

I love the acronym of this bill: Saving Adolescents From Experimentation. SAFE. That's something we all want for our children, isn't it?

So why are we here today? Why did so many of us take time off work to show up? What sort of experimenting are we talking about?

Are we here to address the alarming spike in suicide experimentation among our children and teens?

Or to talk about their bullying experiments, most often targeting our trans, gay and lesbian students, according to the CDC?

Surely we must be here because children are increasingly experimenting with shooting themselves and others with firearms — making gun deaths the #1 killer of children aged 1-17 nationwide. We are likely going to talk about laws that would help prevent this surge in gun violence among children — laws that would, say, impose a penalty on someone who fails to secure an unattended firearm and leaves it accessible to an unsupervised minor, or require unattended guns to be stored safely and securely.

Or maybe we are gathered to fight against the shocking number of gender affirming surgeries among our nation's youth — I am, of course, referring to the 44,000 nose jobs, 2800 mastectomies for male teens, and over 3200 breast implants in youth 13-19 in 2020 alone. With buttock lift, non medically necessary breast reductions, cheek implant, liposuction, thigh lift, tummy tuck and upper arm lift surgeries we are looking at a total of 70,000 body-altering procedures among kids aged 13-19 in 2020 alone, a year many could barely get medically necessary procedures and surgeries.

But ... no. We are here to debate whether or not we should prevent a tiny handful of youth from accessing the same health care as their peers. With a regret rate of between 1 and .1%, depending on the study, we are here to ban trans youth from the very same hormones and procedures we've been doling out to ALL youths for literal decades.

For comparison, I offer these numbers: 20% of patients regretted their total knee replacement surgeries, 20% regretted their weight loss surgery. Across all surgeries the regret rate is 14%.

The regret rate that we are all gathered here today to try to stop a dangerous, irrational and fear-based bill is fully 100%.