

BIG SKY WORLDVIEW FORUM



ALLIANCE DEFENDING
FREEDOM

FOR FAITH. FOR JUSTICE.

Matt Sharp

Senior Counsel

Director of the Center for Legislative Advocacy

Roadmap for Today



Session 3: Protecting Youth from Gender Affirming Care

Session 4: From Parents to the Legislature –
What Can We Do?

TERMINOLOGY

Gender Affirming Care

TERMINOLOGY

~~Gender Affirming Care~~

vs.

“Gender Transition” Drugs and Surgeries



A growing number of the children receiving care at the 100-plus gender clinics across the United States are opting for medical interventions – puberty-blocking drugs, hormones and, less often, surgery. And they are doing so even though strong scientific evidence of the long-term safety and efficacy of these treatments for children is scant

Reuters Special Report (Nov. 18, 2022)

TRANSITIONING CHILDREN

SOCIAL

MEDICAL

Social Gender Transition

1. Names / Pronouns
2. Dress / Behavior
3. Sex-Segregated Spaces & Activities
4. Identification Documents

WATCHFUL
WAITING

VS

AFFIRMATION
TREATMENT

WATCHFUL
WAITING

VS

AFFIRMATION
TREATMENT

Treat accompanying
psychological issues

“Affirm” child’s
identity

Discuss gender
norms

Begin social and
medical transition

What is Medical Transition?

- Puberty blockers
- Lifelong cross-sex-hormones (testosterone for females; estrogen for males)
- Mastectomy or breast implants
- Removal of ovaries or testes
- Hysterectomy
- Surgical removal and revision of sex organs

Long-Term Consequences

- Arrest of a normal developmental process (puberty)
- Delayed brain development
- Irreversible physical changes
- Medical complications/ drug side effects
- Surgical complications
- Infertility

WATCHFUL
WAITING

VS

AFFIRMATION
TREATMENT

Dysphoria
disappears in
80-95%

Dysphoria
disappears in
<20%

PHYSICAL RISKS

Drug side effects

Sterilization

Surgical complications

Loss of sexual response

Risks of lifelong reliance on cross-sex hormones (strokes and cardiovascular issues; bone/skeletal impairments)

MENTAL HEALTH RISKS

Depression	20%
Anxiety	10%
Suicidal ideation	11%
Suicide attempts	6%
Mental health services	16%

MENTAL HEALTH RISKS

Trans Youth

Depression	20%	50%
Anxiety	10%	27%
Suicidal ideation	11%	31%
Suicide attempts	6%	17%
Mental health services	16%	46%

19x
higher

suicide rate for fully
transitioned individuals

0

of studies showing that affirming children reduces suicide, prevents suicidal ideation, or improves long-term outcomes vs. watchful waiting



Therapy for young children that encourages transition cannot be considered to be neutral, but instead is an experimental procedure that has a high likelihood of changing the life path of the child, with highly unpredictable effects on mental and physical health, suicidality, and life expectancy.

Dr. Stephen Levine

Founder, Case Western Reserve Univ. Gender Identity Clinic



No one has a right to harm children.
Montana is protecting kids from
harmful and unnecessary medical
procedures pushed by politicized medical
associations and interest groups.



Countries Limiting Medical Transitions

Health authorities or medical associations in the following countries are working to limit medical transition for minors:

- United Kingdom
- Sweden
- Finland
- New Zealand
- Australia
- France (starting process)



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