

Testimony in Support of HB 1332

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Good morning Chairman Weisz and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee. We are physicians in Minot, ND and also serve as the North Dakota State Directors of the American Academy of Medical Ethics. We are testifying in regard to House Bill 1332 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

We would like to quote from the Christian Medical and Dental Associations Ethics Statements related to the medical impact of counseling which will explain in detail medical reasons for our support of this bill.

"Healthcare professionals must not be prevented from providing counseling and support to patients with gender dysphoria and who request assistance with accepting and maintaining their biologic sex and gender identity."¹

"Healthcare professionals should not be prevented from providing support and counseling to patients or to parents of children who request assistance with abstaining from homosexual behavior (change-allowing therapy)."²

"Transient gender questioning can occur during childhood. Most children and adolescents who express transgender tendencies eventually come to identify with their biological sex during adolescence or early childhood.^{48,49,50,51,52,53} There is evidence that gender dysphoria is influenced by psychosocial experiences and can be exacerbated by promoters of transgender ideology.^{27,33} Early counseling for children expressing gender dysphoria is critical to treat any underlying psychological disorders, including depression, anxiety, or suicidal tendencies, and should be done without promoting attempts for gender transitioning."¹

We support this bill, because patients deserve the option of respectful counseling in regard to this matter. Some patients may request this therapy and this should be an allowable option for the patient. We have cared for many patients who have varying gender identities and who are experiencing severe depression and suicidal ideation. Often these patients must be admitted emergently to inpatient psychiatric care to help prevent loss of life by suicide. These patients deserve the option to receive this type of counseling if they so wish.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1332 and again recommend a "Do Pass."

References:

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- 2 CMDA Ethics Statement: Homosexuality. Christian Medical & Dental Associations, p. 5.
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