

Name: Anonymous 59 Anonymous 59

Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: SB00295 - AAC STATE LAW PROTECTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PATIENTS RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF A LEGALLY PROTECTED HEALTH CARE ACTIVITY.

Opposes

Testimony:

Testimony in Opposition to SB 295

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE LAW PROTECTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PATIENTS RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF A LEGALLY PROTECTED HEALTH CARE ACTIVITY

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am a Connecticut parent. I am here today to ask you to oppose SB 295.

I wish I were here under different circumstances. I wish I were simply another parent raising concerns about policy. Instead, I am here as a parent who lost a daughter.

My daughter was a bright, creative, and sensitive young woman. She spoke multiple languages, played several musical instruments, loved geography, and excelled in school. She was curious about the world and full of potential. Like many teenagers, she struggled at times with friendships, self-confidence, and finding where she belonged. But she was deeply loved by her family.

During her teenage years, my daughter began struggling with identity and emotional distress. Over time she cycled through multiple labels and identities while searching for belonging and meaning in a confusing environment. Instead of slowing down and addressing the underlying emotional struggles she was experiencing, the adults and institutions around her increasingly affirmed a new identity and encouraged her to move further away from her family.

As a parent, I tried to stay involved. I tried to understand what was happening to my child. But I found that the systems that were supposed to help her increasingly treated me as an obstacle rather than a partner. Professionals, counselors, and institutions made decisions about my child's life without meaningful parental involvement.

My daughter eventually began medical transition, including testosterone therapy. At the same time, she became increasingly isolated from her family and struggled with depression and self-harm. Instead of bringing us together to support her, the system around her pushed us further apart.

In October of 2024, my daughter died by suicide in her college dorm room.

No parent should ever have to experience that loss.

I am not here today to debate ideology. I am here because policies like SB 295 risk repeating the same mistakes that separated me from my child.

SB 295 expands legal protections for providers involved in controversial medical treatments while further limiting accountability and parental involvement. It encourages a system where life-altering medical decisions for minors can move forward while parents are pushed aside or even treated as adversaries.

Parents are not the enemy. We are the people who know our children best. We are the ones who will live with the consequences of these decisions long after the political debate is over.

Children who struggle with identity, mental health, or belonging need careful, thoughtful support. They need time to grow, mature, and work through difficult emotions. They need families involved in their care, not excluded from it.

SB 295 moves Connecticut in the opposite direction.

Instead of slowing down and protecting vulnerable young people, this bill strengthens a system that shields institutions and providers while leaving families powerless.

Please consider what this means for parents like me.

When legislators vote on bills like SB 295, the discussion often centers on abstract principles or political arguments. But behind those debates are real children and real families whose lives are permanently

changed by these policies.

I cannot bring my daughter back. But I hope that by sharing my story, other families might be spared the same heartbreak.

I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 295 and to protect the role of parents in the lives and care of their children.

Thank you for listening.