Chairman Weisz and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Amber Vibeto and I reside in District 3. I would like to state my strong support for House Bills 1254 and 1301 in hopes that one strong bill will emerge from this session that would ban the medical gender transition of minors.

There has been a complete collapse of ethics within the medical establishment, particularly regarding the issue of gender. Gone are the days when we could trust doctors and hospitals to first *do no harm*. We now live in a time where the temptation to first *profit off of patients* has become too great. Does this describe every health professional? Of course not. But when leading professional associations like the American Association of Pediatrics and The American Medical Association advocate for financially and ideologically-driven pseudoscience, we should sit up and take notice. We should stand up and say, no. No, you will not sacrifice the health and safety of children and teens for financial gain while claiming to care about their health.

Medically transitioning children and teens is one of the cruelest and most barbaric things we have ever done as human beings. When a child is socially affirmed, it is incredibly hard for them to eventually change their mind because coming out as transgender is a hard thing to walk back. This inevitably leads to medical transition and becoming a life-long medical patient. If you support the transitioning of children, plan to also hold their hand through the major health struggles they will inevitably go through in their lifetime.

Hormonal intervention for gender dysphoria <u>introduces disease</u> into an otherwise healthy and growing human being. It steals from children and teens that which will never be given back.

- · Blocks normal breast development
- Causes sexual dysfunction
- Prevents ovulation and stunts penile & testicular growth which leads to infertility
- Disrupts normal bone development which leads to osteoporosis as young adults
- Disrupts normal brain development
- Causes memory loss

- Causes decreased IQ
- Increased risk for serious health problems, including heart attack, stroke, and cancer

Gender-affirming surgical intervention is irreversible and has led many to a lifetime of suffering, devastation, and regret. It entails:

- Double mastectomies
- Hysterectomies
- Creation of a fake penis using the skin of the girl's forearm leaving a significant wound and scar
- Castration
- Removal of the penis
- Creation of a genital pouch that has to continually be stretched to avoid it closing and causing infection

There is a lot of talk about hate from the opposition of these bills. But I can't think of anything more hateful than sterilizing, mutilating, and introducing disease to young people who do not have the capacity to understand the lifelong ramifications of their decisions. This is not healthcare. This is abuse of the worst kind. Parental rights are sacred, but they do not encompass the right to destroy their children's minds and bodies.

Unfortunately, many parents have been manipulated into believing they have no choice but to medically transition their child due to a risk of suicide if left untreated by denying hormones and surgery. They are asked the impossible question, "Do you want a dead daughter or a live son"? It's an alarming question, and many parents choose to trust these seemingly kind and supportive doctors and therapists. They choose to put their child in the hands of these professionals out of a desperate attempt to fix their child's mental health struggles. They assume that professionals can't possibly be ideologically-driven. But we know that's not true. There is bias and obfuscation of truth in the facts and figures cited by gender-affirming providers. Please don't be too impressed by their credentials and cherrypicked data. There is currently no scientific support for gender-corrective treatment to reduce the risk of suicide. Please refer to the resource I have provided in my testimony regarding the myths of suicide and gender dysphoric children. I submit that if a teen who identifies as trans is suicidal, it is not because they are not affirmed by society. It is because

they are being lied to about who they are by the adults that they are supposed to be able to trust. It's because they are being led down a path that entails a frustrating and never-ending striving towards a goal that can never be attained. These young people need to know that they can find healing and happiness without cutting off body parts and being sterilized. They need to know that the concept of gender identity was created by two so-called scientists, John Money and Alfred Kinsey, two deeply disturbed, predatory men who sexually abused children for their fundamentally flawed research.

One final point. I don't know if doctors and hospitals in ND are medically transitioning kids yet. But I do know that <u>Sanford Health</u> has fully bought into gender ideology and I have no doubt that they have the same dollar signs in their eyes as Tennesee's <u>Vanderbilt University Medical Center</u>. Let's not give them the chance to profit off of the suffering of vulnerable children and teens. And let's not allow the threat of potential litigation prevent us from doing what is right and moral and decent.

Thank you so much for your time.

Transgender Surgery: What Have I Done? https://player.vimeo.com/video/500280130

The Myth About Suicide and Gender Dysphoric Children

Society for Evidence Based Gender Medicine: Complications of Medical Intervention

'Huge Money Maker': Video Reveals Vanderbilt's Shocking Gender 'Care,' Threats Against Dissenting Doctors

Kinsey's Kids

American College of Pediatricians: Transgender Interventions Harm Children

American College of Pediatrics: Deconstructing Transgender Pediatrics

Leading Transgender Health Association Removes Age Minimum In New Guidelines

Sanford Health and the Transformation Project

New Declaration Launches Opposition To Leading Transgender Health Association

Leading Transgender Health Association Seeks to Include 'Eunuch' As 'Gender Identity'