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Senate Human Services Committee members:  
19 March 2023

The below is the testimony of a recent acquaintance, a girl of 21 who gave this testimony to the Nebraska legislature. She is now a de-transitioner, now attending college in the Twin Cities. This is forwarded to you by her permission. The highlighting and paragraph breaks are mine for emphasis. Thanks for taking the time to hear her cry.

Representative Bill Tveit

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"My name is Luka. I was born in Nebraska and have lived here all my life, and I am here today not only as someone who went through the gender affirming care system as a minor but as a victim of these medical practices. I was a young teenager with a history of mental health issues who had been groomed and preyed upon online, and as a result fell into a spiral of hatred towards both myself and my body.

The medical system did not look into or seem concerned about the underlying issues that were causing the distress that made me feel the need to escape my body at such a young age, instead I was affirmed down a path of medical intervention that I could not fully understand the long term impacts and consequences of due to my both my age and mental health conditions.

At 16 the very first medical intervention I ever had was a double mastectomy, then a few months later I was put on to cross sex hormones. As a result of this so-called gender affirming care, if it could even be called care, at 21 I have had to watch as my body has wasted away before my very eyes,

I deal with constant joint pain, my breasts are gone, my vocal chords ache, I've watched as parts of me have atrophied away and I don't know if I'll ever be able to carry a child some day. I will deal with these consequences for possibly the rest of my life, never knowing if they'll go away and feeling abandoned by the medical professionals who did this to me.

My parents were baited with the threat of me committing suicide if they didn't go along with everything, despite the fact I have always maintained I was never suicidal, they were told would you rather have a dead daughter or a living son. These are not the words of a medical professional, but of an activist.

I was just a teenager who needed actual help, not surgery. I needed that chance to grow up safe and whole, but it was taken away from me in the name of gender affirming care. I will have to live with this forever, and so will the many others like me who are stepping forward as being harmed by these practices. Children cannot consent to being a lifelong medical patient, puberty and growing up aren't diseases that need to be fixed with surgery and medicine. Children deserve to know that their body isn't something needing to be fixed."

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