

February 25, 2024

To: Members of Kansas Legislation  
Regarding: **Testimony in Opposition of HB 2792**

My name is Amanda Mogoi. I am a nurse practitioner in Wichita, Kansas where I have practiced since 2016. In 2019, I was asked to begin providing hormone replacement therapies to transgender individuals. To do so, I sought out training and certification through the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). WPATH is internationally recognized for producing the highest level of standards for transgender medical care. Since 2019, I have obtained over 300 continuing education hours specific to transgender care. Additionally, I completed a mentoring fellowship with a WPATH certified endocrinologist. In 2023, I tested for and became one of the 188 WPATH certified providers in the United States, across all specialties. I am the only certified provider in Kansas. I practice explicitly within the WPATH guidelines for the medical treatment of Gender Incongruence and within the limitations of my Kansas licensure and board certification from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. It is my ethical responsibility to provide high quality, competent, well-regulated medical care to my patients and I can assure you that I do not take this responsibility lightly.

Affirming chosen gender is consistently linked to lower rates of suicide attempt. Simply put, allowing transgender individuals access to gender affirming medical care is suicide prevention. The negative social, psychological, and medical consequences of withholding affirming treatment until persons have reached adulthood has been well documented in several studies. The American Academy of Pediatrics, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, The American Psychological Association, The Endocrine Society, The Pediatric Endocrine Society, and The World Professional Association for Transgender Health along with many others have affirmed their support for gender affirming care for minors including puberty suppression and hormone therapies. For a minor to access gender healthcare, I independently and in collaboration with mental health experts ensure that the minor endorses persistent and insistent gender dysphoria over an extended period. It is my duty to ensure that the minor and their legal guardians fully understand the risks versus the benefits of gender related medical care including the reversible and permanent effects of therapies. I require all legal guardians to be involved in these discussions and legal, informed consent is obtained in writing from minors and their guardians.

Research shows us that greater than 97% of youth who come out as transgender during adolescence will seek medical care and go on to live in their affirmed gender for the remainder of their lives. Unfortunately, in blatant disregard of the research, several states have already passed laws banning gender affirming medical care for transgender youth. For minors that were already involved in care, these laws tore away essential treatments shown to improve mental and physical health leaving parents terrified of the mental health declines sure to follow. Due to their inability to receive care in their home state, minors and their parents are traveling as far as 700 miles away to seek care in Kansas.

Today, I'm pleading with you to grant transgender minors and their families the autonomy to make their medical decisions with their healthcare providers. Research shows us just how

important autonomy is. We know that when medical provider's disregard a patient's dignity and autonomy over their own body, patients lose trust in their care provider creating a breakdown of effective medical care.

Medical treatment is a crucial and very personal service that virtually everyone depends upon at some point in their lives. Healthcare decision making should always be left between the care provider and the patient, with the support of their legal guardians in the case of youth. Medical decision making should not be ruled by governmental overreaching into the examination rooms. I implore you to please leave healthcare decisions to certified professionals trained in their area of expertise and the individuals seeking care. Lead Kansas with justice. Vote No on HB 2792.

Thank you,

Amanda Mogoi