



## **GENDER IDEOLOGY AND THE THREAT TO CHILDREN**

The media, politicians, and activists like to paint a sunny picture of transgenderism, but the contrasting reality of gender dysphoria is much darker. We currently have a United States Supreme Court Justice who refuses to define the word “woman,”<sup>1</sup> schools refusing to tell parents when they discuss transgenderism with their children,<sup>2</sup> and a medical community leading the charge on radical gender reassignment. This has led to mass confusion among our children. One of the ways this confusion has manifested itself is in the rapid increase of Americans ages 13-17 identifying as “transgender,” which is sometimes a result of clinical gender dysphoria.<sup>3</sup>

### **BACKGROUND**

- **What is Gender Dysphoria?**
  - According to the American Psychiatric Association’s *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Gender Dysphoria is when an individual has “a marked incongruence between one’s experienced/expressed gender and their assigned gender.”<sup>4</sup>
  - Simply put, this disorder is when someone mentally believes their gender is different from what they are biologically. It can include a strong desire to remove or mutilate their genitalia, prevent the development of their sex characteristics, and be treated as the gender opposite of their biology. This disorder manifests in adults and children.
- **What is happening to children suffering from this disorder?**
  - Instead of receiving proper mental health treatment, children with Gender Dysphoria are often encouraged to indulge in the symptoms. Medical professionals issue gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues, or puberty blockers, and perform life-changing surgical procedures.
  - These procedures and treatments are done on children, despite only 12-27% of children suffering with gender dysphoria carry into adulthood. This means that over 70% of children who would potentially be exposed to these harmful treatments resolve their problems post-adolescence.<sup>5</sup>
- **Results of “Gender Affirming Treatment.”**
  - There is no evidence that those who receive “gender-affirming care” see improvement in their mental or physical health. The American Journal of Psychiatry reported that patients with “gender incongruence” who received reassignment surgery were just as likely to be treated for anxiety disorders as those who did not.<sup>6</sup>

- These surgeries include mastectomies, ovariectomy, penile disablement, and tracheal shave, and they are irreversible. The prescribed puberty blockers, which can stunt growth, lower bone density, and create permanent infertility, have life-changing consequences. Many of these cross-sex hormone therapies are off-label and present a great risk for additional unknown long-term complications for the children being prescribed them.<sup>7</sup>
- Many of these procedures can also be deadly. Chronic infection from the created wound is a risk from penectomy and vaginoplasty surgeries. In addition, many males require the borrowing of colon tissue in a vaginoplasty, which creates a second surgical site with a far higher risk of infection and additional complications.<sup>8</sup> Cross-sex hormones are also associated with deadly conditions such as blood clots, coronary artery disease, tumors of the pituitary glands, and certain cancers.<sup>9</sup>
- The most thorough follow-up of those who received gender-reassignment surgeries was conducted in progressive Sweden. The study found that the suicide rate of those who had undergone these surgeries rose 20 times to that of their peers.<sup>10</sup>
- The Missouri Attorney General is investigating the Washington University Pediatric Transgender Center at St. Louis<sup>11</sup> after a whistleblower stated that he “personally witnessed Center healthcare providers lie to the public and parents of patients about the treatment, or lack of treatment, and the effects of treatment provided to children at the Center.”<sup>12</sup> The whistleblower also said children coming to the center had “very serious mental health problems.” Instead of treating these problems, “children were automatically given puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones...”. Despite the investigation, the Center has refused to implement a moratorium on issuing these treatments.<sup>13</sup>
- A number of states have implemented bans on these medical practices for minors, such as Arkansas, South Dakota, and Utah.<sup>14</sup>

## POLICY SOLUTIONS

- Congress should use the power of the purse to ensure that medical facilities that conduct these practices do not receive a dollar of federal funds. Instead, funds should be redirected to facilities that provide mental treatment interventions for those struggling with gender dysphoria and confusion.
- In addition, Congress should pass legislation such as H.R. 1399, the Protect Children’s Innocence Act,<sup>15</sup> to restrict gender reassignment treatment on children and reintroduce the Stop the Sexualization of Children Act<sup>16</sup> which prohibits providing children under 10 with sexually oriented programs, events, or literature.

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<sup>1</sup> Myah Ward. Blackburn to Jackson: Can you define ‘the word woman’?. Politico. <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/03/22/blackburn-jackson-define-the-word-woman-00019543>

<sup>2</sup> Katie Baker. When Students Change Gender Identity, and Parents Don’t Know. New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/22/us/gender-identity-students-parents.html>

<sup>3</sup> Jody L. Herman, Andrew R. Floris, Kathryn K. O’Neill. How Many Adults and Youth Identify as Transgender in the United States? Williams Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/trans-adults-united-states/>

<sup>4</sup> What is Gender Dysphoria? American Psychiatric Association. <https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/gender-dysphoria/what-is-gender-dysphoria>

<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> Correction to Bränström and Pachankis. The American Journal of Psychiatry. <https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.1778correction>

<sup>7</sup> Heidi Overton, Alexandra Caro Campana. Gender Transition Medications and Surgeries for Children in the U.S. America First Policy Institute. <https://americafirstpolicy.com/latest/gender-transition-medications-and-surgeries-for-children-in-the-u.s>

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<sup>8</sup> David H. Thompson, Brian W. Barnes, John D. Ramer. The Justice For Adolescent and Child Transitioners Act (The Just Facts Act). Do No Harm Medicine. [https://donoharmmedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/DNH\\_Report\\_JUSTWhitePaper\\_v5.pdf](https://donoharmmedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/DNH_Report_JUSTWhitePaper_v5.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Id.

<sup>10</sup> Ryan T. Anderson. Sex Reassignment Doesn't Work. Here is the Evidence. The Heritage Foundation.

<https://www.heritage.org/gender/commentary/sex-reassignment-doesnt-work-here-the-evidence>

<sup>11</sup> Adam Sabes. Missouri Attorney General Launches Investigation into Children's Hospital's Transgender Center. Fox News.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/missouri-attorney-general-launches-investigation-childrens-hospitals-transgender-center>

<sup>12</sup> Affidavit of Jamie Reed. Office of the Attorney General. [https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/2-07-2023-reed-affidavit---signed.pdf?sfvrsn=6a64d339\\_2](https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/2-07-2023-reed-affidavit---signed.pdf?sfvrsn=6a64d339_2)

<sup>13</sup> Attorney General Bailey's Statement on Transgender Clinic's Refusal to Implement Moratorium on Puberty Blockers for Children. Office of the Attorney General. <https://ago.mo.gov/home/news/2023/02/18/attorney-general-bailey-s-statement-on-transgender-clinic-s-refusal-to-implement-moratorium-on-puberty-blockers-for-children>

<sup>14</sup> Jo Yurcaba. South Dakota becomes the 6th state to restrict gender-affirming care for minors. NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-politics-and-policy/south-dakota-becomes-6th-state-restrict-gender-affirming-care-minors-rcna70592>

<sup>15</sup> H.R.1399 - To amend chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gender affirming care on minors, and for other purposes. U.S. House of Representatives. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1399>

<sup>16</sup> H.R.9197 - Stop the Sexualization of Children Act. U.S. House of Representatives. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/9197>