

House Health & Human Services

01/24/2024 01:30 PM

HB24-1017 Bill of Rights for Foster Youth

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Tamisha Macklin</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Hello Everyone,</p> <p>My name is Tamisha Macklin-Clark. I spent 12 years in the Colorado State Child Welfare system. I am a woman of many titles Wife, Mother, Foster care/Juvenile Justice Alumni, System Change Maker, College graduate, Advocate for Youth, Life Coach, Mentor, Motivational Speaker, Author, Poet, and most recently in a new role as a Foster Care Case Manager in the State of Michigan.</p> <p>In 2011 I was a part of helping advocate for the original version of this bill, SB11-120. Things have changed in many ways since then and additional information on the protections are needed to be updated to be all inclusive to the needs of the children and youth in care. I am in Support of this bill to strengthen the protections of the rights of youth in care because from my experience I know and understand the importance of youth knowing their rights when they experience the Foster Care System.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
<p>Valerie Leal</p> <p>None themselves</p>	<p>Good Afternoon Committee,</p> <p>I am speaking today as a concerned constituent. In reading this bill, one concern stood out prevalently. We want to be a state that supports foster kids by providing them with great foster families. Based on my reading of the bill, foster families that do not agree to affirm gender confusion and/or agree to the removal of healthy children's body parts, will be considered violating the rights of the child. Is this correct? The bill is not clear on this. If you do intend to force families to go against their values, will the punishment for violation be removal of children from their foster family? Is</p>

	it removal of their foster care licensure? Is it both? Until these questions can be clearly answered and violation consequences outlined, I ask you to vote NO.
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I am very concerned with the addition of gender affirmation care to foster care bill of rights. I believe this is way to further promote the highly controversial idea of “gender affirmative care” for minors of which they are unable to comprehend the gravity of any social or physical changes due to fact that they are children and minors. We must act with extreme caution when implementing any type of intervention that is permanent with regard to youth.

WHO recently announced they will NOT be making a recommendation on youth gender care as they acknowledge that this model of care is too new, there is not good evidence at this point and they cannot in good conscience make a recommendation.

<https://segm.org/world-health-organization-transgender-guidelines>

WPATH membership worldwide has plummeted due to the realization that no actual scientific evidence supports this model of care.

<https://criticaltherapyantidote.org/2024/01/17/breaking-news-what-future-for-wpath-as-membership-plummets/>

The AAP has recently declared the need for evidence-based system review of the evidence due to the increasing reports of this type of care failing our youth.

https://segm.org/AAP_policy_update_2023_SEGM_recommendations

True progress would be to look at the worldwide studies that have completed their system evidence based reviews. All of them have rolled back this type of care and now consider it experimental.

https://segm.org/Sweden_ends_use_of_Dutch_protocol

If we truly want to help our gender diverse youth, let’s look at the available worldwide evidence and demand evidence based care.

I urge the committee to act prudently and not perpetuate serious harm to our youth. We have the ability to prevent unnecessary lifelong harm.

Please vote no on this bill as written. There are better ways to help youth in distress.

Thank you,

Stephanie Vitale