



North Dakota House of Representatives

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House Bill 1254 Senate Health and Human Services Committee Senator Lee, Chairman March 15, 2023

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Rep. Brandon Prichard and I represent District 8 which covers all of Emmons County, rural and suburban portions of Burleigh County, and Wilton which is in McLean County. I am here to testify in support of HB 1254 which would ban transition surgeries, hormone therapy, and puberty blockers on children with the intent to change the gender of the minor or stop development to consider gender transition. If passed, HB 1254 would create a Class B Felony for doctors who perform transgender surgeries on children and a Class A Misdemeanor for doctors who prescribe puberty blockers with the intent to change a child's gender.

Transition surgeries and medications have a brutal and life-altering impact on the recipient. This is particularly true in the case of a patient under the age of 18. Medications like hormone therapy and puberty blockers are linked to lose in bone density and osteoporosis, partial or complete loss of fertility, long-lasting brain fog, increased risk of cardiovascular disease, increased risk of breast and uterus cancers, and harmful psychoactive effects. Meanwhile, the surgeries are permanent and cannot be reversed.¹ In fact, some drugs like Lupron or Leuprolide Acetate are used to chemically castrate convicted pedophiles. Yet Lupron and similar drugs are widely accepted as the best option to give to children to transition to the opposite gender or disrupt puberty.²

In truth, there are no credible long-term studies that confirms the claim that transition surgery, hormone therapy, or puberty blockers help children overcome gender dysphoria, depression, anxiety, or any other mental health problem. The reason for this discrepancy is that the widespread push to transition the gender of children is a new phenomenon. Even the National President of the pro-transgender organization titled the World Professional Association for Transgender Health publicly warned about "rapid-onset" gender dysphoria where a person – often young women – develop an identity attachment to the opposite sex rapidly, but later revert their identity to the sex assigned at birth.³ Many researchers acknowledge the phenomenon that "onset-gender dysphoria" describes: A huge increase in the Western world of teenagers and young adults suddenly expressing a transgender identity seemingly out of the blue, when previously there had been no indication that they were uncomfortable with their biological sex. Beyond the issue of a rapid onset of a dysphoria, the existing research has done little to no comparison between transgender surgery, hormone therapy, and puberty blockers compared to counseling services that are traditionally used to treat mental illnesses and other forms of dysphoria. Therefore, to suggest that invasive surgery or experimental

¹ [Study: Effects of puberty-blockers can last a lifetime | WORLD \(wng.org\)](https://www.wng.org/study-effects-of-puberty-blockers-can-last-a-lifetime/)

² [Doctors Give Kids Drugs That Can Chemically Castrate Them - Just Like Pedophiles \(westernjournal.com\)](https://www.westernjournal.com/doctors-give-kids-drugs-that-can-chemically-castrate-them-just-like-pedophiles/)

³ [Transgender Docs Warn About Gender-Affirmative Care for Youth \(webmd.com\)](https://www.webmd.com/transgender/docs/warn-about-gender-affirmative-care-for-youth/)

drugs are the correct way to treat gender dysphoria is grounded in no long-term research and instead finds its most compelling argument in political activism and appeals to emotion.

Transgender surgeries and medications are used on children around the country in clinics set up to exploit children with gender confusion. In Attachment A, a list of gender affirming clinics as compiled by the Human Rights Campaign are listed.⁴ You can see that there are several dozen gender affirming clinics around the country that operate on children, including in Minnesota. The problem with this list is that it misses one clinic that began practicing in February of 2023. This clinic was in North Dakota. According to the Fargo Forum on February 5, 2023, an all-ages family physician from Fargo is opening a clinic to focus on providing gender-affirming care to members of the LGBTQ+ community, including children. Transitioning children before they can drive, smoke, drink, attend college, etc. is not an out-of-state issue. Instead, the movement to exploit children with mental illness is at our doorstep and it will succeed without action.

I encourage the Health and Human Services Committee to support the effort to protect the innocence of children by banning transition surgeries and medications on minors. I respectfully ask for the committee to support HB 1254 by giving the bill a “Do Pass” recommendation.

⁴ [Interactive Map: Comprehensive Care Programs for Gender-Expansive Children and Adolescents - Human Rights Campaign \(hrc.org\)](https://www.hrc.org/resources/interactive-map-comprehensive-care-programs-for-gender-expansive-children-and-adolescents)

