

## Testimony by Lloyd Benes against SB26-018: “Legal Protections for Dignity of Minors” 18/feb2/2026

My name is Lloyd Benes, representing myself. I urge a no vote on this Bill.

Firstly, this Bill usurps parental custody of children utilizing language clearly forbidden in the First Amendment of the Constitution, "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech"

Secondly: Parental authority over minors is a foundational aspect of family law, rooted in the belief that parents are best positioned to make decisions in their children’s best interests. The Supreme Court has affirmed parental rights in cases like *Troxel v. Granville*, emphasizing family autonomy. The family unit is the primary context for nurturing, and providing for children (citation provided, [tinyurl.com/parental-rights1](https://tinyurl.com/parental-rights1)). In cases of abuse or neglect, the state intervenes to protect the child. But the issue here does not even approach the boundary of abuse or neglect, rather it is one step in pushing sex-transition. Claims are made that if the child is not allowed to change their name and gender, they will commit suicide. Actually, sex transitions are 19 times more likely to lead to adult suicide as shown by this Swedish scientific study you can see now by GOING TO THIS



suicide\*19.1

QR-CODE.

A 2023 [analysis](#) of national U.S. surgical databases estimated that roughly 3,700 children ages 12–18 underwent a form of “gender-affirming” surgery from 2016 to 2020. More than 3,200 of those cases (that’s 86%) — were breast removal -- begging the question, “Why are we subjecting young minor girls to unsafe, dangerous procedures instead of protecting their health?”

This Bill is headed towards removing parental authority over gender transitions that are dangerous to the health of women. Vote NO on SB26-018.