

Honorable Beverly Gossage
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Kansas Capitol, Room 142 South
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Proponent Written Testimony, SB12

Dear Chairwoman Gossage and Committee:

My name is Debbie Mize and I live in Louisburg. I am providing testimony in support of this bill.

I am aghast that we need SB12. I want to point you to a recent news article in The Free Press for Free People, February 12, 2023. I am encouraging you to read the full article for an inside view of the dangers of these procedure at this link. <https://www.thefp.com/p/i-thought-i-was-saving-trans-kids>. I provide for you here the woman's introduction of herself and her statement on the side effects, but please proceed to the site I provided to get the full article.

"I am a 42-year-old St. Louis native, a queer woman, and politically to the left of Bernie Sanders. My worldview has deeply shaped my career. I have spent my professional life providing counseling to vulnerable populations: children in foster care, sexual minorities, the poor. For almost four years, I worked at The Washington University School of Medicine Division of Infectious Diseases with teens and young adults who were HIV positive. Many of them were trans or otherwise gender nonconforming, and I could relate: Through childhood and adolescence, I did a lot of gender questioning myself. I'm now married to a transman, and together we are raising my two biological children from a previous marriage and three foster children we hope to adopt."

"Many encounters with patients emphasized to me how little these young people understood the profound impacts changing gender would have on their bodies and minds. But the center downplayed the negative consequences and emphasized the need for transition. As the center's [website said](#), "Left untreated, gender dysphoria has any number of consequences, from self-harm to suicide. But when you take away the gender dysphoria by allowing a child to be who he or she is, we're noticing that goes away. The studies we have show these kids often wind-up functioning psychosocially as well as or better than their peers." There are no [reliable studies](#) showing this. Indeed, the experiences of many of the center's patients prove how false these assertions are.

Again, this bill and my testimony should not be necessary, but I am pleading with you to protect Kansas children from these devastating procedures by gender-mutilation doctors for the sake of money and an agenda. Children are not capable of understanding the ramifications of life altering decisions and as stated, in the aforementioned article, neither are disturbed parents.

Please protect our children by voting in support of SB12!

Respectfully,
Debbie Mize, Proponent
Louisburg