

Ladies and gentlemen, members of this committee, I write to you as a father of a Transgender daughter who has received the full spectrum of gender affirming care from a team of medical professionals. I write today to vehemently oppose any attempt to ban medical care for transgender youth. Such a prohibition not only violates their fundamental rights but also undermines the principles of evidence-based healthcare and compassionate medical practice.

Banning medical care for transgender youth infringes upon their basic human right to access appropriate healthcare. Every individual, regardless of their gender identity, deserves the right to receive medical attention that aligns with their needs. Restricting these essential services jeopardizes the well-being of transgender youth and undermines the principles of equality and justice.

Gender dysphoria is a real and recognized psychological condition that, when left untreated, can lead to severe mental health issues. By denying transgender youth access to gender-affirming treatments, we risk exacerbating their struggles and perpetuating a cycle of emotional distress. The mental health of these young individuals should be a paramount concern, and medical interventions can play a crucial role in alleviating their suffering.

Transgender youth, like any other demographic, should be afforded the right to make informed decisions about their own bodies. Banning medical care removes their agency in navigating their gender identity with the guidance of healthcare professionals. Respecting the autonomy of transgender youth is essential for fostering a society that values individual choice and personal autonomy.

The medical community widely recognizes the efficacy and safety of gender-affirming treatments for transgender individuals. Decades of research and clinical experience support the use of hormone therapy and other interventions in aligning the physical aspects of an individual with their gender identity. Banning these medically sound treatments disregards the scientific consensus and undermines the trust we place in evidence-based medicine.

Implementing a ban on medical care for transgender youth perpetuates harmful social stigmas and discrimination. It sends a message that their identities are not valid or worthy of medical support, contributing to a culture of exclusion and marginalization. As a society, we should strive to create an environment that embraces diversity and fosters inclusivity, including in the provision of healthcare services.

In conclusion, a blanket ban on medical care for transgender youth is a regressive approach that goes against the principles of human rights, mental health support, autonomy, and evidence-based medicine. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every individual, regardless of their gender identity, has access to the medical care they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Let us prioritize compassion, understanding, and the well-being of our transgender youth by rejecting any proposal that seeks to deny them the medical care they deserve.

Mikael McLaren