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Testimony before the Government, Elections and
Administration Committee



Chairwoman Flexer, Chairman Blumenthal, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, my name is Leslie Wolfgang and I am the Director of Public Policy for the Family Institute of Connecticut. I am testifying against SJ35 - “Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment Concerning Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Under the Equal Protection Clause”.

The Amendment would expand abortion in this state to include abortion after viability, the point a baby can survive outside of the womb. If not delivered by inducing labor, these babies are usually subject to a dilation and evacuation, [in which the clinician dilates the cervix and then removes the fetus using a combination of vacuum aspiration and forceps, which can lead to disarticulation.](#)

Viability is generally considered possible at 23 weeks gestation, which is actually after when babies begin to feel pain. [At week 24 they are aware they are feeling pain](#) which is around the same time they begin to experience [consciousness.](#)

Abortions at this late stage are at risk for having their organs and parts harvested for sale. Fetal tissue harvesting and sale [takes place in the abortion industry,](#) even from infants born alive.

Former StemExpress technician-turned-whistleblower Holly O'Donnell, spoke about seeing a baby born alive after an abortion — and rather than be allowed to provide aid, she was told to [move forward with harvesting the child's brain.](#) This is an excerpt from her experience:

She's like, OK, I want to show you something! So she has one of her instruments, and she just taps the heart, and it starts beating. And I'm sitting here, and I'm looking at this fetus that's heart is beating, and I don't know what to think. She was like, do you know why that's happening? And I knew why that was happening, it's because the electrical

current — the nodes — were still firing. And I don't know if that constitutes — it's technically dead, or it's alive?

It had a face. It wasn't completely torn up. And its nose was very pronounced, it had eyelids, and its mouth was pronounced. And then, since the fetus was so intact, she said, "OK, well, this is a really good fetus, and it looks like we can procure a lot from it. We're gonna procure brain."

So, the moment I hear it, I'm like, that means we're gonna have to cut the head open. We're gonna have to cut the head open. So she's like, "OK, so what you do is, you go through the face," and I'm thinking, no, I don't want to do this ... she gave me the scissors and told me to cut down the middle of the face.

This Amendment would also likely prevent the General Assembly from restricting access to quote "Gender Affirming Care" which much of the world and over 20 states have restricted or banned. The arch of history is trending away from puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and [cross-sex surgery](#) for minors because [sterilizing children](#), lowering [bone-density](#), increasing risk of [heart problems](#), [altering brain development](#), [sexual dysfunction](#) and creating the [agony of regret](#) only add to mental health problems and new body dysmorphia. [Fifty to 179](#) girls age 12 and younger are documented to have had double mastectomies in the US. Surgeries don't even affect the [suicide rate](#) and [may actually increase it](#). "Clinical gender dysphoria does not appear to be predictive of all-cause nor suicide mortality when psychiatric treatment history is accounted for." That means, children with gender dysphoria die at the same rate of children without gender dysphoria. It is the underlying mental or physical conditions that determine death, not whether they received "gender affirming" care.

So, what are we doing here? Here is a [statement](#) from January 31 on X from Dr. Amaya Deakins, a WPATH member:

"Hi, gender affirming care expert and [@wpath](#) member here. I want to take time to remind everyone that the current #detrans rates are estimated to be [+/-30 percent](#). . . . I do not want anyone to be harmed by the practice of #GAC However this appears to be the case for some adolescents. I call on [@wpath](#) leadership to develop detrans psychological And medical treatment protocols. . . . As always I believe that GAC has significantly improved my life but we must not be so quick to prescribe transitioning . . . Just wanted to add that we need to dig more into evidence based medicine and empirically validated treatments for GAC."

Last week Australia began a [federal inquiry](#) of their policy for GAC and paused prescribing puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors in Queensland. [Argentina](#) blocked “gender affirming care” for minors on Wednesday. England has [banned](#) the use of puberty blockers for gender dysphoria outside of research trials, [Wales, Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Sweden, Finland](#) have rolled back previous approval of puberty blockers and cross sex hormones and surgery for minors. [Germany, France, Belgium](#) and [the Netherlands](#) (where “gender affirming care” for minors got its start) are all questioning or beginning a process.

There is no medical consensus that hormonal and surgical intervention is a good idea for minors experiencing gender dysphoria. From a 2024 [statement](#) by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons: *“ASPS currently understands that there is considerable uncertainty as to the long-term efficacy for the use of chest and genital surgical interventions for the treatment of adolescents with gender dysphoria, and the existing evidence base is viewed as low quality/low certainty. This patient population requires specific considerations.”*

Connecticut would be making a big mistake to enshrine access to so called “gender affirming care” into its Constitution.

This poem by a young girl who socially transitioned is especially poignant and I’m sharing it today to emphasize caution we should take before accepting any “healthcare” uncritically.

A CRY FROM THE INSIDE: THE BOY WITH THE PACK ON HIS BACK

Turn me back; turn me back.
Says the boy with the pack on his back.
There has been a mishap.
I feel I am in a trap.
I don't like this baseball cap.
Turn me back; turn me back
Says the boy with a pack on his back.
I once had a beautiful curl.
I once was daddy's girl.
Now I am lost in another world.

Turn me back; turn me back.
Says the boy with the pack on his back.
The men's room smells of poop and pee.
This is not the life for me.
Someone set me free.
Turn me back; turn me back.
Says the boy with the pack on his back.
I am a what, not a who. My friends who were, many are few.
I am so lonesome and blue.
Turn me back; turn me back.
Says the boy with the pack on his back.
I feel terrible inside. - Anonymous

Setting aside the problem of this Amendment providing a civil right to access Gender Affirming Care for minors, think of the disruption caused by erasing sex-separated prison facilities. Right now, approximately 15% of the people imprisoned in federal women's prisons . . . [are men](#). Women prisoners who have suffered physical and mental abuse at the hands of men, are now forced to share their prison cells with men and [beaten, abused, raped, or impregnated](#). This is a horrible and unethical situation and would be enshrined into our constitution if gender is added to "sex".

To give a local example, 17 years ago, Steven Hayes held a Connecticut family of four hostage in their home for hours, beating them, raping the 11 year old daughter and the mother, then strangling the mother, and finally setting the house on fire, killing both children from smoke inhalation. Hayes was spared the death penalty in Connecticut and now resides in an Oregon prison and identifies as "[Linda](#)". Male prisoners like Hayes could end up in Connecticut Women's Prisons if this amendment were to pass.



More articles:

Increase of gender dysphoric youth and “gender affirming care”

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-transyouth-data/>

<https://www.foxnews.com/media/therapists-sound-alarm-after-study-shows-dramatic-rise-gender-dysphoria-among-children>