

Name: Charles Smith

Title: Affected Parent

Organization or Agency: Connecticut

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 Connecticut General Assembly,

I hope each of you will take a moment to read this and hear directly from a Connecticut parent.

In 2019, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families removed my 14-year-old daughter from our home. Our home had been certified as safe and non-abusive. The reason for her removal was not neglect, violence, or instability. The reason was that I would not affirm the claim that my biological daughter was actually male.

As a parent, there are few things more devastating than having your child taken away. That experience changed my life and my family forever. I share this with you because bills like SB 295 move Connecticut further down a path where parents are increasingly pushed aside in some of the most serious medical and psychological decisions affecting their children.

Parents are the ones who know their children best. Parents are the ones who carry the responsibility for their children's safety, health, and future. Yet policies like the ones contemplated in this bill risk empowering institutions and providers to make life-altering decisions for minors while marginalizing the role of parents.

Before supporting legislation like SB 295, I ask you to pause and ask yourselves a simple question: Where does your responsibility lie?

Does it lie with parents who are trying to guide and protect their children through complicated and emotional struggles? Or does it lie with systems that increasingly remove parents from the decision-making process when their child is experiencing gender distress?

SB 295 would expand policies that encourage medical interventions for minors while shielding providers from accountability. It risks normalizing situations where children are placed on powerful medications or treatments without full parental involvement or support.

Many Connecticut parents feel they are being pushed aside while decisions about their children are being made by people who will not bear the long-term consequences.

I am asking you to think carefully about the precedent this bill sets. Laws like this do not just affect abstract policy debates. They affect real families like mine.

Before you cast your vote, please remember that behind every bill are parents and children whose lives may be permanently changed by the decisions you make.

I urge you to proceed with caution and to protect the fundamental role of parents in the lives of their children.

Respectfully,

Charles Smith
Connecticut Parent