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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:

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Connecticut Senate Bill 295 (SB 295), masquerading as a "protection" for health care providers and patients, is nothing short of a tyrannical overreach that shreds the foundational rights of parents to guide, protect, and make critical decisions for their minor children. By shielding gender-affirming and reproductive care from out-of-state scrutiny while embedding loopholes that allow minors to bypass parental involvement, this bill elevates state ideology and activist agendas above the sacred parent-child bond. It's a direct violation of parental authority, enabling secretive, life-altering interventions on vulnerable kids without the oversight or consent of those who know them best—their parents. This isn't protection; it's a calculated erosion of family sovereignty, potentially leading to family destruction, irreversible harm to children, and a chilling precedent for government intrusion into the home.

At its core, SB 295 flagrantly disregards the bedrock principle that parents—not distant bureaucrats or ideologically driven providers—hold primary responsibility for their children's medical and moral upbringing. Under Connecticut's existing "mature minor" doctrine, teens as young as 16 can already consent to gender-affirming care without parental input, and younger ones might qualify if deemed "mature" by a physician. This bill supercharges that travesty by protecting providers from any accountability, even if parents in restrictive states object. Imagine a 15-year-old, vulnerable with perhaps other mental health issues, confused and influenced by online trends or school counselors, crossing state lines or via telehealth for puberty blockers or hormones—decisions with permanent consequences like infertility or bone density loss—while parents are left in the dark or powerless to intervene. This isn't empowerment; it's abandonment of minors to the whims of a system that treats parents as obstacles rather than guardians.

Critics of similar "shield" laws in states like California and New York have rightly called them an "abduction incentive," allowing out-of-state minors to be funneled into irreversible treatments against their parents' will. SB 295 does the same, violating the constitutional due process rights of parents to direct their child's upbringing. By prioritizing a minor's fleeting "autonomy" over proven parental wisdom, the bill mocks the idea that families are the cornerstone of society, instead handing control to a state that views dissenting parents as bigots or abusers.

This legislation is a recipe for familial betrayal, fostering an environment where children are encouraged to hide major life decisions from their parents under the guise of "confidentiality." Schools and providers, emboldened by the bill's protections, could facilitate secret transitions—changing names, pronouns, or even medical records—without notifying parents, mirroring controversial policies already in place in Connecticut schools. This isn't just unfair; it's a vicious attack on trust within families, pitting kids against their parents and potentially exacerbating mental health crises rather than resolving them.

In broader parental rights debates, such policies are lambasted as "adultification of children," a form of abuse where minors are burdened with decisions they aren't equipped to handle, leading to long-term regret and family estrangement. Parents who oppose gender-affirming care—often out of legitimate concerns over rushed diagnoses or lack of long-term evidence—are sidelined, their rights trampled in favor of a one-size-fits-all ideology that ignores the high desistance rates among gender-dysphoric youth

(up to 80-90% resolve without intervention by adulthood). This bill doesn't protect kids; it exposes them to exploitation while stripping parents of their God-given role as protectors.

SB 295's true beneficiaries are the providers and activists, not families. By barring out-of-state legal actions against Connecticut-based doctors, it creates a "safe haven" for experimental treatments on minors, shielding malpractice or ethical lapses from scrutiny. Parents seeking redress—for instance, if their child suffers harm from cross-state telehealth consultations—would be stonewalled, their rights to due process eviscerated. It prioritizes profit-driven medical industries over the well-being of children and the authority of parents.

By framing opposition as "discrimination," the bill gaslights parents, forcing them into silence or compliance while their kids are guinea pigs for unproven therapies. The real gaslighting is the term itself, "Gender affirming care." "Gender affirming care" for minors is a misnomer, and is actually the true conversion therapy. Most of these minors, if left alone, would either evolve out of it completely or simply be gay.

Thank you kindly for the consideration in advance.
R. Fitzgerald