

Testimony for HB377

My name is Christy Hughes and I live in Newmarket, NH. I am writing my testimony today to ask this committee to OPPOSE HB 377.

I have a really interesting perspective for you here. I am a parent of three children. One of my children was diagnosed with premature adrenarche (early puberty) and one of my children is transgender. If you were to pass this bill, two of my three children and their pediatricians would be affected. This decision should be made by a child's parents and a pediatrician, not POLITICIANS. First of all, my daughter with early puberty was offered puberty blockers "Lupron" by an endocrinologist in our state back in 2012, when she was 10 years old. This is the typical treatment and recommendation used if a child is showing advanced bone age and early signs of puberty. The puberty blockers were explained to be safe with no adverse side effects. It would basically allow our daughter to grow to be over 5 ft. The fear at the time is that she would be too short and that could cause social trouble for her growing up. The doctor explained that it was more commonly used in boys who wanted to compete in sports, like basketball and who also just didn't want to be the shortest person in their class. Ultimately, as parents, we decided that we would not put her on Lupron because she was already close to 5 ft and we weren't really concerned about her height assuming all other health matters would resolve when she had her actual period, which they did. This was a choice WE made for our child.

Our other child understood that she was developing differently when she was 5 years old and by the time she was 11 years old we decided as a family that she would use Lupron in order to safely, pause her puberty while she was able to better understand who she would become. She knew she was a female in her head, her heart and her soul. She was scared about the effects that testosterone would have on her body. So, with the guidance and care of the physicians we chose to work with, our child used the same puberty blocker that was prescribed to our other daughter. Again, this was a choice we made as a family with the guidance of doctors we trusted..

We did not ask our representatives, senator or governor for permission...I could imagine that would make your jobs way too complicated. Please oppose HB 377. It is dangerous for all children and their medical providers in the state of NH.