

Dear Chair and members of the House Health Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to express my opposition to HB 377 that proposes a ban on puberty blockers and hormones for young transgender people. This bill, if passed, would have significant and harmful implications for transgender and non-binary individuals in New Hampshire. Healthcare policies should reflect our most deeply held values as a society, foremost among them respect for the dignity and rights of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity. Crucially, healthcare decisions should be left to the people who understand the most about the patient's needs and circumstances: the patients themselves, their families, and their healthcare providers. ***It is not the role of politicians to interfere with these personal and complex medical decisions.***

Politicians who seek to control our bodies and lives by banning certain types of healthcare are not acting in the best interests of their constituents. The healthcare they seek to restrict is supported by a overwhelming consensus among leading medical organizations. For instance, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Medical Association (AMA), both of which represent vast numbers of healthcare professionals, have explicitly stated their support for gender-affirming care for trans youth and adults.

Puberty-blocking medications and hormone therapy are not experimental or untested treatments. These interventions have been prescribed and studied by medical experts for over four decades. They are a crucial part of the care pathway for many trans individuals, helping them to align their physical appearance with their internal sense of self. As with any medical intervention, the decision to proceed with puberty blockers or hormone therapy is not taken lightly. Young people seeking this care undergo extensive counseling and a thorough psychological assessment to ensure they are ready and understand the implications of their decision.

It's essential to understand that trans healthcare is not about "changing" a person's identity or imposing a particular worldview. Rather, it's about supporting individuals as they navigate their own unique path to authenticity and self-acceptance. It's about recognizing that everyone has the right to bodily autonomy and the freedom to make decisions about their own healthcare. It's about respecting the fact that being trans is not a mental illness, but a natural variation of human experience.

It is becoming tiring to see the amount of focus on targeting trans individuals' rights under the guise of protecting children. The same argument is being made to abolish vaccines, as the government should not interfere with parental rights and the opinions of their medical providers. This is blatant hypocrisy and it needs to stop in a state whose motto is: "Live Free or Die." Please focus on the real issues that we need to resolve in this state and stop wasting our time and money; it's exhausting.

Respectfully,

Arthoen Wolf