

TESTIMONY

Hearing 03/03/2025 @ 09:30

Re: **HB377**

To: **House Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs Committee**

From: **Timothy D Smith, RA**

47 Winter Street, Ashland, NH 03217

I **oppose** this bill. Please vote ITL or NO.

This bill is discriminatory on its face, and takes medical control out of the hands of parents and doctors and patients and presumes the legislature knows better what my child needs than my doctor or myself.

All legitimate major medical associations affirm that puberty blockers are safe and effective treatment for gender dysphoria in children, and simply allow the child to delay puberty while they are making decisions with their parents and doctors.

It has been suggested that puberty blockers are dispensed like candy to any child who wants them. This could not be further from the truth. There are many gatekeepers before a child is prescribed puberty blockers. They are very difficult to get; and already cannot be obtained without the permission of a parent and a doctor.

It has been suggested that Puberty blockers are experimental or unsafe – to the contrary, they have been used for decades safely.

There is absolutely no reason to legislatively prevent Doctors, Parents and Children to make medical decisions. It allows children who are cisgender (identify as the gender they were assigned at birth) to use 'blockers' for medical conditions such as precocious puberty. While at the same time discriminating against transgender children by not allowing them to use the exact same medications.

This bill will force a child who is struggling with gender dysphoria to go through puberty. This means watching their own body betray them.

As a child, I knew I was not a boy. I struggled every day during puberty and very often since. Puberty almost drove me to take my own life. I did not have access to blockers as a child. I am now 60, and my gender dysphoria is still with me. IT DOES NOT SIMPLY GO AWAY. WE DO NOT SIMPLY GROW OUT OF IT! IT IS NOT NECESSARILY A PHASE!

THIS CHOICE MUST REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND PARENTS AS AN OPTION

PLEASE VOTE ITL.