

Hello,

I am Devin Cantu and I am a detransfeminine nonbinary person who lives as my birth gender, which is assigned female at birth.

I am writing to oppose House Bill 68. I was able to get a double mastectomy without having to be on testosterone at age 28 due to my insurance taking out the testosterone requirement. Due to this, I did not have to go too far in my transition that I was able to safely and smoothly detransition back close to my birth gender. I do not regret my top surgery because it helped me reconnect back with my birth gender & body. It literally saved my life. To deprive other people of this relief & life saving care is just cruel. This is NOT cosmetic, this is healthcare.

Families of trans youth should not have to move out of state to get this care. There should not be an environment where the rich and the poor are further divided since the families of trans youth who are getting care out of state are the ones who can afford it. Leaving behind families who are not rich who are just as deserving of gender affirming care. By shutting down gender affirming care for youth, you are going to make gender affirming care less comprehensive since information will be even more opaque. This also risks trans youth taking matters into their own hands by going to the gray market or black market in order to get cross sex hormones rather than going to a medical professional since it was taken away by the state. Trans youth are going to transition whether it's illegal or not. Banning gender affirming care does not give power, autonomy, and agency for these youth to make long term decisions about their bodies. This pushes youth into survival mode where they are making impulsive "now or never" medical decisions with the gray or black market because they do not know if they will ever find the opportunity to medically transition again. Taking away options never helps, it pushes people to the edge where they are making short term decisions in an unsafe environment.

Rather than banning medical resources, I want to add more resources into gender affirming care. Detransitioners often detransition in isolation since they don't have the resources to process their detransitions, get medical help to taper off cross sex hormones, & get help to deal with their complications if things went wrong. I also want detransition healthcare like breast reconstruction, laser/electrolysis hair removal, gynecomastia surgery, etc. to be covered by insurance so detransitioners won't have to get into financial debt in order to be more comfortable with their bodies. When it comes to informed consent clinics, there needs to be more comprehensive information that is consistent so people know what they are getting themselves into. Along with improving mental health resources & making it more available so that there is even more comprehensive care for gender diverse people. I also want clinics to follow up with detransitioners to see how they are doing and offer resources to help process their detransitions so they are not doing this alone.

I would like for detransition to be discussed as a plan B just in case that youth does end up detransitioning. Please realize that detransition does not equate to regret. Like I said, I do not regret my transition and my detransition did not mean my life was over or ruined. During my gender journey, I did consider that I want to keep some of my birth gender features & thought

about which medical procedures I would like to have as either a man or woman since I am nonbinary. It was because of the lack of pressure to conform into a binary gender that I was able to make medical decisions in the long term just in case I wanted to live as my birth gender again.

I would also want gender affirming care to be more open to nonbinary genders and nonbinary transitions. My insurance used to require more of a binary transition because man or woman was taken more seriously than nonbinary genders. I was even considering lying about being a trans man and coming up with excuses why I did not want to be on testosterone just so that my top surgery will be covered. Fortunately, my insurance changed their policy where they no longer required testosterone for top surgery to be covered. So I was able to be more open and honest with medical professionals on what I am going through and what I want to do. They also provided more mental health resources to help with other areas in my life, like depression and anxiety.

These changes to make gender affirming care cannot happen if there are more restrictions and bans. It just makes it less available and accessible, which in turn makes information more opaque rather than transparent. It also makes resources less available rather than more available. I want people to have more options and resources, not less. So I want the committee to vote against House Bill 68 since this does not help the gender diverse demographic.

Thank you for your time.

Devin Cantu