided stability, love, and safety. If I had been forced to remain in my mother's care, my mental and physical well-being would have suffered tremendously. The law allowed me the opportunity to live in a home that nurtured me. Every child deserves that same opportunity—especially transgender children facing rejection and harm.

One of my students, who was actively transitioning, would break down in tears and flee the school on days they knew their father was picking them up. The anxiety, the fear, the depression consumed them. Their father's refusal to accept them led to constant fights, emotional turmoil, and a downward spiral in their mental health. They lost interest in school. They struggled with suicidal thoughts. This is what happens when a child is forced to live in an environment that invalidates their existence. This is not just neglect, it is abuse.

Children are not property. They are not extensions of their parents' beliefs. They are individuals with the right to grow, to explore, and to discover who they are in a safe and loving environment. To force them into homes where they are shamed for their identity is not just cruel; it is unethical. The courts must recognize their responsibility in protecting children from harm, even when that harm comes from their own parents.

Being transgender hurts no one, but denying a child the freedom to express their identity, forcing them to endure rejection and hostility in their own home, *that* can be life-threatening.

HB25-1312 is not about politics. It is about humanity. It is about ensuring that every child has the right to live in a home that nurtures their well-being. It is about love, dignity, and the simple truth that every child deserves to feel safe in their own skin. This bill must pass. Lives depend on it.

"A Rose By Any Other Name Would Smell As Sweet."

Dear honorable members of the Colorado House Judiciary Committee: What name shall I give you? Or, would you like to choose the name you like to be called?

The quote referenced is from William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet," specifically from Act 2, Scene 2. In this famous passage, Juliet, where Juliet famously states, "**A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.**" In this passage, she argues that a name is merely an arbitrary label that does not define a person's essence. Shakespeare's insight invites us to look beyond superficial identifiers and appreciate the deeper qualities that define who we are as individuals. This quote underscores the theme of love transcending social boundaries and conflicts. Juliet's willingness to overlook Romeo's name reflects the power of love to challenge societal norms and divisions.

In this spirit, I bring your attention to HB 25-1312, which proposes the right for individuals to label themselves rather than allowing others to impose labels upon them.

As the mother of a youth who is transgender, I have witnessed the horrifying impacts that arise from the discriminatory and hateful labels of those who feel entitled to define who others are based on their biases. My child has faced severe bullying, leading to his self-harming behaviors and even attempts to take his own life. I implore you to choose LOVE over HATE. The legal protections in HB 25-1312 serve as guidelines for how to love and honor a person for who they are, rather than confining them to labels that control, demean, and harass individuals who deserve the right to define themselves in an act of self-love, rather than labeled by others in an act of hate.

Please understand that this legal protection will save lives. If you take the time to review the statistics regarding transgender youth and the alarming rates of suicide due to a lack of community support, you will see that passing this bill is a matter of life and death.

Several years ago in Colorado, a boy of just 9 years of age hung himself after he was bullied in school. He was gay. The school sent in grief counselors to offer counseling and to identify other children who may be at risk of suicide. My child was identified as medium risk.

I ask you if a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, then what would change the scent of a rose? To water a rose growing in the garden or to pick the rose and lay it across a child's grave, and on that grave, would you have us inscribe the name the child was bullied by, or by the name that would have saved his life?

Passing this bill will save lives, and it will teach children from an early age to respect other children by their personal identities. It will enable people to express themselves. While the process of

ending discrimination, bullying, and hate crimes in our schools will be an arduous and lengthy one, every step forward matters on the journey of protecting human rights. Please protect our transgender children from hate crimes and discrimination. Please let them know that you want them here.

Call them by their chosen name, and let transgender children know you care about them. Approve HB 25-1312, and know with your whole heart that you have acted to save lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the committee members in addressing this important issue. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Gena Renée Mathews, MS, BABA

Mother of a transgender youth, whose name is unlisted, as he doesn't wish to be known by his legal name

(970) 398-5673

bewilderart@icloud.com

"A Rose By Any Other Name Would Smell As Sweet."

Dear honorable members of the Colorado House Judiciary Committee: What name shall I give you? Or, would you like to choose the name you like to be called?

The quote referenced is from William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet," specifically from Act 2, Scene 2. In this famous passage, Juliet, where Juliet famously states, "**A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.**" In this passage, she argues that a name is merely an arbitrary label that does not define a person's essence. Shakespeare's insight invites us to look beyond superficial identifiers and appreciate the deeper qualities that define who we are as individuals. This quote underscores the theme of love transcending social boundaries and conflicts. Juliet's willingness to overlook Romeo's name reflects the power of love to challenge societal norms and divisions.

In this spirit, I bring your attention to HB 25-1312, which proposes the right for individuals to label themselves rather than allowing others to impose labels upon them.

As the mother of a youth who is transgender, I have witnessed the horrifying impacts that arise from the discriminatory and hateful labels of those who feel entitled to define who others are based on their biases. My child has faced severe bullying, leading to his self-harming behaviors and even attempts to take his own life. I implore you to choose LOVE over HATE. The legal protections in HB 25-1312 serve as guidelines for how to love and honor a person for who they are, rather than confining them to labels that control, demean, and harass individuals who deserve the right to define themselves in an act of self-love, rather than labeled by others in an act of hate.

Please understand that this legal protection will save lives. If you take the time to review the statistics regarding transgender youth and the alarming rates of suicide due to a lack of community support, you will see that passing this bill is a matter of life and death.

Several years ago in Colorado, a boy of just 9 years of age hung himself after he was bullied in school. He was gay. The school sent in grief counselors to offer counseling and to identify other children who may be at risk of suicide. My child was identified as medium risk.

I ask you if a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, then what would change the scent of a rose? To water a rose growing in the garden or to pick the rose and lay it across a child's grave, and on that grave, would you have us inscribe the name the child was bullied by, or by the name that would have saved his life?

Passing this bill will save lives, and it will teach children from an early age to respect other children by their personal identities. It will enable people to express themselves. While the process of

ending discrimination, bullying, and hate crimes in our schools will be an arduous and lengthy one, every step forward matters on the journey of protecting human rights. Please protect our transgender children from hate crimes and discrimination. Please let them know that you want them here.

Call them by their chosen name, and let transgender children know you care about them. Approve HB 25-1312, and know with your whole heart that you have acted to save lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the committee members in addressing this important issue. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Gena Renée Mathews, MS, BABA

Mother of a transgender youth, whose name is unlisted, as he doesn't wish to be known by his legal name

(970) 398-5673

bewilderart@icloud.com

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jami Fassett, I use she/her pronouns, and I live in Broomfield 80023. I'm a parent of a trans child, and I'm writing to express my strong support for HB25-1312 – The Kelly Loving Act.

I know firsthand how important it is to protect transgender kids from being deadnamed and misgendered because my kiddo (he/him pronouns) is trans. He began going by a new name and pronouns in 1st grade (6 years ago) and whether or not they were honored had a huge impact on his mental and physical health.

I know, without doubt, that supporting my child's transition has the best thing for his health and happiness. He's thriving now with our support and gender-affirming care. It's terrifying to think that under the new Executive Order steps could be taken to remove him from my care specifically because of my support. This would cause him irreparable harm.

Colorado has made powerful progress in protecting LGBTQ+ rights—but many of those protections still rely on administrative rules. Without action, that progress can be undone with the stroke of a pen. This bill locks in those protections and makes it possible to fight intentional discriminatory practices.

Everyone deserves access to live and learn and use the name and pronouns they choose, without shame, stigma, or fear. No one should have their rights taken away because of who they are. No one should have their child taken away because of excellent and supportive parenting that is supported by every major medical association for gender dysphoria.

I urge you to vote YES on HB25-1312. This bill is about protecting children and families as they navigate a gender-affirming journey. It's about stability, safety, and making sure Colorado continues to lead with dignity and fairness for all communities.

Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,
Jami Fassett
she/her
80023
Parent of a trans child

TO: JUDICIARY COOMMITTEE

RE: HB25-1312 Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

DATE: 4/1/2025

SPONSORS: Rep. Lorena Garcia, Rep. Rebekah Steward, Senator Faith Winter ad Senator Chris Kolker

I am writing to express my strong opposition to **HB25-1312**, which I believe undermines parental rights and imposes unnecessary restrictions that are already covered under existing Colorado law.

Colorado has long recognized the fundamental role of parents in making decisions regarding their children's education, healthcare, and upbringing. Current laws already provide safeguards to protect children from harm while ensuring that parental authority is upheld. HB25-1312, however, threatens this balance by introducing unnecessary government overreach into family life. This bill is directly referring to the children in schools up and through 12th grade.. Please keep all concept of adult transgenders separate which after a certain age are protected by existing laws.

Concerns with HB25-1312:

1. Parental Rights in Medical and Psychological Decisions

Colorado law (C.R.S. § 25-4-1705) already ensures protections regarding medical decisions, including vaccination requirements with exemptions for medical, religious, and personal beliefs. If HB25-1312 expands state authority over children's healthcare without parental consent, it directly contradicts these existing protections. Any additional mandates restricting parental consent are redundant and infringe on family autonomy.

2. Educational Oversight & Transparency

Parents in Colorado currently have legal rights to be informed about and participate in their children's education under **C.R.S. § 22-1-123**, which requires transparency in school curricula. If this bill limits parental involvement in educational content or decision-making, it could infringe on these established rights.

3. Unjustified State Intervention in Family Matters

Colorado already has strict child welfare laws (C.R.S. § 19-3-102) that define abuse and neglect while protecting against wrongful government interference. If HB25-1312 lowers the threshold for state involvement, it risks unjustified investigations that could traumatize families without due cause.

HB25-1312 is Unnecessary:

Instead of creating new, overreaching policies that diminish parental authority, lawmakers should focus on enforcing the **robust protections already in place**. This bill does not add meaningful protection but instead creates ambiguity that could be exploited to infringe on parental rights. The financial implications on the many court cases this will engage in which now will be going against the administration's executive orders that will abolish funding in the mental areas that are the root cause of the confusion in the one thing this bill is encouraging.

I urge you to **oppose HB25-1312** and stand with Colorado families who believe that parents—not the government—should have the primary authority over their children's well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to representing the voices of your constituents.

Jody Nickerson
5825 W Ellsworth Ave, Lakewood, Jefferson County 720-219-3105

Written Testimony for HB25-1312

Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

Concerning legal protections for transgender individuals.

My name is Ash Wallis (she/they). I'm an Army veteran and advocate. While I am writing in an individual capacity, I work for the national veteran non-profit Minority Veterans of America. In my role, I work with veterans all over the nation and here at home in Colorado. Many of the veterans I work with are transgender and gender diverse. I myself am ambiguous in my gender, though female presenting. The individuals I work with are incredible human beings, wishing only to be treated like any other citizen. Unfortunately, in the current climate of identity politics and culture wars that prioritize villainizing an extremely small subset of our population as scapegoats for made up problems rather than focusing on the real problems Coloradans and Americans in general are facing, people who would rather just quietly exist in peace are being targeted as if it was Germany in 1933.

I'd like to remind the legislature that Nazis first attacked gender nonconforming individuals and LGBTQ+ community as a whole by burning the Institute of Sex in Berlin, erasing decades of research, counseling, and education. In America, indigenous cultures and those of our territories had third and fourth genders, two-spirit, and other gender diverse individuals who were honored for their ability to be more. Transgender and gender diverse folks have always been and will always be.

I work with a transgender veteran who is just beginning their transition. She is daunted by needing to visit with a lawyer to adjust child support, but her name on all legal documents is not hers. It's anguish to sign a name that does not align with the one which you identify, to hear it and have to answer to it. She is in transitional housing after living in her vehicle and works long hours to provide for her children who live with their mother and her new spouse. She would be so much better off if she could get a child support adjustment due to being indigent and her ex-wife's situation being improved by now being in a two-income home, but my client avoids anything dealing with the legal system because of the complete discomfort of dealing with documentation and answering to her deadname.

She's an amazing parent who can't do better for herself until this is tackled.

I'm also a parent.

My youngest is in high school and has friends who are transgender and nonbinary. They go by different pronouns and names at school than they do in their own home. Colorado must protect young people who hurt no one by exploring their identity, to settle into their true selves at an age I wish I had the freedom to—to say the least, it is uncomfortable

trying to figure out who you are at forty. What a gift it is to use these formative years to live in non judgment while you grow into a young adult. Per Sections 5 and 6 of this bill, dress codes created or enforce rules based on gender. Women were called insane for donning pants in the 19th century. It should not matter what clothes someone arrives in as long as it is adequate for the weather and situation. Gender shouldn't be a factor—clothes are clothes, bodies are bodies. My son finds clothing that fits him better in the women's section and I find clothing that fits me better in the men's. Dress codes should not be gendered.

In November, I was invited to the White House by President Biden for the 2024 Veterans Day Breakfast. I had to provide my full name for the security check and wasn't given the opportunity to provide a preferred name, which is just a shortened version of my legal name. It's small, but it's hard to explain the discomfort in hearing someone announce my full name to the President opposed to hearing someone calling me by my preferred name. It hurts no one to say, "I prefer Ted instead of Edward" or "Angie instead of Angela." Why is it different to provide the opportunity to say, "My legal name is Robert, but I prefer Katie." We do it all the time with cisgender people and LGBTQ+ people without realizing it. This simple act outlined in Section 7 in the bill allows people to feel seen, invited to show up as themselves, and makes them more willing to engage socially which improves mental health. Imagine—treating someone how they wish to be treated, by calling them by their name that holds who they are and how they present to the world, lessens depression. How simple. This respect and kindness does so much for our neighbors, no matter their gender identity.

The motto for the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft was "Through science to justice." You will hear today arguments about there being only two biological sexes and two genders, which are demonstrably false. Statements against this bill will use sixth grade level biology to declare the invalidity of the existence of others. In no other situation would rudimentary findings be touted so ardently. Science shows that sex is varied in nature, and gender is more a state of mind. In 2025, we must adopt the motto of the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft. The science of sex and gender lead to justice and freedom.

I ask the legislature to pass HB25-1312, Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals, because our freedoms need protecting now more than ever, particularly for those marginalized who are being needlessly targeted by closed-minded individuals who harden their hearts toward their fellow Coloradans. Hate and lack of understanding should not be used to reduce the protections and freedoms of others.

With gratitude,
Ash Wallis, U.S. Army Veteran
Firestone, Colorado

Hello,

My name is Jordan McKeon and I am writing to the Colorado General Assembly in reference to HB25-1312 - Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals.

I would first like to state the obvious - this bill title is misleading - as this bill is pertaining to children who have a type of gender dysphoria or social influencing and the government's ability to strip away parental rights without compliance. The piece of a human being's brain that is the epicenter of logic, judgement, and decision making (among other things) is called a prefrontal cortex. This is defined by the American Psychological Association as "...the prefrontal cortex functions in attention, planning, working memory, and the expression of emotions and appropriate social behaviors; its development in humans parallels improvement in cognitive control and behavioral inhibition as an individual grows into adulthood," ([APA Dictionary of Psychology](#), 2018). The National Institute of Mental Health states that the prefrontal cortex is not fully developed in a person's brain until the **mid-to-late twenties** ([The Teen Brain: 7 Things to Know - National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)).

Government entities in the United States have deemed eighteen years of age to be labeled as an adult. Individuals eighteen and older are allowed to vote, join the armed forces, get married, obtain a driver's license without parental consent, donate organs, and many other things. Rental car corporations will not rent a vehicle to a person that is less than the age of twenty-one. Children and young adolescents are not developmentally able to make logical and/or socially adaptable decisions for themselves. The government has known this to hold true up until recently with proposed bills. Young adolescents do not have the brain capacity or life experience to make logical and sound judgments.

Parents have been raising children for thousands of years without government overreach telling them how to do it. If a young adolescent reaches the age of eighteen and wants to navigate the journey of receiving hormone treatment, elective surgery, and change how they identify, that is wholly their choice as a classified adult. That is what I am asking of this legislation. Allow parents to maintain their parental privileges, until their child is of consenting age and has received proper gender dysphoria mental health assistance. But as a soon to be mother, I cannot sit to the side and allow parental rights to be threatened in any manner based on the potentially fleeting feelings of a young adolescent whose brain is not fully developed.

Thank you.