



American College of Pediatricians®
The Best *for* Children

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Dear Honorable Legislator,

My name is Michelle Cretella, M.D., Executive Director of the American College of Pediatricians, a national organization of pediatricians and other healthcare professionals dedicated to the health and well-being of children, and the principle of first do no harm. You may have been told that puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgery are safe and effective treatment for minors convinced that they are trapped in the wrong body. I write to inform you of the many medical organizations and physicians around the world who characterize the use of these interventions in trans-believing minors as “*possibly one of the greatest scandals in medical history.*”¹

1) **The Australian College of Physicians** – Australian experts (over 200 doctors, including 9 child psychiatrists, 9 pediatricians, and 14 university professors) called for an urgent national inquiry into unproven puberty blockers and other hormones being given to gender-confused children. Their detailed submission, arguing that risks including infertility and lifelong regret, outweigh the alleged unproven benefits has been sent to Health Minister Greg Hunt and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.²

2) **The Royal College of General Practitioners in the UK** – In its June 2019 position statement declares:

“There is a significant lack of robust, comprehensive evidence around the outcomes, side effects and unintended consequences of such treatments [puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones] for people with gender dysphoria, particularly children and young people, which prevents general practitioners from helping patients and their families from making an informed decision.”³

3) **The Swedish National Council for Medical Ethics states** – “In the past few years, the number of children and young people who turn to health care providers for assessment and treatment of gender dysphoria has increased dramatically. *This increase is particularly large in girls.* Similar developments can be seen in many high-income countries. Assessment and treatment of gender dysphoria in children and young people raises a number of difficult ethical questions.”⁴

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- 4) **World-renowned Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Dr. Christopher Gillberg at Sweden's Gothenburg University** has warned that the unproven treatment of trans-identifying children [with puberty blockers & hormones] is "absolutely horrendous", with hundreds of children a year given "experimental" puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones, risking infertility, "in the face of their parents' doubts." Professor Gillberg's neuropsychiatry group at Gothenburg University — which has research hubs in Britain, France and Japan — has called for "*an immediate moratorium on the use of puberty blocker drugs because of their unknown long-term effects.*"⁵
- 5) **Dr. Richard Byng, MB BCh, PhD** of the Community and Primary Care Research Group, University of Plymouth, UK, and his colleagues, in a letter to *The Lancet* at the end of 2019 stress, "The evidence of medium-term benefit from hormonal treatment and puberty blockers is based on weak follow-up studies," and [guidelines endorsed by WPATH, AAP, Endocrine Society] do "not consider longer term effects, including the difficult issue of de-transition."⁶

These warnings raise the question "Upon what do the American Academy of Pediatrics, Endocrine Society and others base their approval?" The answer is, not science and not the medical ethics principle of first do no harm. The AAP's policy statement, for example, was recently fact checked and found to contradict every single reference it cites as supportive.⁷

Here are the actual facts regarding youth, sex and gender identity:

It is medically impossible to change sex, but the vast majority of young children with gender confusion will outgrow it when supported through natural puberty.⁸ These children are ordinary boys and girls who are anxious, depressed, traumatized, hate their bodies and struggle with their identity.⁹ Several studies show that teens can embrace their bodies through counseling;¹⁰ instead, they are being sterilized and surgically mutilated by doctors.¹¹ This is criminal.¹²

Puberty is not a disease.¹³ It is a critical window of development. Puberty blockers like Lupron are not FDA approved for physically healthy children.¹⁴ In some states, they are used to chemically castrate sex offenders, and that's what they do to children.¹⁵

Puberty blockers chemically castrate both sexes at the level of the brain¹⁶; their sexual development is arrested¹⁷; girls are sent into premature menopause.¹⁸ This sets all kids up for infertility,¹⁹ and harms their bone²⁰ and brain development.²¹

Studies show that 100% of children placed on puberty blockers go onto cross-sex hormones.²² This suggests that puberty blockers lock kids into their gender confusion. The crime is that children blocked in early puberty, then put on cross-sex hormones, may be permanently sterilized.²³ Cross-sex hormones also put kids at risk of heart attacks, stroke, diabetes, blood clots, cancer and more.²⁴

Science confirms what we all know: children are not little adults.²⁵ They can't consent to such dangerous, irreversible interventions, and their parents are being lied to.²⁶ The best long term evidence we have among adults shows medical intervention fails to reduce suicide.²⁷ Castrating, sterilizing and mutilating kids, and lying to their parents to obtain consent, are criminal acts – especially when committed by doctors. **Please vote FOR banning these interventions in minors.**

Respectfully,

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