

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 5/21/2023

Name: Leonard Vincent Gay

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title: N/A

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 68

Specific Issue:

Are you testifying as a:

Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person Written-Only

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? N/A

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Much of this bill is performative, in that it smears parents and healthcare professionals by suggesting that it is necessary to “outlaw” behavior no one is engaging in, or that is already prohibited by existing law. Healthcare professionals are already prohibited from making diagnoses and performing irreversible procedures without first ruling out other possible diagnoses, considering less impactful treatments, and taking into account the overall psychological state of the patient. This bill places ethical medical professionals, parents, guardians and others under threat of legal action for simply doing what is best for children and adolescents.

There is no such thing as gender that “corresponds” to a specific biological sex, yet this bill targets for legal action anyone who supports a minor in simply electing not to adhere to the most subtle of highly debatable, purely socially imposed gender norms.

Studies claiming that children who deviate from gender norms come to identify with the gender commonly associated with their biological sex do not address the psychological well-being of those who are non-conforming and come to identify with the gender associated with their biological sex at birth. These studies also do not address children whose dysphoria is so pronounced that they are interested in exploring medical options. Suicide rates are higher among those denied medical options than among those permitted to undergo gender reassignment. A major contributor to suicide rates is the kind of lack of societal acceptance demonstrated by this bill.

By placing prohibitions on the use of puberty blockers, this bill seeks to deny children the freedom to forestall until adulthood long-term adult decisions about gender assignment and options for the least complicated available means of gender reassignment. The bill cites no compelling evidence that the risks of puberty blockers outweigh benefits, or that puberty blockers are “untested” or involve side effects more serious than those associated with most medical treatments.

The bill cruelly cuts off Medicaid recipients from needed services.

This bill threatens the most basic of freedoms for parents, healthcare providers, children, and the adults our children will become. The bill promotes and plays to hatred, lies, and scare tactics. It is designed to intimidate anyone experiencing gender dysphoria, or who is not strictly adhering to stereotypical gender norms.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.