February 14th, 2023 Proponent Testimony SB 12 Oral Testimony

Lauren Shiffman Lenexa, KS Senate District # 21

Dear Chairwomen Gossage and Committee Members:

I would like to express my support for SB12. It is extremely important we pass this legislation to protect the kids of Kansas.

I am not here to debate today if transgender medications or surgery is right. I am here to state that these procedures and medications should be reserved for consenting adults as they are often permanent and have grave side effects that must be considered.

Many experts in these areas have exposed the processes and what may be referred to as "grooming" that happens in schools to further exacerbate the challenges these young people face. Counselors are quick to affirm these kids out of ideology or comfort.

There have always been kids that just don't fit in, and school can be very challenging. Back when I was in school, some of these kids would dress in black, they called it "goth" and they would find other kids like them and feel better. With the growing number of counselors in our schools, kids are approached sometimes without their parents' knowledge and these adults may have different ideology or agendas than their parents. We have had examples in other states of kids transitioning at school without their parent knowledge with the help of these counselors. If you happened to hear the House K-12 Budget hearing the other day, there was an actual Kansas teacher that was a proponent for the school choice bill so she could teach, in her own words, "radical, leftist ideology, and atheism, in hopes to create radicalized socialist children". To be sure she wasn't being sarcastic, one of the house members actually confirmed her intentions to be true in his questioning as he was in disbelief as well. This further confirms these people exist in our schools and it is troubling.

It is possible some of these people are approaching these children and bring them into new DEI groups within the schools. The DEI groups are a haven for these confused kids. The members bring these kids in and as they have coined "LOVE BOMB" them, which means, exude a huge outpouring of acceptance, a feeling they have never felt before. On any human brain, especially an underdeveloped one, this further encourages these thoughts and puts them in a state of euphoria that they have never felt before.

The experts say pronouns is the gateway and how they get their first "LOVE BOMB". But once that "LOVE BOMB" fades, they want that feeling again, like a drug, so they up the ante to chest binders or hormones. They get that huge "LOVE BOMB" again from the group and they get that euphoria. But it only lasts until they take it to the final step where they cut off their body parts.

It is a tragic day for so many when they get older, often past the age when their brains fully develop, and they realize they made a mistake. Or then they realize they have osteoporosis, or permanently losing their hair like a middle-aged man from the puberty blockers.

We don't know the long-term effects yet of these pharmaceuticals and procedures.

But on a remedial note, I have a hard time understanding how we don't allow kids to drink, vote, or even buy a cigarette, but we let them alter their bodies potentially for life with the very serious procedures and pharmaceuticals before the age of a consenting adult.

Please pass SB12 and help protect our youth so they have ample time to insure this is truly what they want to do once they reach adulthood.

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