

Testimony for SB520, relative to breast surgeries for minors  
Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
Beth Scaer  
April 8, 2026

Dear Committee Members,

I am here in opposition to SB520. Here are the stories of six young women that had double mastectomies as teens and how they came to regret this radical surgery.

**Claire Abernathy:** “I underwent a double mastectomy at 14 years old in pursuit of the impossible goal of changing myself into a boy. I suffer both physical and psychological pain every single day as a result. When I was a middle schooler, I could not comprehend the permanent loss of my ability to engage in the foundational feature of the class of species I belong to. I could not consent to losing a vital piece of my adult sexuality. No one has the ability to give me back what was taken from me, but you as lawmakers have the power to protect other vulnerable girls from my fate. I urge you to use it.”

**Prisha Mosley:** ““Top surgery” is a form of mastectomy performed on girls and women who are tricked by doctors into believing they can become men. I had complications as a result of the double mastectomy I was prescribed to cure my mental distress. Years after the surgery, I detransitioned. My detransition led to a pregnancy, and complications arose as a result of giving birth. My milk came in, but because of the nature of my surgery, my nipples are decorative. They were removed, reshaped, and reattached in the wrong spot. I had no way to feed my baby. The pain was like none I’ve ever felt before. No girl should have her breasts removed because she is sad. No child should be deprived of his mother’s milk because a surgeon made money from someone’s pain.”

**Layla Jane** desperately needed help, but found herself under the “care” of medical professionals who chemically and surgically mutilated her body. At age 11, Layla heard about transgenderism, did extensive “research” online, and self-diagnosed that she was actually a “boy”, and that transitioning would be the solution to all of her mental problems. Layla’s doctors coerced Layla and her parents to medically transition by indicating that “it is better to have a live son than a dead daughter.” At just 13 years old, doctors performed a radical double mastectomy on Layla. Today, Layla sees through the lies she was fed by medical professionals she should have been able to trust. She now recognizes the coercion she was under and seeks to shine a light on doctors and an industry that irreversibly changed her life forever.

**Chloe Cole** underwent a double mastectomy at age 15, which permanently removed both of her breasts. “The name of the operation I went under was ‘double mastectomy with nipple grafts,’ meaning they make cuts under the breast and take out the tissue underneath,” she explained. The surgeons also surgically removed her nipples and grafted them back on in a “more masculine position” — creating serious side effects that she will deal with for the rest of her life. “They severed the nerve endings. The sensation is never the same again and there are permanent changes in pigmentation — it might not ever look the same,” she explained. She says she was given the impression from doctors that her grafts would mostly be healed by a year and a half after the surgery, but she still has complications more than two years later. “The top layer of skin is not really healing over. It emits this fluid constantly so I have to wear non-adhesive bandages over them all the time.”

But what she most regrets is how “the beauty of motherhood” was stripped from her at an age when she wasn’t able to fully comprehend the loss of being able to breastfeed a baby. “At 15, I wasn’t really thinking. I was a kid, just trying to fit in — not thinking about the possibility of becoming a parent.” She said she went through a long period of grief as she came to regret the mastectomy and de-transitioned.

**Luka Hein**, now 21, claims she was going through a tough time emotionally as a teenager, when her parents were getting divorced and when she was being groomed online by a man from another state. As she struggled with her mental health during this time, she said she found influencers online who extolled the virtues of breast surgery and hormones. She then met with staff members at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, who she claims coerced her into undergoing “top” surgery when she was just 16.

She says the surgery and treatments left her in constant pain and may have robbed her of the chance of becoming a mother. “I was going through the darkest and most chaotic time in my life, and instead of being given the help I needed, these doctors affirmed that chaos into reality,” she said. She added that she should not have been able to consent to the surgery and treatments, as she was still a minor. “I don’t think kids can ever consent to having full bodily functions taken away at a young age before they even know what that means,” she said. “I was talked into medical intervention that I could not fully understand the long-term impacts and consequences of.”

**Fox Varian**, a young woman who had her healthy breasts removed at age 16, was awarded millions after she filed a malpractice lawsuit against the doctors who pushed her towards “gender transition.” Fox suffered from depression, anxiety, and social

phobia as a child. She also had been diagnosed with autism. These issues came to a head when, at 15, Fox began to question her sex. As a 15-year-old, Fox cut her hair short and began binding her breasts. She also changed her name and began telling people she was a boy. In December 2019, when she was just 16, Fox underwent a double mastectomy to remove her breasts. Very soon after, she regretted the life-altering surgery. I immediately had a thought that this was wrong, and it couldn't be true," Fox said. She added: "I felt shame. It's hard to face that you are disfigured for life."

A jury in White Plains, New York, ruled on Jan. 30 that her psychologist and surgeon committed medical malpractice by approving and performing a double mastectomy on 16-year-old Fox. The verdict found both professionals legally responsible for violating the standard of care, including by failure to obtain meaningful, informed consent to perform the surgery.

Vote ITL on SB520 to protect vulnerable girls.