

## Protecting Trans Kids

By Samantha Lee

Hello, my name is Samantha Lee and I'm a 22-year-old transgender woman. Since the age of five I've known that I was a girl trapped in a male body. My childhood was very miserable because I was not able to receive gender affirming care as a child. My parents were not supportive, and I had to go through male puberty as a teen which was a very miserable time of my life. To this day male puberty has done some irreversible damage since I was not able to go on puberty blockers as a child. I'm receiving gender affirming care now, but my childhood would have been much better if I was able to receive gender affirming care at a younger age.

- I would not have had severe depression as a child.
- I would have done a lot better in school.
- I would not have had behavior problems as a child.
- I would not have attempted suicide several times because my brain and body did not match.
- I wouldn't have to worry about trying so hard to sound feminine because male puberty has done irreversible damage to my voice, and I have to practice everyday in order to sound feminine.

People don't understand that gender dysphoria is a real thing. Imagine knowing in your brain that you are a female and looking down at male private parts that don't belong there. Imagine how it would feel to see facial hair, beards, and mustaches growing on your female face. Now imagine there is no cure and that the only way to treat gender dysphoria is gender affirming care that some politicians are trying to take away. What would you do if you were in our shoes? This is why the suicide rate is so high among transgender kids. Please do your research before you make your vote. Childrens lives are in your hands. What we do with our bodies is our choice and the government has no right to tell us what we can or can't do with our bodies. We must protect trans kids and let them enjoy their childhood as their true self which is why House Bill 68 must not be passed.