



Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee

My name is Prisha Mosley. I am a 25-year-old woman who has suffered severe and lasting injuries because I was subjected to so-called “gender-affirming care” as a minor. This “care” included medical intervention to make my body appear as that of a male.

I support legislation that would prevent doctors and other healthcare providers, who are supposed to protect children, from harming them through so-called “gender-affirming care.”

As a teenager, I suffered from a number of mental health issues, including anorexia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder, anxiety, and depression. I also suffered trauma from sexual assault. And I engaged in self-harm.

At age 17, after meeting with me for a matter of minutes, a counselor told me that I was actually a boy and that changing my body to be more like a boy’s would fix my mental health issues. Around that same time, a doctor prescribed testosterone for me as “gender-affirming care” to make my body look more like a boy’s body. While I was still 17, a surgeon familiar with breast reduction surgery for women met with me and expressed eagerness in performing gender-affirming “top surgery” on me.

At age 18, my healthy my breasts were cut off of my chest and incinerated. These healthcare providers, whom I trusted to take care of me, misled me into believing that changing my body to look more like a boy’s body would solve my mental and psychological problems.

As a result of these healthcare providers’ actions, I have suffered severe and lasting injuries. These injuries are both psychological and physical in nature.

My body did not develop the way it should have and does not function normally. I am unable to nurse a child. I do not know if I will be able to conceive and give birth to a child.

I have suffered painful and irreversible changes to my genitals. My voice has been permanently damaged. My larynx, crushed by the overgrowth in my throat caused my testosterone, prevents me from singing and raising my voice. Even speaking for long periods hurts. My body aches every day. My muscles burn and my bones ache. I was promised male puberty, and instead, I got menopause. I may not ever get to have children now.

I suffer daily with phantom breast syndrome, a waking nightmare in which I am haunted by the ghosts of my missing body parts.

I suffer from chronic pain and a host of additional medical issues and psychological and emotional anguish, as a result of the medical and surgical abuse that I was led into by the healthcare providers who were supposed to take care of me. Instead of being treated for my depression, anxiety, and borderline diagnosis, I was fast-tracked down the path to life-long medicalization.

Legislation preventing children from undergoing such life-altering procedures could have protected me and many others like me. I was utterly convinced by adults that I had been born in the wrong body, and that hormones and surgery were the cure.

I now understand that surgery on the body cannot change the brain. No doctor should remove healthy body parts or prescribe sterilizing drugs to children for a social contagion of mental suffering.

Prisha Mosely