From: NDLA, S JUD - Omar, Jamal
To: NDLA, Intern 04 - Fordahl, Liz
Subject: FW: HB 1298
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 9:03:17 AM

Jamal Omar
Senate Judiciary Clerk
sjud@nd.gov
701-388-8621

From: Kathy Anderson [mailto:k_anderson2001@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 3:31 AM
To: NDLA, S JUD - Omar, Jamal <sjud@nd.gov>
Subject: HB 1298

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For Immediate Release: March 16, 2021

Media contacts: Jamie Poslosky,jposlosky@aap.org

American Academy of Pediatrics Speaks Out Against Bills Harming Transgender Youth

By: Lee Savio Beers, MD, FAAP, President, American Academy of Pediatrics

"With alarm and dismay, pediatricians have watched bills advance through state legislatures across the country with the sole purpose of threatening the health and well-being of transgender youth.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics has long been on the record in support of affirmative care for transgender children through our clinical policy. Today, we are going on the record to oppose public policies that would allow for the opposite.

"Several state legislatures have introduced bills that would prohibit gender-affirming care for gender-diverse and transgender youth and forbid transgender youth from participating on sports teams according to their gender identity. These bills are dangerous. If left unchallenged,

there will be transgender teens in certain zip codes who will be unable to access basic medical care, and pediatricians in certain zip codes who would be criminalized for providing medical care. And, transgender youth would be denied the ability to participate in sports according to their gender identity.

"We are in the middle of a pandemic that has led to staggering rises in mental health concerns among children and teens. Transgender children had statistically higher rates of depression and suicidal ideation before the pandemic: around half of transgender youth consider suicide, and a third attempt it.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that youth who identify as transgender have access to comprehensive, gender-affirming, and developmentally appropriate health care that is provided in a safe and inclusive clinical space. We also recommend that playing on sports teams helps youth develop self-esteem, correlates positively with overall mental health, and appears to have a protective effect against suicide.

"These bills not only ignore these recommendations, they undermine them. Instead, the legislation would allow policymakers rather than pediatricians to determine the best course of care for our patients, and in some medically underserved states, it could mean losing an already limited number of pediatric practitioners who care for transgender youth. Forcing transgender children to play on teams according to their sex assigned at birth, rather than the gender they live in, also puts their physical and mental health at risk.

"Evidence-based medical care for transgender and gender diverse children is a complex issue. Pediatricians are best able to determine what care is necessary and appropriate for these children, but these bills interfere in the physician-patient-family relationship and would cause undue harm.

"Politics has no place here. Transgender children, like all children, just want to belong. We will fight state by state, in the courts and on the national stage to make sure they know they do."

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. For more information, visit www.aap.org and follow us on Twitter @AmerAcadPeds.

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,
In follow up to my testimony yesterday in opposition to House Bill 1298, I am also submitting this news release from the American Academy of Pediatrics - the national and global expert organization in child and adolescent health, from yesterday.

There were also some references to the American College of Pediatricians in testimony in support of the bill yesterday. As I had never heard of that organization in my 15 years as a pediatrician, I looked them up.
You can see links below describing the AAP as a 67,000 member expert organization in child and adolescent health in existence for 91 years. Recommendations provided by AAP are based

in evidence. The ACP is a 500 member socially conservative organization in existence for less than 20 years. ACP recommendations do not have evidence based recommendations.
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Academy_of_Pediatrics

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_College_of_Pediatricians

Please let me know how I can continue to serve the children and families of this state by providing you all information you need regarding science/biology/genetics, evidence, best practices, and recommendations so that you can make the most informed decision about how we advocate and protect for all the children in our state.

Many thanks,
Dr. Kathy Anderson, MD, FAAP
President, NDAAP

Sent from my iPhone