



2. Florida's Rule 59G-1.050(7) of the Florida Administrative Code (the "Challenged Exclusion") states that Florida Medicaid does not does not provide coverage for hormonal and surgical interventions to "alter primary or secondary sexual characteristics."

3. Florida's Rule will protect vulnerable young people like my son from grievous harm. This rule will prevent the State from facilitating further harm to vulnerable young people like my son by paying for life-altering and irreversible treatments that will not address their underlying mental health issues and will likely cause such young people to forego needed mental health treatment.

4. My son, T., was an Eagle Scout, martial arts student who at age 22 decided he was transgender. After six years of social transitioning and hormone treatments T. has lost a great deal of weight, is anorexic and extremely underweight, sometimes not eating for days, and has significant mental health problems.

5. T. was depressed as a teenager. He kept his feelings inside and wouldn't see a therapist. T. was not comfortable with his looks and was seen as a geeky, small boy. He showed signs that he hated himself, including refusing to brush his teeth so that they rotted away.

6. There were trans-identified kids at T.'s high school but he showed no interest in them at that time. He attended community college in Tallahassee and

Florida State University, which were very progressive campuses. He was around others who were trans-identifying.

7. At age 19 or 20 T. began wearing girls' accessories. He saw a social worker in Tallahassee for a couple of months, and she gave him information about where to get hormone treatments.

8. He began taking estrogen and spiro lactone (lowers testosterone). He got the prescriptions from an endocrinologist at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and the FSU medical group. I do not know whether any of the practitioners did a psychological evaluation prior to prescribing hormones.

9. T. was binding his testicles for a time in an effort to appear more feminine. However, he developed health problems related to the binding in that it cut off oxygen and permitted infection to develop. As a result T. stopped binding and began to just wear loose-fitting clothing.

10. T. began seeing a therapist when he was 23. He said the therapist was very helpful with dealing with anxiety, but T. refused to talk with the therapist about this trans identity. T. had spent a lot of time online listening to trans advocates who affirmed his trans identity and he would not stay in therapy.

11. The therapist diagnosed T. with borderline personality disorder. Patients with borderline personality disorder often hate themselves and will engage

in self-harm. She explained that T. had let his teeth rot away because he hates himself.

12. T. has not undergone any surgeries because he hasn't been able to pay them.

13. T. has not received any treatment for his underlying borderline personality disorder. His father and I are concerned that if the state were to pay for surgery to remove his penis and testicles he will not get the treatment he needs for his actual underlying mental illness. That is a great concern because so long as he has untreated mental illness he will continue to engage in self-destructive behavior and to decline. The trans identification and hormone interventions operate as a vehicle for self-harm. Adding irreversible surgery on top of that would only compound the harm.

14. Florida's Rule 59G-1.050(7) will prevent the state from enabling vulnerable young people like my son to receive life-altering irreversible treatments that result in the loss of healthy body parts and bodily functions and yet will not actually treat what is causing their mental health problems. We are concerned that without this Rule underlying mental health issues such young people are experiencing will go untreated.

15. For T. and many others like him, the regulation would very likely save their lives and a life-time of regret.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: October 3, 2022.

/s/ Julie Framingham  
Julie Framingham