

Jane Doe

vs.

Joseph Ladapo

March 13, 2023



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JANE DOE,
Plaintiff,
vs.
JOSEPH LADAPO,
Defendant.

CASE NO. 423CV114RHMAF

TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO RECORDING
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY
MARCH 13, 2023

TRANSCRIBED AUDIO RECORDING BY:
Julie Thompson, CET

Job No.: 323393

1 Thereupon,
2 The following proceeding was transcribed from a
3 video recording:

4 ****

5 (START OF REQUESTED PORTION)

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Do we have additional
7 questions?

8 Senator Brodeur, you're recognized.

9 SENATOR BRODEUR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
10 And as a fellow public health practitioner,
11 I find a great deal of value in research.

12 Recently your office released opinions --
13 or I'm sorry -- research on the treatment of gender
14 dysphoria in youth and adults, and I wondered if you
15 might be able to summarize the depth of that
16 research and what the conclusions were.

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

18 SURGEON GENERAL: Sure, sure. And I think,
19 just to be sensitive to the individuals who are here
20 today, I want to make it clear that for -- you know,
21 for me, none of the language is about hate and none
22 of the language is about anyone being any less
23 worthy than any other human being on this Earth.
24 We're all -- we're all reflections of God.

25 So scientifically, this report reviewed

1 published studies about gender dysphoria treatment,
2 particularly with a focus on children, on minors.
3 And I didn't do the study. The study was performed
4 by researchers who have expertise in systematic
5 reviews.

6 So this research -- the research that they
7 performed demonstrated that there is no high quality
8 data indicating a benefit from treatments like
9 hormone blockers or from surgical interventions --
10 pardon me -- among people diagnosed with gender
11 dysphoria.

12 And it also highlighted the fact that some
13 of these treatments are actually very risky, and in
14 fact, squarely experimental. For example, with
15 hormone blockers, some -- many people may not know
16 that receptors for your hormones during puberty are
17 in literally every organ in your body, including
18 your brain. And the effect of interfering with the
19 process, the normal natural process of hormone
20 production and development and maturation for young
21 people by giving them hormone blockers is unknown.
22 Like literally that is a fact. It is uncertain what
23 the effect is.

24 There are other harms that have been
25 identified including harms related to bone

1 development and bone density, sometimes with very
2 serious complications, including fractures.

3 And my assessment, based on the evidence
4 that they shared, is that these types of
5 experimental therapies are just -- they're not
6 appropriate for children. They're not appropriate.
7 They are unable to consent or assent for procedures
8 that are highly experimental.

9 And my own personal sense is that it's
10 actually completely unethical to be providing those
11 kinds of treatments, treatments that affect the
12 ability of an individual to procreate later in their
13 life. It's unethical to provide those types of
14 therapies to minors, to people who are unable to
15 consent or assent to them, particularly considering
16 that we can't even provide accurate information
17 about the benefits and risks of those therapies.

18 (END OF REQUESTED PORTION)

19 (START OF REQUEST PORTION)

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: We shall reconvene.
21 I'll give everybody a minute to grab your seats.
22 Thank you very much.

23 Senators, if you will take up Tab 4, which
24 is Senate Bill 254 on treatments for sex
25 reassignment by Senator Yarborough.

1 Senator Yarborough, the Committee has a
2 proposed committee substitute pending. And we'll
3 move directly to the PCS, which is barcode 112830.
4 You're recognized to explain the PCS.

5 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair, and good afternoon to you and the Committee.

7 As introduction, parents have the right and
8 a responsibility to raise their children as they see
9 fit, and government intervention should be a last
10 resort.

11 I filed this legislation because I believe,
12 as lawmakers, we do have to draw the line when
13 drastic life-altering gender dysphoria therapies and
14 surgeries are being prescribed for our children.

15 Our laws should set appropriate boundaries
16 that respect the rights and responsibilities of
17 parents while protecting children from serious
18 health, safety, and welfare risks. I also believe
19 our law should firmly respect that both parents have
20 a right to be involved in the upbringing of a child.
21 One parent should not be able to unilaterally
22 attempt to change the sex of their child.

23 With the exception of extreme
24 circumstances, custody arrangements typically honor
25 the rights of both parents to be involved in major

1 decisions and events in a child's life. If one
2 parent is attempting to authorize life-altering sex
3 reassignment therapies and surgeries, then by all
4 means, the other parent should have the ability to
5 have a court review the custody agreement.

6 Over the last week, I've listened to
7 feedback and answered important questions from those
8 who oppose the bill, as well as those who support
9 it. In order to clear up any misconceptions about
10 the child custody provisions of the bill, I
11 submitted a proposed committee substitute with
12 clarifying language for consideration by this
13 Committee today.

14 The proposed committee substitute or PCS
15 has three goals. First, to protect Florida's
16 children from being subjected to irreversible and
17 life-altering sex reassignment prescriptions and
18 procedures.

19 Number two, to require that when adults
20 seek these prescriptions or procedures, the
21 treatments can be legally provided only after the
22 patient has been informed of the nature and risks of
23 the treatment in order to make a prudent decision.

24 And number three, to protect against the
25 expenditures of state funds for sex reassignment

1 treatments.

2 So first, with regard to protection of
3 children, Madam Chair, members of the Committee, the
4 PCS has a number of provisions to protect children
5 from being subjected to the treatments.

6 The PCS amends Florida's child custody
7 statutes to give courts in this state jurisdiction
8 to enter, modify, or stay a child custody
9 determination relating to a child in this state to
10 protect the child from being subjected to sex
11 reassignment prescriptions or procedures.

12 Next, the provision gives courts broad
13 discretion to determine whether and how to protect a
14 child, but the provision does not require a court to
15 take any specific action or require a court to
16 ignore a child custody determination made by a court
17 of another state.

18 The PCS prohibits Florida healthcare
19 practitioners from providing these treatments for
20 children, but it makes an exception for children who
21 were already receiving prescription treatments at
22 the time this bill would become law. The PCS
23 requires that the continuation of prescription
24 treatment for such children must be administered by
25 a medical doctor or osteopathic physician, and must

1 be consistent with emergency rules adopted by the
2 Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic
3 Medicine.

4 These boards have spent the past eight
5 months extensively reviewing research, hearing from
6 medical experts, and listening to the public on this
7 very issue, and are the appropriate bodies to
8 determine standards of care for these children who
9 are already receiving these prescriptions.

10 The PCS creates a third-degree felony for
11 healthcare practitioners who willfully or actively
12 participate in violating the prohibition against
13 providing these treatments to a child. The PCS
14 amends existing law relating to the authority for
15 the Department of Health to issue an emergency order
16 suspending the license of a practitioner who is
17 arrested for violating certain crimes, and the PCS
18 adds the crime of providing these prescriptions or
19 procedures to a child to that list.

20 Lastly, with regard to protecting children,
21 the PCS provides at any hospital, ambulatory
22 surgical center, or physician's office registered
23 for the provision of office surgery must provide
24 assigned attestation to OCA or DOH as applicable,
25 that they do not offer or provide sex reassignment

1 treatments for children, except for those who are
2 already being treated before this PCS would become
3 law, and also do not refer such patients to other
4 providers for the treatments.

5 A facility's failure to provide this
6 attestation will lead to revocation of the
7 facility's license or registration.

8 Second, with regard to protecting adults,
9 if an adult decides to seek treatment with sex
10 reassignment prescriptions or procedures, the PCS
11 ensures that only licensed medical doctors and
12 osteopathic physicians can lawfully provide such
13 treatment.

14 The physician providing the treatment must
15 take certain measures to inform the patient of the
16 nature and risks of the treatment while physically
17 in the same room as the patient using forms approved
18 by the Department of Health, the patient must
19 provide voluntary written informed consent before
20 treatment can commence.

21 And the PCS provides that a healthcare
22 practitioner other than a physician who provides
23 these treatments or a physician who provides the
24 treatments without obtaining voluntary informed
25 consent commits a first-degree misdemeanor.

1 Lastly, with regard to protecting state
2 funds, the PCS creates a prohibition against the
3 expenditure of state funds for these treatments by a
4 governmental entity or organizations contracted by
5 the state to manage the provision of Medicaid
6 services or to manage the state's mental health and
7 substance abuse providers.

8 Madam Chair and the Committee, that is the
9 PCS for Senate Bill 254.

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Are there
11 questions on the PCS? Any questions? We have --
12 excuse me.

13 Senator, which -- who has questions? Thank
14 you.

15 Senator Davis, you're recognized.

16 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
17 Thank you.

18 Senator Yarborough, could you talk to us
19 about the purpose or the intent of your bill? We
20 heard all that it does but talk to us about the
21 intent or the purpose of this bill.

22 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
23 you're recognized.

24 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
25 Chair.

1 The purpose for this bill is to protect
2 children in Florida, Senator Davis. We have other
3 components in this bill that relate to adults and
4 relates -- and relate to the expenditure of state
5 funds, but we want to let kids be kids in Florida.
6 The overall goal of the bill is to protect the
7 children of our state.

8 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional questions?

9 SENATOR DAVIS: Yes.

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Davis, you're
11 recognized.

12 SENATOR DAVIS: What is the current
13 standard for gender-affirming care in the state of
14 Florida? Could you talk to us about that?

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

16 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
17 Chair. Senator and members of the Committee, we do
18 not have any current law on the books for sex
19 reassignment surgeries or prescriptions in Florida
20 for children or adults.

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: So question is --
22 Senator Davis, yes.

23 SENATOR DAVIS: According to your bill, and
24 it's a lot that's defined in here, could you talk to
25 us about what are the protections that are provided

1 at the federal level to protect people against
2 discrimination?

3 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
4 you're recognized.

5 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair. Through the Chair to Senator Davis, the bill
7 contemplates what we would do as a state, and we do
8 not speak specific to federal provisions in the
9 bill.

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional questions on
11 the bill? Any additional questions?

12 SENATOR DAVIS: Yeah.

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Davis, you're
14 recognized.

15 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Uh-huh (affirmative).

17 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you. Just trying to
18 get some answers out.

19 Have you spoken to any parent or -- of a
20 gender-diverse youth?

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
22 you're recognized.

23 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Could -- through the
24 Chair to the Senator, Senator, could you -- to any
25 parent is the question, just so I can make sure I

1 answer to the best ability.

2 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Davis, you're
3 recognized.

4 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
5 Have you spoken to a parent that has a
6 transgender child?

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized?

8 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair. Through the Chair to the Senator, I have
10 spoken to a lot of parents about this and many other
11 issues.

12 Senator Davis, I don't ask when I'm talking
13 to parents. I mean, I haven't had any who have
14 volunteered that that may be the case with their
15 child. But in the course of a week or even in the
16 course of a few days, I know all of us engage with
17 parents of children out there. So I couldn't tell
18 you that specific, whether or not they have a child
19 who falls into that category.

20 SENATOR DAVIS: Okay. Madam Chair?

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

22 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you. Thank you for
23 that answer.

24 Were any medical experts consulted while
25 you were drafting this bill?

1 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
2 you're recognized.

3 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you. Through
4 the Chair to Senator Davis. So there's a lot of
5 different information that I've reviewed and I know
6 staff has reviewed as we've worked through the
7 process with this bill, Senator Davis. And that
8 includes not only reports and research that has been
9 done in our country but also that of other countries
10 related to this.

11 And so I can't speak for every review that
12 our staff might have done, but for me, I have gone
13 through a long list of different research and tried
14 to get as educated as possible to present this bill
15 to you today.

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional questions?

17 SENATOR DAVIS: Madam Chair, just a few
18 more, I promise.

19 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

20 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 Thank you, Senator for that. Your bill
22 talks about puberty blockers, and so I'm curious.
23 Are you aware that puberty blockers are used for
24 medical procedures in children rather -- for things
25 rather than what we're talking about here in your

1 bill, puberty blockers are often used for things
2 like precocious puberty?

3 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized,
4 Senator Yarborough.

5 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair.

7 To the first part of your question, Senator
8 Davis, I'll say I'm aware that they're used for more
9 than just these types of purposes that we would seek
10 to prohibit today, and we do have some exceptions in
11 the bill.

12 If there is a legitimate need in the eyes
13 of a healthcare practitioner to continue to
14 administer those because of certain developmental
15 disorders or certain other conditions that may be
16 present in a minor, that that can continue to be
17 used.

18 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Davis, you're
19 recognized.

20 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 Could you talk to us a little bit about
22 those exceptions and just, kind of, identify those
23 exceptions and then talk to us about the fact that,
24 is it anything in your bill that would make dealing
25 with those exceptions criminal or what would -- what

1 is criminal under your bill?

2 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized,
3 Senator Yarborough.

4 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Okay. Thank you,
5 Senator Davis. Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 I may have to ask you to repeat the second
7 part, Senator Davis, but on the first part, you're
8 asking about some of the exceptions.

9 So if you pick up on page 6 of the bill
10 starting at lines -- starting at line 151, we
11 mentioned that the term does not include treatment
12 provided by a physician who in his or her good faith
13 clinical judgment performs procedures upon or
14 provides therapies to a minor born with a medically
15 verifiable genetic disorder of sexual development,
16 including any of the following.

17 And then it lays out external biological
18 sex characteristics that are unresolvable, ambiguous
19 disorder of sexual development, as I mentioned a
20 moment ago. And it lists some other descriptors
21 related to that. So those are the main exceptions.

22 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Have questions,
23 Senator?

24 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: And then can you -- if
25 you could clarify this. Sorry, Madam Chair. Just

1 if you could clarify the other part.

2 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Did you have another
3 comment, Senator? Go ahead.

4 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
5 Chair. And I apologize. I -- Senator Davis asked a
6 second part and I just -- I wasn't clear about the
7 second part of her question. I want to make sure I
8 could answer it.

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Davis, you're
10 recognized.

11 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 Senator, I asked, could you talk about what
13 is criminal under your bill. Right now, you have
14 criminal penalties for healthcare practitioners and
15 others. Could you talk to us about the criminal
16 penalties under your bill.

17 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Yes, ma'am.

18 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
19 you're recognized.

20 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you very much.
21 So there are a couple of portions related to that,
22 Senator Davis, related to a healthcare practitioner
23 that might pursue performing treatments or giving
24 prescriptions to minors.

25 That would be a third-degree felony under

1 the bill. And then we also have the requirement
2 that if you do not obtain the informed consent for
3 an adult prior to giving them the prescriptions or
4 doing the treatments, then there could be
5 disciplinary action by the Board of Medicine that
6 oversees that.

7 And then also, if a facility -- a licensed
8 facility does not provide the annual attestation
9 that they are not performing the procedures, then
10 they can risk revocation of their licensure.

11 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional questions?

12 SENATOR DAVIS: One last question.

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized,
14 Senator Davis.

15 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. In
16 lines 59 through 58 -- 59 through 68, it talks about
17 a court of this state having jurisdiction to enter,
18 modify, or stay a child custody determination
19 relating to a child who is present in this state to
20 the extent necessary to protect the child from being
21 subject to sex reassignment prescriptions and
22 procedures. I read that because I'm having an issue
23 understanding it.

24 So the question with that is, with that,
25 what I just read, Senator Yarborough, does your bill

1 permit the judge in a custody ruling or custody
2 order to be -- to challenge a court in another
3 state? From those lines.

4 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized,
5 Senator Yarborough.

6 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
7 Chair, and I appreciate the question.

8 Through the Chair to Senator Davis and the
9 Committee, so on the custody piece, which is spelled
10 out in Section 1, as you've identified, Senator, we
11 speak about the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction
12 and Enforcement Act that has been enacted by 49
13 other states in our country and we're one of the 49.

14 But consistent with federal law, grants
15 court's authority to protect a child from
16 mistreatment or abuse.

17 The provision of the PCS gives courts in
18 Florida the jurisdiction to enter, modify, or stay a
19 child custody determination relating to a child in
20 the state to protect the child from being subjected
21 to sex reassignment prescriptions and procedures.

22 So more plainly, the courts in our state
23 could evaluate what a concerned parent, for example,
24 may bring to them if they disagree with what might
25 be taking place by that child's other parent in a

1 different state, but it does not require that a
2 state in Florida has to automatically grant or act a
3 certain way.

4 It's not a mandate. It gives the court the
5 opportunity to weigh it, but it is providing that
6 specific avenue so that the parent can pursue or
7 petition the court rather for the relief that they
8 may be seeking.

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

10 Additional questions?

11 Senator Book, you're recognized.

12 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you, Chair. And thank
13 you Senator Yarborough for some of the time that we
14 spoke on the phone kind of talking through the bill.
15 And I want to make sure that we're really clear
16 about a few things.

17 Currently, because of the Department of
18 Health's rule, can minors in the state of Florida
19 receive gender-affirming care and medication?

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized,
21 Senator Yarborough.

22 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you. So the
23 rule -- thank you Leader Book for the question.

24 So the rule that was published by the Board
25 of Medicine back in November of 2022 becomes

1 effective this Thursday, March the 16th, I believe
2 it's Thursday. And so we are more or less codifying
3 what that rule from the Board of Medicine
4 establishes moving forward in our bill that we have
5 before you today.

6 There is also a Medicaid rule that already
7 said that state funds could not be used for these
8 purposes. And I -- the date of which -- I would
9 have to get that for you, but that's also in place.

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Book, you're
11 recognized.

12 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you. So starting
13 Thursday, new children year 18, you know, as
14 defined, could not receive any more gender-affirming
15 medication or care, but the children who are
16 currently receiving care in the state can continue
17 their care?

18 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
19 you're recognized.

20 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you. And just
21 to be clear, Leader Book, were you saying under our
22 bill or under the rule?

23 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

24 SENATOR BOOK: Well, are we grandfathering
25 these minors in who are currently on medication?

1 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
2 you're recognized.

3 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you. Under the
4 bill, we do, Senator Book.

5 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional question?

6 SENATOR BOOK: Yes, follow-up.

7 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: You're recognized.

8 SENATOR BOOK: So under the current --
9 because there are -- because I have spoken to the
10 several of the gender clinics, particularly the UF
11 clinic for minors under the age of 18, 23 patients,
12 and this is all information that they've sent to the
13 Department of Health, 23 patients received puberty
14 blockers, 42 have received hormones, and 2 received
15 hormone blockers.

16 That's a total of 67 children receiving
17 care under the rule. Will they be able to continue
18 that care on Thursday?

19 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Excuse me. I turned it
20 off. You're recognized, Senator Yarborough.

21 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Chair
22 Burton. Through the Chair to Leader Book, not under
23 the rule. They will not, Leader Book.

24 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Follow-up, Senator
25 Book?

1 SENATOR BOOK: I do.

2 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

3 SENATOR BOOK: So under the rule, these
4 current patients will not be able to receive the
5 medications that they're currently on, however,
6 under the bill we've grandfathered them in?

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

8 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair. Let me give you some clarification, Leader
10 Book, and I apologize.

11 Under the rule, and I have it in front of
12 me now, we do, and I'll read directly from it. It
13 says, "Minors being treated with puberty-blocking
14 hormone or hormone antagonist therapies prior to the
15 effective date of the rule may continue with such
16 therapies." That is what is effective this
17 Thursday, March 16th. I apologize for the
18 confusion.

19 SENATOR BOOK: That's --

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional questions?

21 SENATOR BOOK: Yes, I do.

22 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

23 SENATOR BOOK: One of the other things I
24 simply want to point out as a question.

25 When you were doing some of your research

1 for the bill, Senator Yarborough, you talked a
2 little bit about, you know, the -- I don't want to
3 mischaracterize it because I don't know -- I don't
4 remember your direct quote.

5 But you are aware that the puberty blockers
6 are -- it's not a permanent -- it's not anything
7 permanent that puberty blockers, once they stop,
8 revert back to where a child would be naturally,
9 correct? That that is not something that you have
10 to take medication for to reverse?

11 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
12 you're recognized.

13 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you. Through
14 the Chair to Leader Book and the Committee, I have
15 heard the same statement that you just said, Leader
16 Book.

17 I'm not a medical professional to be able
18 to say I could fully attest the efficacy of that,
19 but I have heard the same statement mentioned
20 several times that you have just mentioned.

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional questions?

22 SENATOR BOOK: Yes, ma'am.

23 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Book, you're
24 recognized.

25 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you. For the adult

1 portion of this bill, and I believe it's in the PCB;
2 but with the different lines, I want to make sure.
3 "For adults that are receiving gender-affirming care
4 we are banning the use of anyone other than a doctor
5 to prescribe medication; is that correct or
6 incorrect?

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized,
8 Senator Yarborough.

9 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Leader Book, that's
10 correct.

11 Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional questions?

13 SENATOR BOOK: Madam Chair?

14 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

15 SENATOR BOOK: Would there be a possibility
16 that you would look at -- for adults, okay, because
17 it's not happening for minors in the state -- the
18 possibility of allowing for nurses or telehealth to
19 provide some of those blockers or medications that
20 those seeking gender-affirming care may need?

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized,
22 Senator Yarborough.

23 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
24 Chair. Through the Chair to Leader Book, and
25 Leader, I know that's a topic of one of the

1 amendments that is forthcoming.

2 I will certainly be open to considering
3 that. However, with the serious nature of the duty,
4 we have to protect the public and ensure patient
5 safety when treatments are authorized, I think we
6 need to be very careful for that. And I don't
7 believe that's too high of a standard for physicians
8 to be held to and for patients in their pursuit of
9 that if they wish, if they're adults, to go through
10 that process. And I will point out too, we have it
11 in place for new prescriptions that would be coming
12 forward.

13 So if someone is prescribed a certain
14 medication, they have to give the informed consent
15 on the front end under this PCS, but they don't have
16 to continually come back every time there is a
17 refill. If they get a refill of the -- of that same
18 prescription, it's only then if they go to a new
19 medication. So that to me is a more balanced
20 approach.

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: I apologize for
22 interrupting questions. But just briefly, given the
23 limited time, we have remaining for the number of
24 people who still wish to speak and for committee
25 deliberation, I'm requesting that the president

1 authorize the extension of this meeting until the
2 completion of the agenda.

3 Thank you for that indulgence, and Senator
4 Book, you're recognized.

5 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you. I just have one
6 more follow-up question to Senator Davis's point and
7 something that I just want to make sure that I'm
8 clear on.

9 So let's say I have -- I do have two
10 children, a boy and a girl. And let's -- for
11 purposes of this discussion, my husband and I get
12 divorced and he lives in another state. Perhaps
13 it's a state that does not, you know, look at
14 gender-affirming care in the same way that -- or if
15 this bill is to move forward, would and be in the
16 state of Florida.

17 If I -- if he came to me and -- or either
18 one of my children came to me and said, "Mom, I feel
19 like not comfortable in my body." Take him to a
20 pediatrician, wanted to receive some sort of gender-
21 affirming care, this bill would allow, possibly, my
22 spouse to come in -- or no -- my ex-spouse to come
23 in and take custody of my child?

24 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
25 you're recognized.

1 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
2 Chair. Through the Chair to Leader Book, just so I
3 understand because the -- there are a few different
4 factors that would affect it.

5 Are you in Florida or the other state, is
6 your ex in a different state? And then also --
7 that, I mean, that's the main question. So I can
8 give you the right answer because that matters.

9 In Florida, it would be prohibited, but it
10 -- if you could clarify, I'd be happy to try to
11 answer it.

12 SENATOR BOOK: Let's just --

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Book, would you
14 like to clarify?

15 SENATOR BOOK: Let's just say it this way.
16 If my son needed a blood transfusion and my ex-
17 spouse was of the religious belief or opinion that
18 that was not something that we should be doing for
19 my child. That is something that a court -- that
20 they could go -- that -- trying to -- these are
21 disputes that happen when raising a child together,
22 right?

23 And what -- this decision to receive
24 gender-affirming care is no different than any other
25 medical medication or decision for a family to

1 decide, right.

2 And so, I guess, my question is: talk us
3 through -- and you address it a little bit in
4 Senator Davis's question. What does this mean for
5 families? Because I get a -- we have a lot of
6 people here. I've gotten a lot of emails, a lot of
7 phone calls, and there's a lot of fear, a lot of
8 fear. And we've talked about that fear of families
9 that think that the State of Florida is taking their
10 children, that someone is going to lose access to
11 their kids, which is scary. It is scary.

12 And so I'm asking you to just very plainly
13 walk through the custody portion of what this is and
14 what this would mean for parents of young kids of
15 what -- who are very concerned about what this might
16 mean for them if they want to receive gender-
17 affirming care for their child.

18 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough.

19 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
20 Chair. Through the Chair to Leader Book and the
21 Committee, is very good question, Senator, and that
22 relates to a big portion of this bill. So I'm happy
23 to speak more about it.

24 So I believe the balance in this is, again,
25 we give the court in Florida -- the courts in

1 Florida, if they are petitioned by a parent in
2 Florida, just to take your example that I believe
3 you're trying to get to and that we spoke about
4 before.

5 If you were here in Florida and you did not
6 agree with the decision of the child's other parent,
7 who is in a different state, you could petition the
8 court here. Let me add in too, it doesn't mean that
9 you could harbor, someone suggested kidnap, all of
10 this other; that's not true.

11 You cannot violate a current custody
12 arrangement because then you're breaking the law.
13 So it doesn't mean it comes to the end of the
14 weekend, and then you're supposed to make sure the
15 child is back with the other parent, you know, by
16 that evening or 8 o'clock Monday morning or whenever
17 it might be, is determined in the custody
18 arrangement.

19 But what it does mean is you could approach
20 the Florida court and ask for this to be considered.
21 But again, the court is not mandated to have to give
22 you exactly what you're asking for.

23 So that's the crux of it, is you can't
24 harbor the child. You cannot violate the law. You
25 cannot do something outside of your custody

1 arrangement because then you have broken the law and
2 can be held liable for that. But you can go to the
3 court and ask for them to consider this very serious
4 concern that you have about the treatment the child
5 is receiving, and if the court chooses to weigh in,
6 they would be able to do so.

7 I hope that answered. I'm happy to try
8 more, but I hope that answered it for you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Are there additional
10 questions? See none.

11 We do have four amendments. So we'll take
12 up amendment barcode 788684 by Senator Davis.

13 And, Senator Davis, you're recognized to
14 explain the amendment.

15 SENATOR DAVIS: Did you -- Madam Chair,
16 could you repeat the number for me?

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Certainly, 788684.

18 SENATOR DAVIS: Okay. This amendment
19 simply is an amendment that deletes all of the bills
20 provision relating to the child custody orders. And
21 that is the amendment.

22 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Are there questions on
23 the amendment? Are there appearance cards on this
24 amendment? Okay.

25 Jon Harris Mauer is -- with Equality

1 Florida is waiving in support of the amendment, and
2 Nathan Bruemmer is also waiving in support of the
3 amendments.

4 Is there debate on the amendment?

5 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Madam Chair?

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
7 you're recognized.

8 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair. I appreciate Senator Davis's offering of
10 this amendment.

11 I would at this time term it as unfriendly.
12 The PCS clarifies any misconceptions about the child
13 custody provisions of the bill, and also the custody
14 provision provides courts with broad discretion to
15 determine whether and how to act to protect a child.
16 The provision does not require a court to take any
17 specific action or require a court to ignore a child
18 custody determination made by a court of another
19 state.

20 It is important to respect that both
21 parents have a right to be involved in the
22 upbringing of a child, and one parent should not be
23 able to unilaterally attempt to change the sex of
24 their child just because they live out of state. So
25 I would ask that you vote down the amendment.

1 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Davis, you're
2 recognized to close on amendment barcode 788684.

3 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
4 Custody battles are tense and a complex issue, and
5 adding a court into the mix makes it even more
6 difficult.

7 A parent who could, otherwise, completely
8 deserve rightful custody could lose it simply
9 because of a private medical decision. We're
10 expanding the jurisdiction of the courts without a
11 clear -- without clear language to protect this
12 child.

13 Interstate child custody cases, as I said,
14 are difficult and usually the state only intervenes
15 if there is present danger for a child who has lived
16 here for more than six months.

17 To add to this, the course for something
18 that could occur in the future is vague and could
19 become an additional burden for parents.

20 And with that, Madam Chair, I close and ask
21 for your favorable -- the Committee's favorable
22 support on this amendment.

23 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: All in favor of the
24 amendment say yea.

25 MEMBERS: Yea.

1 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: All opposed say nay.

2 MEMBERS: Nay.

3 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: The amendment fails.

4 We'll now take up amendment barcode 953930
5 by Senator Book.

6 And, Senator Book, you're recognized on the
7 amendment.

8 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you so much, Madam
9 Chair. This legislature should not be in the
10 business of picking and choosing sides in court
11 proceedings.

12 The preference should not be on what one
13 parent wants over the other parent and -- when
14 there's a real disagreement on healthcare options
15 for their children.

16 This amendment very simply requires the
17 court focus on the child and the best interest of
18 the child. That is the amendment, Madam Chair.

19 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Are there
20 questions on the amendment?

21 Seeing no questions. Are there appearance
22 cards on this amendment? Thank you.

23 Jon Harris Mauer with Equality Florida
24 waives in support of the amendment. And Nathan --
25 excuse me -- Bruemmer with -- Nathan Bruemmer also

1 waives in support of the amendment.

2 Is there debate on the amendment?

3 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Madam Chair?

4 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
5 you're recognized.

6 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
7 Chair. Through the Chair to the Committee, while,
8 again, I appreciate Leader Book the offering of the
9 amendment. I would say that whether or not a court
10 has jurisdiction as a key element of the Uniform
11 Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.

12 So by removing the PCS's granting of
13 jurisdiction to a Florida court, the amendment would
14 actually defeat the purpose of the PCS in that
15 regard, which is to clearly grant jurisdiction to
16 our state court.

17 So I would ask the Committee to vote down
18 the amendment.

19 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Book, you're
20 recognized to close on amendment barcode 953930.

21 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you so much, Madam
22 Chair.

23 You know, members, if you're divorced and
24 are jointly raising a child, there are, of course,
25 disagreements that will come up when it comes to

1 making healthcare decisions for your children.

2 One parent may believe for religious
3 reasons or other reasons that a specific treatment
4 should not be taken or undertaken, and we have a way
5 of dealing with this, a way that works.

6 It goes through the court system, and a
7 court looks at both sides, and it should be what is
8 in the best interest of that child. And this type
9 of care should be no different.

10 The legislature should not be giving
11 preference to one parent's position, and we should
12 be ensuring that decisions are currently in the best
13 interest of children. And I ask for your favorable
14 support.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: All in favor of the
16 amendment say yea.

17 (Responses faint)

18 All opposed say nay.

19 MEMBERS: Nay.

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: The amendment fails.

21 We'll next take up amendment barcode 309890
22 by Senator Book.

23 Senator Book, you're recognized on the
24 amendment.

25 SENATOR BOOK: Now, I know you're going to

1 love this one.

2 This legislature, Madam Chair, and
3 Committee, talks a lot about medical freedom and
4 expanding access to healthcare through telehealth
5 and qualified healthcare professionals, such as
6 advanced practice registered nurses. Yet this bill
7 specifically removes that option for transgender
8 adults -- we're not talking about children; we're
9 talking about adults here -- drastically reducing
10 healthcare for transgender adults.

11 This amendment simply removes the language
12 that bans telehealth and qualified healthcare
13 professionals from administering what is often life-
14 saving care.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Are there
16 questions on the amendment?

17 Seeing no questions. We do have a couple
18 of appearance cards. Nathan Bruemmer is -- would
19 like to speak. I'll say it now because I may have
20 mispronounced your last name. If you come to speak
21 to us today and I mispronounce your name, I'm going
22 to apologize in advance.

23 Everything is handwritten and there's no
24 phonetics on here, so I apologize. But you're
25 recognized, sir.

1 NATHAN BRUEMMER: Thank you. Senator Book,
2 I appreciate the amendment.

3 I'm a practicing lawyer here in the state
4 of Florida, a parent former educator. I'm also the
5 State's former LGBTQ Consumer Advocate with the
6 Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer
7 Services. And I'm also a consumer of affirming
8 healthcare as a transgender man.

9 I'm born and raised in this state. This is
10 my home. And when we talk about access to
11 healthcare, I really want to get very specific about
12 what that means across all communities practically
13 speaking about the importance and the advantages of
14 telehealth.

15 We're talking about potentially emergency
16 circumstances. We're talking about better care
17 coordination and the efficiency of the care we're
18 providing. We're talking about protecting both
19 patients and medical personnel from risks of
20 infection, surging demands.

21 The world has just become increasingly
22 digitized, right? And the medical profession, the
23 healthcare sector has certainly kept up with that.

24 Our state is leading the way in a lot of
25 modernization of care. And telehealth is something

1 utilized by many Floridians, especially LGBTQ
2 Floridians and trans Floridians.

3 I'm a practicing attorney. I travel. I
4 have been a parent through most of my life, right,
5 including the early years of my transition. I'm
6 very informed about informed consent as an attorney,
7 as are all of the folks who are accessing this
8 healthcare for decades.

9 And the burden this will put on
10 practitioners and on patients is something
11 unnecessary. We are moving forward and continuing
12 to modernize in ways that this will take Florida
13 back. And this is a simple amendment, something
14 simple to move forward aside from minimizing the
15 role in busy practices of nurse practitioners.

16 I'm not sure that the medical associations
17 are aware of this and they should be, but they have
18 been advocating for the importance of nurse
19 practitioners quite passionately for many, many
20 years here in Committee.

21 So I'd urge you to accept this amendment.
22 It's a valuable one.

23 And again, thank you, Senator Book.

24 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Jon Harris
25 Mauer is -- with Equality Florida is waiving in

1 supports.

2 Is there debate on the amendment?

3 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Madam Chair?

4 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Yarborough,
5 you're recognized.

6 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
7 Chair. Through the Chair and -- through the Chair
8 to the Committee and Leader Book, we have a duty to
9 protect the public and ensure patient safety when
10 treatments are authorized that can be inherently
11 dangerous.

12 So similar to how we have addressed
13 treatment for medical marijuana and abortion, the
14 PCS conforms to those laws and only authorizes
15 allopathic and osteopathic physicians, which are MDs
16 and DOs, which include specialty physicians such as
17 psychiatrist and endocrinologists to treat patients
18 for sex reassignment medications and surgeries.

19 These treatments have the potential to have
20 life-altering effects and should be regulated in a
21 heightened manner and differently than other medical
22 treatments.

23 And for that reason, I would ask the
24 Committee to vote the amendment down.

25 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional debate?

1 Senator Book, you're recognized to close on
2 amendment barcode 309890.

3 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair. The
4 transgender community already faces significant
5 barriers and disparities in accessing healthcare.
6 And the state should not be making that worse by
7 setting a really dangerous precedent about
8 government interference and personal decision-
9 making.

10 The American Medical Association, the
11 American Psychological Association, the Endocrine
12 Society, and other major medical organizations
13 oppose the restrictions on some of this gender-
14 affirming care. And I believe that we should be
15 making it as safe as possible for folks to access
16 this type of care.

17 We're talking about adults. We're not
18 talking about children. We talk a lot about access
19 to care for folks who live in rural parts of the
20 state, who may just be -- who may need a little bit
21 of a help in accessing care that they need and
22 deserve, quite frankly.

23 And I think we shouldn't be putting blocks
24 in the way for folks to receive care. That's not
25 medical freedom. So I ask for your favorable

1 support.

2 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: All in favor of the
3 amendment say yea.

4 MEMBERS: Yea.

5 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: All opposed say nay.

6 MEMBERS: Nay.

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: The amendment fails.

8 Take up amendment barcode 448208 by Senator
9 Davis.

10 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam --

11 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Davis, you're
12 recognized on the amendment.

13 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
14 Spoke there before you gave me permission.

15 This amendment simply would eliminate,
16 delete lines 224 through lines 234, which refer to
17 the criminal punishment of external people involved
18 in providing care for the child.

19 The language is vague and could lead to
20 unequal enforcement of the law based on
21 interpretation. And that is the amendment.

22 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Are there
23 questions on the amendment? I have a few appearance
24 cards.

25 But just briefly before we go to the

1 appearance cards. Under Rule 2.10(2), the president
2 has authorized a continuation of this meeting until
3 completion of the agenda.

4 Now we're on appearance cards for this
5 amendment.

6 Dr. Robinson -- Dr. D. Paul Robinson,
7 you're recognized.

8 DR. ROBINSON: Hello. I'm still Dr. Paul
9 Robinson. Thank you so much.

10 I'm afraid that the -- giving punishment
11 for people who give gender-affirming care could have
12 consequences much beyond what many of you think.
13 Right now, I'm on the Workforce Committee for the
14 Florida Chapter of the American Academy of
15 Pediatrics, and we are working hard to figure out
16 how to get more specialists into Florida.

17 And one of the specialties we have the
18 least numbers of are pediatric endocrinologists.
19 Pediatric endocrinologists take care of many things
20 besides transgender, including diabetes, which you
21 all know, we're about to have a huge increased
22 number of.

23 So if you criminalize this, there are going
24 to be people who are looking about whether they want
25 to come to Florida as pediatric endocrinologists.

1 Or they're going to be doing their fellowship here,
2 and they're going to be saying, "Hmm, do I want to
3 go to Florida where I might end up in jail if I do
4 something that they don't like, or do I want to go
5 somewhere else where I can practice as I was taught
6 to practice?"

7 So I really ask you guys, please think
8 about this because you're going to -- we are really
9 working on -- we're in trouble over the next 10
10 years with pediatric specialists, and if we
11 criminalized things, we're going to make that much
12 worse. Please try to find other consequences that
13 don't involve felonies, et cetera. Surely there's
14 something else you can come up with. Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Jon --
16 excuse me -- Jon Harris Mauer waiving in support
17 with Equality Florida, and Nathan Bruemmer is
18 waiving in support of the amendments.

19 Is there debate on the amendment? Debate
20 on the amendment? I'm sorry.

21 Senator Book, you're recognized.

22 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
23 just want to support Senator Davis's amendment.

24 At the end of the day, doctors, when they
25 become doctors, they take the Hippocratic Oath to

1 seek to do no harm for their patients. And they
2 want to ensure that they are doing everything in
3 their power to make sure that their patients are
4 getting the correct care, the right care, and doing
5 what is medically best for their patients.

6 And I think that doing anything to put a
7 medical professional in -- for criminal charges, for
8 doing what they believe is best for their patient is
9 not what we should be doing in our state.

10 We should be allowing doctors to go before
11 a Board of Medicine. We already have a shortage.
12 We know that it exists. And doing things like this,
13 I believe will create a chilling effect to bring
14 top-quality doctors to our state. And so I support
15 Senator Davis's amendment.

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Is there
17 additional debate?

18 Senator Yarborough?

19 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Madam Chair, thank
20 you. I appreciate the testimony and also the
21 comments from the leader.

22 I would say as we consider the risks
23 associated with hormone therapy for children, for
24 example, the reason that we need to be very clear
25 about what the penalties are is that, according to

1 AACE clinical practice guidelines, males seeking
2 transition to females with estrogen have a very high
3 risk of developing side effects involving dangerous
4 blood clots.

5 We also have found that males transitioning
6 to female also have a moderate risk of developing
7 other adverse outcomes like tumors, breast cancer,
8 coronary artery disease, cerebrovascular disease
9 gallstones, et cetera.

10 And then there are also risk from females
11 seeking to transition to males with testosterone.
12 Adverse reactions could include severe liver
13 dysfunction, coronary artery disease, hypertension,
14 breast or uterine cancer, and also cerebrovascular
15 disease.

16 We have got to do what we can to protect
17 the people of our state. And this would totally get
18 out that protection by letting folks know how
19 serious we are about protecting Floridian.

20 So again, similar to how we treat other
21 laws, violations under this bill should be treated
22 in a heightened manner to protect the public. And
23 these treatments are life-altering. They can have
24 permanent serious side effects, and we need to
25 protect children and ensure that healthcare

1 practitioners are held responsible if they violate
2 the law.

3 So I'd ask the Committee to vote down the
4 amendment.

5 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Senator Davis, you're
6 recognized to close on amendment barcode 448208.

7 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
8 would like to thank the medical professional that
9 came to speak to us and give his medical insight on
10 this amendment.

11 Simply, this bill addresses -- this
12 amendment addresses people who knowingly contribute
13 to a child's -- a child receiving gender-affirming
14 care like someone at the front desk, like a nurse,
15 or an insurance agent, or a pharmacist who approves
16 a prescription.

17 Simply here today with the way this bill is
18 written, this language and this amendment simply is
19 too vague, and it addresses that. And it possibly
20 later on could be included in a catchall
21 investigation in the future.

22 So that's why I brought this amendment
23 forward. I would ask my colleagues to support this
24 amendment today.

25 And with that Madam Chair, I close.

1 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: All in favor of the
2 amendment say yea.

3 MEMBERS: Yea.

4 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Opposed say nay.

5 MEMBERS: Nay.

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Show the amendment
7 fails.

8 Okay. Senators, to get us in proper
9 posture, Senator Brodeur moves at the PCS, which is
10 barcode 112830, be adopted in place of the bill as
11 filed.

12 Without objection, show that the motion is
13 adopted. By adopting the PCS, the amendments
14 pending on the original bill are disposed of.

15 Now we're back on the bill as amended by
16 adoption of the PCS.

17 We have a number of appearance cards, and I
18 want to thank you all for waiting patiently. It's
19 been a long meeting already. My intent is to give
20 everybody who has filled out a card an opportunity
21 to speak. There will be those in favor of the bill
22 and those opposed to the bill.

23 You have been amazingly quiet and patient,
24 and we're going to keep being amazingly quiet and
25 patient through the rest of this. We will not have

1 any clapping. We will not have any snapping -- no
2 snapping in your fingers. Don't wave any signs.
3 Just be like you've been, just paying attention to
4 the meeting because you're going to hear people from
5 both sides. So I appreciate that.

6 So moving forward, due to the number of
7 appearance cards that we have, you're going to be --
8 I'm going to limit everybody to 30 seconds.

9 Now, 30 seconds doesn't sound like a lot of
10 time, but I sat through many of these meetings
11 before. And when you have this many appearance
12 cards, 30 seconds with each person indeed gets
13 everybody's message across.

14 So please, what I ask you to do is continue
15 to pay attention as you have through the Committee
16 thus far. You'll hear somebody speak prior to your
17 opportunity to speak. If they say what you were
18 already going to say, you can waive either in an
19 opposition or support or make another point.

20 I mean, you probably, if you have multiple
21 points and your point has already been made, feel
22 free to make an additional point and feel free to
23 come forward.

24 I'm going to call somebody to begin
25 speaking, and then I'm going to call a second name

1 and that individual will be the on-deck individual.
2 And we're going to continue the entirety of the rest
3 of the meeting on appearance cards in that manner.

4 So when you hear your name called as first
5 person is going to be Jonathan Weber. So if
6 Jonathan Weber would like to begin to approach the
7 podium, and Madison Murphy is on deck.

8 So Madison, if you'll go directly -- if
9 Madison is still here, there's a clock directly
10 across from me. And does anybody know Madison
11 Murphy? Madison Murphy. Fabulous.

12 Madison, if you'll come back underneath the
13 clock there, and we'll continue. When Madison comes
14 forward, I'll say the next person on deck. And if
15 you'll go back there, that will keep us moving.

16 Jonathan Weber, you are recognized.

17 JONATHAN WEBER: Thank you so much.

18 Jonathan Weber. I'm the Florida Policy Director for
19 the SPLC Action Fund. I urge you to vote no on this
20 bill.

21 I'm the father of a 10-year-old, and like
22 all parents, my wife and I only want our child to go
23 to the doctor for his annual checkups. And I only
24 want to hear that he's healthy and happy.

25 I want nothing more than to keep my child

1 and all children safe. But I assure you that if any
2 medical issue prompted a doctor to recommend
3 treatment, I would listen intensely.

4 Then together with my child, we'd plot a
5 course of action based on medical advice given to us
6 by our doctors.

7 The State of Florida should not be a wall
8 between parents, medical providers, and trans youth.
9 This bill will -- thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Excuse me, Mr. Weber.
11 I'm sorry. Your time's up. Thank you for being
12 here today.

13 Madison Murphy -- excuse me -- followed by
14 Cielo -- and I'm so sorry, S-u-n-s-a-r-a-e, you'll
15 be on deck if you're here.

16 Madison Murphy, you're recognized.

17 MADISON MURPHY: Thank you, madam. It
18 doesn't take being transgender to be able to have
19 respect for other human beings.

20 Even if you don't understand someone, they
21 still have the right to give consent to live their
22 lives the way they see it.

23 Yes. There are some complications, there
24 are complications like that seen in almost any
25 choice you make in your life. But taking away the

1 ability for someone to consent to medical
2 procedures, to live their life, to have dignity, to
3 be treated with dignity by the law is not something
4 you can take lightly.

5 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

6 MS. MURPHY: Just because you don't
7 understand doesn't mean you don't have to act well.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Cielo, and I apologize
10 if I -- followed by Alexis Williams.

11 When you come to the podium to speak,
12 please state your name because I'm going to
13 mispronounce. I apologize in advance some, but go
14 ahead and state your name.

15 CIELO SUNSARAE: My name is Cielo Sunsarae.

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

17 CIELO SUNSARAE: I'm a trans individual in
18 Florida. I just want to say, you guys who sponsor
19 this bill and vote for it, you fear our fabulous and
20 gay selves, our resilient trans lives. But more
21 importantly, you fear standing on the human right
22 side of history because your puppet strings will be
23 cut. And that fear empowers me and everyone here
24 today. But there's actually more than 200 people
25 here.

1 These are the names of over 1000 trans
2 people and allies here. And SB 254 impacts these
3 lives --

4 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: I'm sorry. We ask that
5 you not display shirts, clothing with messages on
6 them as well. I should have been more specific in
7 my things we can't do. Thank you very much.

8 Alexis Williams?

9 It's just for everybody else coming up
10 forward. We we won't do that. Alexis Williams,
11 followed by Mauricio Marena.

12 And I hear -- and I apologize. You're
13 recognized.

14 ALEXIS WILLIAMS: Hi, everybody. It is
15 easier for my mother to receive addictive
16 painkillers that are killing her than a trans
17 individual to receive reversible gender-affirming
18 care.

19 I'm watching my mother with her way, and
20 we're here worried about -- we're worried about
21 people trying to feel at home in their bodies rather
22 than an opioid addiction in the United States.

23 So I ask that: what are you protecting?
24 What are you protecting children and adults from
25 rather than your personal opinions and biases?

1 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

2 ALEXIS WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Mauricio Marena and I
4 -- you all, please state your name, followed by
5 Ronnie Angelique. And Ms. Ronnie Angelique is here.
6 Go back -- if you'll go back here where the --

7 MAURICIO MARENA: My name is Mauricio --

8 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

9 MAURICIO MARENA: My name is Mauricio
10 Marena. And I just want to say that it is a
11 scapegoat to say that HRT is being -- or is
12 preventing, basically, dangers to other individuals
13 in terms of side effects, because anytime you go
14 ahead and see a medication that's introduced on TV,
15 they tell you the side effects.

16 These practitioners also tell you the side
17 effects, and you already, at any medication you
18 take, have to consent for this because you have to
19 acknowledge what you're taking.

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Thank you
21 for coming.

22 Ronnie Angelique, followed by Mary Eakins-
23 Durand.

24 RONNIE ANGELIQUE: Hello, to everyone on
25 the Board. My name is Ronnie Angelique, and I'm a

1 black Latina trans woman. And I'm the success story
2 that you all miss.

3 I started my hormones here in Florida. I
4 got my life together. I became a master's degree of
5 psychology educated person. And I'm currently
6 pursuing my PhD in psychiatry.

7 I'm the thing that you are missing. So
8 look at me and understand. I have been living my
9 life as a woman for over 10 years, and I have a
10 successful life. And I teach children, and I change
11 the world day by day in my colloquial community in
12 Tampa, Florida. So look at me and remember this
13 face --

14 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

15 RONNIE ANGELIQUE: -- because this is the
16 face that you're denying a future of your children.

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Mary Eakins-Durand,
18 followed by Robin Witt.

19 Ladies and gentlemen, no clapping, please.

20 Mary -- is there -- is Mary Eakins-Durand
21 here? Anybody know? I don't think so. No? Yes.

22 Robin Witt? Are you Robin Witt? Robin
23 Witt, followed by Jess Hunt.

24 Jess Hunt is here. If you'll go underneath
25 the clock in the back, that would be great.

1 You're recognized.

2 ROBIN WITT: Okay. My name is Robin Witt.
3 Good afternoon. So I'm an electrical engineer. I
4 work at Kennedy Space Center. I work as a
5 contractor for the Artemis program, and I'm also a
6 transgender woman.

7 Senate Bill 254 would severely restrict my
8 access to hormone replacement therapy as an adult
9 trans woman. If I can't find a doctor approved to
10 provide me care under this bill, I'll be forced to
11 look out of state for healthcare.

12 This bill tells me that Florida does not
13 appreciate me nor want me here.

14 I don't want to leave Florida, but I won't
15 live where I'm not wanted.

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you for being
17 here.

18 ROBIN WITT: Yeah.

19 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Jess Hunt?

20 Excuse me, Robin Witt. Senator Book has a
21 question. Yes.

22 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you.

23 ROBIN WITT: Yes.

24 SENATOR BOOK: And certainly, we were
25 talking about making sure that people have access as

1 adults to healthcare --

2 ROBIN WITT: Yes.

3 SENATOR BOOK: -- and the use of
4 telehealth. How far, if you don't mind sharing, do
5 you have to drive to get your prescriptions filled
6 from your doctor?

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

8 ROBIN WITT: Okay. Out of state it would
9 likely be Virginia.

10 SENATOR BOOK: And currently, would you
11 just -- do you call your doc? Like how far away?

12 ROBIN WITT: Currently, I get it in
13 downtown Orlando.

14 SENATOR BOOK: Great. Thank you.

15 ROBIN WITT: Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

17 Jess Hunt, followed by Ted McCulligan
18 (phonetic). And Jess Hunt, you're recognized.

19 JESS HUNT: Thank you. I'm a librarian, a
20 Unitarian Universalist minister, a non-binary human.
21 And most importantly, I'm a parent of four children,
22 one of whom is transgender.

23 This bill denies me and my family our basic
24 humanity, our pursuit of happiness, and infringes
25 our religious liberty.

1 This bill comes between me, my child, her
2 pediatrician, her psychologist, and her
3 endocrinologist, an entire team of highly trained,
4 professionally certified medical professionals from
5 across the state that are helping me and my child
6 determine what the current, most advanced, best
7 practices are available to her.

8 This is my due diligence as a parent to
9 seek the advice, counsel, and expertise.

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

11 Ted McCulligan and I apologize in advance.
12 Sam Sharf will be on deck. You're recognized.

13 TODD MCCULLIGAN: Yes, ma'am. My name is
14 Todd McCulligan. I'm a 56-year-old veteran. I
15 served from 1984 to 1988.

16 I just came out as trans and will be
17 getting gender-affirming care from the VA. But I
18 can't tell you what would have happened had I gotten
19 it when I was younger.

20 I would have not been an alcoholic. I
21 would have not had a drug addiction. I -- there are
22 a lot of things in my life wouldn't have happened.
23 High blood pressure at age 10 because of the stress.
24 Thank you. That's all I have to say.

25 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you for coming.

1 Sam Sharf, followed by Kaitlynn Danehy-Samitz. You
2 are recognized.

3 SAM SHARF: Hi. I was once a trans youth,
4 and now I'm a happy 22-year-old trans adult student
5 at New College of Florida. This is my healthcare.

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Ma'am -- okay.

7 SAM SHARF: Don't tread on it.

8 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Kaitlynn Danehy-Samitz,
9 followed by -- I don't have a complete name. It
10 says Lisa and then initial O. So you're recognized.

11 KAITLYNN DANEHY-SAMITZ: Okay. Kaitlynn
12 Danehy-Samitz, vice president founder of Women's
13 Voices of Southwest Florida. I hope my time starts
14 after I say my name.

15 In Ron DeSantis' oasis of freedom and
16 parental rights, your freedom and parental rights
17 are dependent on whether or not Ron DeSantis
18 approves of your genitals.

19 Senator Yarborough has militarized the
20 Florida GOP into the genital gestapo. Ron DeSantis
21 wants trans people dead, trans kids, and trans
22 adults.

23 You have put targets on the backs of
24 Florida's queer community and state legislators are
25 putting guns into the hands of people who want us

1 dead.

2 From every angle and opportunity, you are
3 committing genocide. You've betrayed your oath to
4 office. You've betrayed your most vulnerable
5 constituents for the sake of --

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

7 KAITLYNN DANEHY-SAMITZ: -- 2024 campaign,
8 and you're the fourth --

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Lisa, you're next,
10 followed by Jake with the initial L. So Lisa O.
11 Can you spell that for me, please?

12 LISA ODENA: O-d-e-n-a.

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: O-d-e-n-a. You're
14 recognized.

15 LISA ODENA: Okay. Thank you. I just
16 wanted to go over something that Senator Yarborough
17 said, which is he said something about the AACE.
18 I'm reading their website right now, and it says,
19 "We strongly oppose legislation that criminalizes
20 physician and other health professionals who provide
21 medically appropriate endocrine care as recommended
22 by established medical guidelines.

23 The Endocrine Society of AACE have
24 published peer-reviewed evidence-based guidelines
25 and support endocrine care for transgender and

1 gender-diverse patients. Criminalizing provision of
2 endocrine care will further increase the health
3 disparities of very vulnerable population." Again,
4 this is what Senator --

5 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

6 LISA ODENA: -- Yarborough said.

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Jake L. and if you
8 could tell me your last name, please?

9 JAKE L.: I don't feel comfortable or safe
10 doing that.

11 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Spell it.

12 JAKE L.: Oh, I'm not going to say my last
13 name.

14 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Okay. You're
15 recognized.

16 JAKE L.: Yeah.

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Excuse me, followed by
18 Linda Roberts.

19 JAKE L.: Okay.

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Now you're recognized.

21 JAKE L.: I'm a transgender and recent
22 astrophysics graduate from Florida Tech. As a
23 child, I was unable to receive gender-affirming
24 healthcare and was on the edge of committing
25 suicide. My dad fought for joint custody of me so I

1 could receive this life-saving gender healthcare.

2 Hadn't he done this, I wouldn't be here today.

3 Gender-affirming care is life-saving. If
4 you vote yes -- vote yes, and if you vote no, you're
5 ignoring the large consensus of the medical
6 community.

7 If people who are trans have access to
8 hormone blockers, then they will not have to go
9 through unnecessary trauma and surgeries --

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

11 JAKE L.: -- such as top surgery. You will
12 be held accountable.

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Linda Roberts, followed
14 by James Harper -- James W. Harper.

15 LINDA ROBERTS: Thank you. Linda Roberts
16 --

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized. Uh-
18 huh (affirmative).

19 LINDA ROBERTS: -- transgender woman. I
20 challenged the characterization of this treatment as
21 experimental, the leading healthcare organization,
22 several that endorse it. The World Pathological
23 Association for Transgender Health has been putting
24 out standards of care for 45 years dealing with
25 this.

1 When you talk about the risks of treatment,
2 don't forget the risks of depression, higher rates
3 of suicide and anxiety for those who were denied
4 treatment, and the issue of procreation, which there
5 are --

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

7 LINDA ROBERTS: -- alternatives.

8 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. James
9 Harper, followed by Scott Mena. You're recognized.

10 JAMES HARPER: Thank you. I'm James
11 Harper, and I just want to say what the world needs
12 now is love, sweet love. And I want you to keep
13 singing that song in your heads until you get it
14 straight. That this is based on hate, and it's
15 causing suffering for innocent people who did
16 nothing except be born the way they were born.

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Scott Mena, followed by
18 Trey-Shawn Perez. Is Trey-Shawn Perez here? I
19 really need people to be lining up if you're here.

20 You're recognized.

21 SCOTT MENA: Hello, I'm Scott Mena. I have
22 seen family. I have also seen friends that have
23 been affected by this, and the fear that's coming
24 through them because of these things that are
25 happening.

1 I'm in a community that this is very
2 important to them, and I know that with us standing
3 together and not pushing this into families and
4 lives, it will definitely bless a lot of people if
5 you don't push this into their lives. Please help
6 them.

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Trey-Shawn? Thank you.
8 Trey-Shawn Perez, followed by Fiona Rawls.

9 Fiona Rawls is here. If you could come
10 underneath the clock, that would be great. You're
11 recognized.

12 TREY-SHAWN PEREZ: Hi, my name is Trey-
13 Shawn Perez, and I'm a U.S. Army veteran. I'm also
14 an Iraq veteran and I'm also trans.

15 You take away my healthcare, you will also
16 take away the healthcare during the veteran system
17 because the veteran system is not up to date. So if
18 you take away that, you're going to take away my
19 life. And I attempted that at seven.

20 So you're going to have a lot of lives
21 that's going to be on the line with mental health
22 issues because I've already dealt with it for 30
23 years. I don't want to deal with it anymore, so
24 please help.

25 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Fiona

1 Rawls, followed by Nathan Bruemmer.

2 You're recognized.

3 FIONA RAWLS: Thank you very much. I'm
4 Staff Sergeant Rawls from West Palm Beach, Florida.
5 The Pope says it is a sin to criminalize
6 homosexuality.

7 Matthew 19:12 guarantees my right to be
8 transgender. And being transgender is the highest
9 form of religious freedom.

10 Don't tell me you care about children when
11 you hire back the coward cop from the Parkland
12 shooting with back pay. Don't tell me you care
13 about children when Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, Palm Beach
14 County had a child's circumcised against his
15 mother's wishes. And don't tell me you care about
16 children when Joel Greenberg gave the world the
17 receipts with Venmo on our Governor's --

18 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you --

19 FIONA RAWLS: -- best friend Matt Gaetz.

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you, Fiona.

21 Nathan Bruemmer?

22 Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to ask you
23 to keep your comments respectful to everybody.

24 Nathan Bruemmer, followed by Colin (phonetic), last
25 initial is B. You're recognized.

1 NATHAN BRUEMMER: Thank you. Senators, you
2 clearly hear the passion and the hearts of the folks
3 in front of you. I would like to appeal to the
4 spirit of compromise that is what this country was
5 founded on, especially as a former public official.

6 I'd like to revisit the conversation on
7 telehealth. If open to that, Senator, I'd like to
8 be able to be available to discuss some of those
9 things, please.

10 There are things here that are hard, but
11 there's some things that I think with a little bit
12 of conversation and education, we can move some of
13 the things and make this a little bit easier because
14 this is going to be remarkably hard --

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

16 NATHAN BRUEMMER: -- for Floridians. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Colin? And again, I
19 apologize of mispronouncing your name, last initial
20 B. J. Marie Bailey on deck. You're recognized.

21 COLIN B.: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
22 actually here to share a testimony for Allie M. who
23 couldn't make it though.

24 I will say I'm glad that she didn't drive
25 here five hours through a storm to pour her heart

1 out for -- so that she could be cut off at 30
2 seconds.

3 If you expect trans people to extend you
4 politeness in the attempt of our extermination, you
5 won't get it. We will not shrink ourselves for you.
6 We will not change to make you comfortable, and we
7 will not apologize for living authentically, not
8 now, not ever.

9 We will not exist in a system that attempts
10 to define us for who we are for us. We will live as
11 --

12 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

13 COLIN B.: -- we are for ourselves.

14 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: J. Marie Bailey,
15 followed by Jessica Wilson. You're recognized.

16 J. MARIE BAILEY: Thank you. Good
17 afternoon, senators.

18 Good afternoon, Senator Yarborough. Hi.
19 I'm a trans parent, nice to meet you, so you can
20 finally meet one of us. My son has said even now --

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Excuse me ladies and
22 gentlemen -- would you stop the timer for a second.
23 I don't want you to use up your time.

24 Ladies and gentlemen, we are not going to
25 respond with noise to comments made by anybody. You

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1 -- we've been great so far. Let's keep it up. And
2 also when you come up to speak, I would prefer if
3 you not send comments directly to members of the
4 Committee --

5 J. MARIE BAILEY: Oh, I apologize.

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: -- address the entire
7 Committee.

8 J. MARIE BAILEY: Okay. It's very nice to
9 meet all of you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

11 J. MARIE BAILEY: Oh, I apologize. It's
12 very nice to meet all of you. I have heard in the
13 past two hours amazing testimony and people saying
14 how much they care about the healthcare of
15 Floridians. That everyone needs access to
16 healthcare with the diabetes. And even Dr. Ladipose
17 (phonetic) said, "I believe in taking care of your
18 mind and soul." This doesn't add up to everything
19 that you all are working so hard for. Please work
20 for us like you say you are. Thank you.

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

22 Jessica Wilson, followed by Judy Schmidt.

23 Judy Schmidt is here. Please come
24 underneath the clock. Good afternoon or evening.
25 You're recognized.

1 JESSICA WILSON: My name is Jessica Wilson.
2 I'm a mother of trans son who committed -- attempted
3 suicide, was diagnosed gender dysphoria in the
4 hospital and was given mind altering medication
5 against his consent as well as mine. This happens
6 all the time.

7 Mental health medication is given that
8 gives lifelong permanent changes to the brain, and
9 nobody's restricting that. This is transphobic,
10 plain, and simple. It's the same. You want to
11 compare apples to apples?

12 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Judy Schmidt. On deck
13 with Trey-Shawn Perez. Did we already hear from
14 Trey-Shawn or is that on the amendment?

15 Trey-Shawn Perez, you're up again. Unless
16 you already spoke.

17 I'm sorry. You're recognized. Just trying
18 to make sure everybody gets their chance. You're
19 recognized.

20 JUDY SCHMIDT: Thank you. I'm Judy Schmidt
21 and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

22 Everybody has really said things that I
23 would want to say, but I do want to say I'm the
24 parent of a transgender child who is almost eight
25 years old. And we are at the beginning of our

1 journey. And what you're doing is taking away life-
2 saving potential opportunity for me and my family.

3 A decision that should be made between me
4 and my healthcare professionals and my therapist
5 that work with my child and criminalizing gender-
6 affirming care is going to hurt my son more than a
7 puberty blocker will.

8 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Trey-Shawn
9 Perez. I think Trey-Shawn Perez spoke on the
10 amendment. If you're still here -- I don't see
11 them. He is -- Trey-Shawn Perez is against the
12 bill.

13 Sophia Amber James (phonetic), followed by
14 Kerry Burner. Sophia Amber James? And if Kerry
15 could please get her at the clock to start. That'd
16 be great. You're recognized.

17 SOPHIA AMBER JAMES: Good afternoon, Chair
18 and panel members. I'm a retired master sergeant
19 Sophia A. James, son, daughter, father, mother,
20 husband, wife, peacekeeper, peace seeker, human
21 being.

22 To this stage of life, I've been in and
23 perform many roles as many of us have. Do you
24 agree? My most recent stage of life, I'm 53-year-
25 old transgender woman. I'm speaking in an

1 opposition to SB 254 because I was also once a
2 transgender child. What you're doing will not help
3 the child.

4 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Kerry
5 Burner or Burner, followed by Rehn, R-e-h-n. I'm
6 sorry. I think the last name --

7 KERRY BURNER: It's Burner-Reeves.

8 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you, ma'am. Rhen
9 Burner-Reeves. So Kerry? Yes.

10 KERRY BURNER: My name is Kerry Burner.

11 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

12 KERRY BURNER: I find this bill to be an
13 extreme overreach. I grew up in Germany in the
14 aftermath of Nazis, and what you people are doing is
15 no different. It is transphobic. It is cruel, and
16 you really should be ashamed.

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Rehn Burner-Reeves,
18 followed by Ann Burner-Reeves. You're recognized.

19 REHN BURNER-REEVES: I waive against the
20 bill.

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're against the
22 bill.

23 Ann Burner-Reeves, followed by D. Paul
24 Robinson.

25 ANN BURNER-REEVES: My name is Ann Burner-

1 Reeves, and I waive against the bill.

2 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Against the bill.

3 D. Paul Robinson, followed by Vance Arons
4 (phonetic). You're recognized.

5 D. PAUL ROBINSON: I just wanted to make a
6 quick point that, again, these therapies are not
7 experimental. They've been around for a long time.
8 The puberty blockers are not permanent. And please
9 remember that one side effect of not doing this care
10 is suicide.

11 Suicide rates or suicide attempts are twice
12 as much in children who are transgender and not
13 treated as those who are -- do not have that
14 condition. Please don't pass this bill.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Vance Arons, followed
16 by Mason Manion. You're recognized.

17 VANCE ARONS: Thank you, Chair. I'm Vance
18 Arons. I'm in opposition to this. Those that have
19 put it forward have stated that there's no research
20 on this. There is -- just this year in the Journal
21 of American Medicine, there was a two-year study
22 showing how this is beneficial and improves the
23 lives of transgender people.

24 I guarantee none of you on the GOP, though,
25 is going to actually listen to this. You're all

1 going to continue with the genocide that DeSantis
2 wants to put on this.

3 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

4 Mason Manion, followed by Paula Pifer.

5 You're recognized.

6 MASON MANION: Good evening. My name is
7 Mason Manion, and my best friend is here with me
8 today. And I've seen what gender-affirming care has
9 done in their life. This allows them to be the
10 person they always were inside.

11 They're happy and successful. Why would we
12 deprive human beings from care that allows them to
13 live authentic, happy lives? It's cruel.

14 Passing this harmful legislation is taking
15 us backwards and harming real human beings.

16 Please remember that when you are writing
17 these bills and voting on these bills, you are
18 affecting real human beings. This is an attempt to
19 erase a community, and you will not succeed. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

22 Paula Pifer, followed by -- Dr. Robinson
23 already spoken -- followed by Regina -- I want to
24 say Longs or Lovings. I -- sorry. I can't read
25 Regina's last name.

1 Paula? Yes. You're recognized.

2 PAULA PIFER: Thank you. My daughter,

3 Hunter Pifer is a model pictured in this month's

4 March 2023 Vogue magazine dressed in Valentino. She

5 is as beautiful on the inside as she is on the

6 outside. You would never know that this young woman

7 was born in the wrong body.

8 Hunter at age 15 was able to be part of the

9 first generation of transgender kids here in the

10 United -- in Florida to receive life-saving medical

11 care.

12 She completed her transition from male to

13 female at the age of 18. She's now 23. She just

14 walked for Prada.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

16 PAULA PIFER: Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Regina Longs or Lovings

18 or Loweis in opposition, waiving opposition.

19 Ginger Maso -- Major (phonetic), followed

20 by the Reverend Bromleigh McCleneghan.

21 You are Ginger? Ginger is waiving

22 opposition.

23 Is the Reverend McCleneghan here? Followed

24 by Meg Titcomb. You're recognized.

25 REVEREND MCCLENEGHAN: Thank you. I'm the

1 Reverend Bromleigh McCleneghan. I serve as the
2 coordinating minister at the United Church of
3 Gainesville. And I have always had great faith in
4 my elected leaders, despite the fact that I grew up
5 in Chicago where we, you know, vote early and often.

6 But nevertheless, I am dismayed as a
7 religious leader by this bill and the way that it so
8 refutes the great and, I think, universal truth,
9 that Jesus speaks, that the truth will set you free.

10 There is so much mischaracterization --

11 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

12 REVEREND MCCLENAGHAN: -- in this bill.

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Meg Titcomb followed by
14 Javier Gomez. You're recognized.

15 MEG TITCOMB: Thank you. Good evening.
16 I'm the proud parent of the non-binary teen. I'm
17 here today along with my child in Equality Florida
18 to stand up and support for all transgender
19 Floridians, their parents, and their healthcare
20 providers. Without gender-affirming healthcare, I'm
21 quite certain I'd be visiting my child in a cemetery
22 today rather than visiting you all here at the
23 Capitol.

24 As a mother and as a concerned citizen, I'm
25 begging you to oppose SB 254, which criminalizes

1 gender-affirming care. Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

3 Javier Gomez followed by Alastor Vergalh.

4 JAVIER GOMEZ: I had a whole testimony
5 planned, but I would just say this and let it be
6 known.

7 As a cisgender person, which I believe all
8 of you are, don't ever tell a trans person, "Be
9 respectful with your testimony," when you're all
10 attempting trans genocide. Treat others how you
11 want to be treated. It's that simple. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Alastor. Is there
13 somebody -- it looks like A-l-a-s-t-o-r, V-e-r-g-a-
14 l-h is what this last name looks like. Does that
15 sound familiar to anybody? I'll hold it in case
16 they come back.

17 Vince Cuadra, followed by Jared, last name
18 first initial R. Anybody named Vince? First name
19 Vince? No. I'm sorry. Is there Vince?

20 Are you Jared? Okay. Jared, followed by
21 -- we'll let Jared proceed up, followed by Kelly
22 Everling.

23 You're recognized.

24 JARED REYNOLDS: Hi, there. My name is
25 Jared Reynolds. Sorry. I'm not a public speaker.

1 I'm not accustomed to this, but I will say this. I
2 have many stories, and I wish I had more than 30
3 seconds to explain them. But what you are doing by
4 signing this bill is an act of war. You are trying
5 to kill my people, and it will not go lightly.

6 The way it is as it is now, my people will
7 die, and that blood, if you support this bill, will
8 be on your hands. Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Kelly Everling --
10 excuse me -- followed by Lilith Black.

11 REVEREND KELLY EVERLING: Good evening,
12 Reverend Kelly Everling.

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Sorry. You're
14 recognized.

15 REVEREND EVERLING: Thank you. It was said
16 earlier in this meeting that healthcare needs to be
17 accessible to all. I believe that is the case for
18 our children, and I believe that is the case for our
19 LGBTQ plus community.

20 I have two trans members that I serve in my
21 context as a pastor. And I have seen the real
22 change in self-actualization when care is received
23 as well as the harm that is caused when gender-
24 affirming care, both healthcare and personal care,
25 is denied.

1 I would urge you to vote no on this bill
2 today. Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

4 Lilith Black, followed by Aaron DiPietro.
5 You're recognized.

6 LILITH BLACK: Every --

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: One moment please,
8 Lilith. Let's make sure he's okay. Well, make sure
9 he's okay.

10 Somebody please assist him, please.

11 LILITH BLACK: Every 45 seconds --

12 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

13 We'll start now.

14 LILITH BLACK: Thank you. Every 45
15 seconds, a trans person makes an attempt on their
16 life, meaning that one happened every two speakers
17 that you saw this very moment.

18 Ten years ago, that was me and one year ago
19 that was one of my siblings. And tomorrow it will
20 be the children of people in this room.

21 Your vote on this bill determines if that
22 45 seconds becomes 30. Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: We'll wait to see if
24 Aaron is able to come back.

25 Rain Johnson, I believe, followed by

1 Aurelie Colon.

2 I'm sorry. Aaron DiPietro. I hope you're
3 okay. You're recognized.

4 AARON DIPIETRO: Thank you, Chair. My name
5 is Aaron DiPietro. I'm the Legislative Affairs
6 Director for the Florida Family Policy Council. And
7 we rise in support of this legislation.

8 Every child deserves a natural childhood,
9 one that allows them to experience puberty and other
10 natural changes that will shape what they become.

11 Children should not be pushed to receive
12 experimental treatments that can leave them
13 permanently sterile and physically marred for life.

14 Children are unable to comprehend and fully
15 appreciate the risks in life implications, including
16 permanent sterility that result from these puberty
17 blockers, cross-sex hormones, and drastic surgical
18 procedures.

19 We encourage you to support this bill in
20 order to protect the children of the state of
21 Florida.

22 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

23 AARON DIPIETRO: Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Rain Johnson, followed
25 by Aurelie Colon Larrauri. And you are Rain

1 Johnson?

2 RAIN JOHNSON: Uh-huh (affirmative).

3 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

4 RAIN JOHNSON: Today I represent more than
5 one trans person. I represent my uncle. I
6 represent my friends. I represent every single of
7 friend that I've had that was ever trans.

8 Every time that I look at you guys in this
9 Committee, I realize more and more that you guys
10 want to commit trans genocide, and that our blood is
11 on your hands. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Aurelie Colon, and I'm
13 going to let you pronounce your whole name, please.

14 Amil Fox (phonetic) supposed to be on deck.
15 You're recognized.

16 AURELIE COLON LARRAURI: Hi. My name is
17 Aurelie Colon Larrauri. My pronouns are she and
18 they, and I'm the Florida State Policy Advocate for
19 the Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
20 Florida. I'm also a genderqueer gay person here in
21 solidarity with my trans and gender-diverse
22 siblings.

23 The reproductive justice framework is
24 rooted in the belief that all individuals and
25 communities should have the resources and power they

1 need to make their own decisions about their bodies,
2 gender, sexualities, families, and lives. LGBTQ
3 justice is reproductive justice. Trans people are
4 humans, and they don't owe you your trauma to be
5 seen as humans. Thank you, and I oppose this bill.

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Amil Fox, followed by
7 Kim Moore.

8 And you're recognized.

9 AMIL FOX: Ignorance can develop into hate
10 because it's frustrating not to understand people.
11 I'm going to assume the best; that it's not
12 genocide. History tells us that it could be.

13 You're legislators, not doctors. You've
14 never been to med school. How many doctors have you
15 individually spoke to about this? Do you think
16 we're all psychotic? I've been psychotic actually.
17 I've been Baker Acted for a separate disease. It's
18 circular thinking you guys. Maybe bullying causes
19 mental illness.

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Kim Moore,
21 followed by Kimberly Cox.

22 You're recognized.

23 KIM MOORE: Aren't you glad I have an easy
24 name? I'm here as the parent of a transgender
25 child, and one of the things that we dealt with in

1 school was bullying. It happens a lot to
2 transgender children.

3 My child was hospitalized twice for
4 suicidal ideation. And I know that not getting the
5 proper care causes problems.

6 As a parent, I have to make sure that my
7 kid gets medical care. Every time we see a new
8 doctor, there's always a concern, even if it's the
9 dentist, or the pediatrician, or the psychiatrist or
10 the psychologist. You don't know if they're going
11 to support you, and to put this law through is going
12 to make it even --

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

14 KIM MOORE: -- harder.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Kim Cox -- Kimberly Cox
16 -- excuse me -- followed by -- I want to say is
17 Zayv, but maybe --

18 KIMBERLY COX: It's Zayd.

19 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Zayd.

20 KIMBERLY COX: Is my child.

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Okay. Kimberly Cox,
22 you're recognized.

23 KIMBERLY COX: I'm Kimberly Cox, and I'm
24 with Women's Voices. And I'm proud mom of that 17-
25 year-old non-binary child that's going to speak

1 next.

2 I'm not an ally. I'm an accomplice. I'd
3 also like to implore you all to remember that less
4 than a week ago, gun laws -- gun law restrictions
5 were loosened. And anyone who thinks it's a good
6 idea to come and take my child, I dare you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Zayd Cox, followed by
8 Amanda Langworthy.

9 You're recognized.

10 ZAYD COX: My name is Zayd Cox. I'm 17
11 years old, and I'm openly and proudly a part of the
12 LGBTQ plus community.

13 I'm fortunate enough to live in a home with
14 parents that love and accept me, but I'm now at risk
15 of being forcibly taken away from them because they
16 accept me.

17 Signing this bill into law is nothing less
18 than a death sentence for trans people like me and
19 the ones I love.

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Amanda Langworthy, is
21 Amanda here? Followed by Harrison, I want to say,
22 Lundy. It may be Lindy. Hold on one second,
23 please? Thank you. You're recognized.

24 AMANDA LANGWORTHY: My name is Amanda
25 Langworthy. I'm pansexual and non-binary.

1 Being gay and being trans is not an
2 aberration. It's a natural form of existence. Even
3 God in the Bible that so many use against us is
4 trans, non-binary, and gender fluid.

5 I was diagnosed with PTSD at five years
6 old. And why? Because I was forced to feel ashamed
7 of who I am.

8 You say that gender-affirming care is child
9 abuse, even though so many studies prove it's not.
10 Forcing a child to hide who they are, forcing them
11 to feel alone and so distraught from merely
12 existing, that is the child abuse. What you're
13 proposing is child abuse. And I'm living proof of
14 that.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Harrison Lundy,
16 followed by Corey Bleakley.

17 You're recognized.

18 MR. LUNDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want
19 to use my time to focus on the permission that you
20 are giving disgusting people to do disgusting
21 things. It was disgusting people that have already
22 passed legislation or approved legislation that will
23 arm dangerous transphobic people with the weapons to
24 erase us.

25 You are giving disgusting people permission

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1 in this room to come after trans kids and adults,
2 and somehow you are scared to be called transphobic.

3 Also, what kind of surgeon general can't
4 deny the existence of demon sperm? Kind of weird.

5 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Corey Bleakley,
6 followed by Lola Smith.

7 I'm going to ask you all to be respectful
8 when you speak please.

9 And you are recognized.

10 COREY BLEAKLEY: My name is Corey Bleakley,
11 and I represent Women's Voices of Southwest Florida.
12 And I'm also the vice president of Social Unity
13 Network.

14 I stand in opposition of Senate Bill 254.
15 This bill is state-sponsored genocide. This bill is
16 going to kill trans kids, and the blood will be on
17 your hands.

18 You told our youth chapter vice president
19 to respect your authority, but I cannot respect the
20 hand that strikes us or the pen that signs our death
21 warrants.

22 And we'll not be silent. Stonewall was a
23 riot, and if this bill passes, you'll be declaring
24 --

25 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

1 COREY BLEAKLEY: -- war on our trans
2 community.

3 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Lola Smith, followed by
4 Seneca Bristol, I believe this is what it is.

5 Lola Smith, you're recognized.

6 LOLA SMITH: I'm Lola Smith. I'm 12 years
7 old. I'm a non-binary. If you pass this bill, many
8 of us will die. I deserve to live as long as all of
9 you. We are humans too.

10 Why are you so afraid of me,
11 Mr. Yarborough?

12 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Excuse me. Lola, I
13 asked people not to -- speak to the whole committee.
14 You can continue. Speak to the whole committee.

15 Seneca Bristol, followed by Zaide
16 (phonetic) Smith.

17 You're recognized.

18 SENECA BRISTOL: Can I ask a quick question
19 first?

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: No, ma'am. You may
21 make --

22 SENECA BRISTOL: Oh, okay.

23 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: -- a statement for 30
24 seconds.

25 SENECA BRISTOL: Sorry. I'm Seneca

1 Bristol, the vice president of the Youth Chapter
2 Women's Voices of Southwest Florida. And I'm here
3 to oppose this bill.

4 Let me make this very clear. Gender-
5 affirming care is not self-harm. It is life-saving.
6 You all makers have shown time and time again they
7 do not care about discrimination. That you only
8 support constitutional rights when suits your
9 agenda.

10 You are afraid of the new generation, plain
11 and simple. But let me remind you that this is land
12 of the free. Advocating for freedom means
13 advocating for the freedom of all individuals,
14 including us young people.

15 Don't hide behind the facade of freedom
16 until we are all truly free. Do not pass this bill.

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Zaide -- and I'm sure
18 I'm mispronouncing your name, but I think it says
19 Zaide Smith, followed by Theresa Jones.

20 You're recognized. If you would pronounce
21 your name, we do -- I --

22 ZAIDE SMITH: My name is Zaide Smith. I'm
23 here with Women's Voices of Southwest Florida. I
24 would like you to know that we brought children here
25 that came 6 hours and you gave them 30 seconds to

1 speak. That's embarrassing.

2 If our child is being strangled by
3 society's expectations, should we not remove the
4 noose. Calling supportive parents abusive is like
5 watching a person doubt a fire and then complaining
6 about the puddles. We're saving lives, and you are
7 taking lives.

8 You should all be ashamed that we are even
9 having this conversation, nonetheless that you're
10 letting children advocate for their own lives for 30
11 seconds. They're worth more than 30 seconds of your
12 time. I'm ashamed of you. Everyone in this room is
13 ashamed of you, and you should be ashamed of
14 yourself.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Let's --
16 all right.

17 Ladies and gentlemen, if you clap, I'm
18 going to have to ask you to clap outside this room.

19 Theresa Jones, you're recognized.

20 THERESA JONES: I'm Theresa Jones, and I
21 came from Ocala at three hours, just like everybody
22 else. But this-- let me tell you. God put babies
23 in our bodies. Nobody has the right to play God.

24 I support this bill. And by the way, I
25 heard you, guys, earlier. I'm a fourth-generation

1 black American, and I'm a Republican. We fight for
2 rights, ma'am.

3 This bill is a good bill to protect our
4 children. The government needs to keep their hands
5 off and when they turn 18, they do what they want.
6 Go to college and switch curriculums three times.

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you, ma'am.

8 THERESA JONES: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Sarah Parker, followed
10 by George (Indiscernible). Is Sarah Parker here?

11 Sarah Parker, you're up. Yeah. I know you
12 -- I missed you on deck opportunity. I apologize.

13 SARAH PARKER: I was trying to follow rules
14 because we got threatened to be banned forever.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. You're
16 recognized.

17 SARAH PARKER: My name is Sarah Parker.
18 I'm with Women's Voices of Southwest Florida.

19 I know that you don't -- you guys don't
20 like the way that we do things, but I want to remind
21 you, we take notes from the Boston Tea Party. We
22 take notes from the civil rights movement, we take
23 notes from the women's suffrage movement.

24 With that being said, if Dark Brandon and
25 the blue states decided that they were going to get

1 involved in your custody battles because you guys
2 don't want to vaccinate your children or your
3 custody battles because you teach your children vile
4 hate problems, what would you do? And whatever
5 you're thinking you would do times up by 10.

6 You call Women's Voices Southwest Florida
7 daddy now because every child in this room, I am now
8 the parent of. Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Sarah Parker -- you
10 were Sarah Parker. Sorry, Sarah.

11 SARAH PARKER: Always do that --

12 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Sorry, Sarah. George
13 (Indiscernible). I don't -- he is not -- he is
14 waiving in support of the bill. Oh, I'm waiving
15 now.

16 Ryan Kennedy, Florida Citizens Alliance is
17 waiving in support of the bill.

18 Jamie Merchant is waiving in support of the
19 bill.

20 Karen Woodall, Florida Center for Fiscal
21 and Economic Policy is waiving against the bill.

22 Barbara DeVane with Florida now is waiving
23 against the bill.

24 Gabe, initial I think it's either an I or
25 L, I'm going to think it's a I, is here. Is Gabe

1 here? Well, Gabe is waiving opposition of the bill.

2 Dalton Vanderford, followed by Leanne

3 Klumb, K-l-u-m-b.

4 And you are recognized.

5 DALTON VANDERFORD: My name is Dalton
6 Vanderford. Choices have consequences. Every
7 single choice you make does not affect your life
8 when you leave this building, but it affects every
9 single person that you are looking out at today and
10 thousands upon thousands upon thousands upon
11 millions in the world just like us. And we are not
12 going anywhere.

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Leanne Klumb. Here,
14 again, I apologize. So please state your name when
15 you get to the podium. Followed by Kelly Podracky
16 (phonetic).

17 You're recognized.

18 LEANNE KLUMB: Leanne Klumb.

19 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Klumb.

20 LEANNE KLUMB: My daughter, Annie, began
21 expressing a desire to dress like a boy from the
22 time she could put words together. The age of one
23 and a half.

24 My now son, Andy, once told me that before
25 he transitioned, he never thought he'd live to see

1 21 because he planned to kill himself.

2 My child did transition and receives --
3 currently receives this affirming care that's life-
4 saving. He's now 25 and finishing graduate school.

5 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Kelly Podracky,
6 followed by Alex Stanwood.

7 You're recognized.

8 KELLY PODRACKY: My name is Kelly Podracky.
9 I'm a lifelong resident of Florida, a taxpayer, and
10 a registered voter.

11 My husband and I have four children. Our
12 oldest child is transgender.

13 In his ninth grade year, we found the razor
14 he was using on himself because of gender
15 dysmorphia. He began his transition his ninth grade
16 year of high school. He is now in college on a full
17 academic ride. He is thriving. He is successful.
18 He is happy, and he is whole. I, please, appeal to
19 each of you to think of my child, to think of that
20 razor blade when you are talking about this bill.

21 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

22 KELLY PODRACKY: It literally saved his
23 life.

24 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Alex Stanwood, followed
25 by Lisa, last -- I mean, first initial last name, O.

1 So Alex Stanwood, you're recognized.

2 ALEX STANWOOD: My mother and father had a
3 custody battle when I was a kid. Before he won
4 custody, I stood on a bridge and told the police if
5 I had to go back with my abusive and unaccepting
6 mother, I would jump off the bridge.

7 If this bill had been in place the time I
8 transitioned, my mother got custody of me, I would
9 be dead right now.

10 When we say that our blood is going to be
11 on your hands, this is what we mean. This is
12 genocide, and this is the scars of someone that
13 cannot transition. Don't let this happen to another
14 kid.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Lisa, opposed -- waives
16 in opposition. Van Harms, followed by Denise
17 Barber. Is Van here?

18 You're recognized.

19 VAN HARMS: My name is Van Harms. I'm 24.
20 I would not be a 24 if it were not for gender-
21 affirming care. I'd be dead.

22 When I was two, I wanted to kill myself.
23 By the time I was 15, I attempted to slice my own
24 breasts off.

25 I went to the ER because I was bleeding

1 out. How do you conjure that up? How do you
2 explain that? This is a picture of my friend Dakota
3 Ren. Look at it.

4 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Van, you need to turn
5 your phone around. We don't bring -- we don't allow
6 pictures.

7 VAN HARMS: She killed herself because of
8 shit like this.

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Okay. You're excused.
10 Thank you.

11 Denise Barber. Jon Harris Mauer, you'll be
12 on deck.

13 You're recognized.

14 DENISE BARBER: Hi. My name is Denise
15 Barber, and I just wanted to say that I've lived in
16 Northwest Florida 67 years. It's about to be 68,
17 born and raised in Northwest Florida. And the
18 language in this bill is scary. It is horrific.

19 I have a 43-year-old trans son who lives
20 here in Tallahassee. Happy, married, got a kid. I
21 have a 15-year-old trans granddaughter who lives
22 here.

23 I am scared to death for them, scared to
24 death, and wondering if it is time that I leave my
25 home state where I've been --

1 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

2 DENISE BARBER: -- born and lived all my
3 life.

4 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

5 Jon Harris Mauer, followed by Melinda
6 Stanwood. You're recognized.

7 JON HARRIS MAUER: Equality Florida
8 fundamentally opposes Senate Bill 254.

9 You cannot pretend this is about parents'
10 rights when it overrides the decisions of affirming
11 parents. You cannot pretend there's a lack of data
12 when there's extensive scientific evidence.

13 You can't pretend this is about protecting
14 people who can't consent when it blocks care for
15 adults.

16 Each of you know a transgender person or
17 her parent. I hope that you will listen to those
18 people, those parents, and the parents you're
19 hearing today before you take this vote.

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Melinda Stanwood,
21 followed by Claudia Thomas. Claudia Thomas is here.
22 If you'll come underneath the clock, I'd appreciate
23 it. You're recognized.

24 MELINDA STANWOOD: Thank you. My name is
25 Melinda Stanwood. My husband and I are raising six

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1 beautiful children together. Two of them are
2 transgender, including my wonderful stepson, Alex.

3 This bill is both vague and hostile to
4 families like ours. Could someone see my child
5 perhaps wearing new clothes or using an unexpected
6 pronoun and decide that my husband and I need to be
7 investigated?

8 It's painfully ironic that parental rights
9 are supposed to be protected in our state for
10 parents while those rights are explicitly denied for
11 parents like myself. At the core of conservative
12 value should be the resistance of this type of
13 government overreach.

14 Why are our conservative leaders in Florida
15 silent --

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you --

17 MELINDA STANWOOD: -- on this?

18 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: -- ma'am. Thank you.

19 Claudia Thomas, followed by Ivy Lynch (phonetic).

20 Ivy Lynch is here. Please meet underneath the

21 clock. You're recognized.

22 CLAUDIA THOMAS: Thirty seconds. I'm going
23 to cut to the chase.

24 This bill and many others is not
25 specifically about -- well, it is about what it's

1 about, but the reality is, and you all know it.

2 I'm old enough to remember when parties
3 would submit legislation for good reasons, for
4 things their constituents care about that make
5 sense; taxes, lowering their rent.

6 These are culture awards and you all know
7 it. And I would love to think that there might be
8 one person on this panel who would have the guts to
9 stand up for your party, take it back to --

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

11 CLAUDIA THOMAS: -- the good conservative
12 party used to be and stop with this --

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Renee Davis will be
14 following Ivy Lynch.

15 And you're recognized.

16 IVY LYNCH: Senators, I urge you to look at
17 all the trans youth in this room and dare you to
18 tell them that they do not deserve healthcare. That
19 they do not deserve to live.

20 Every single one of them in here has
21 considered, is going to attempt, or has attempted
22 suicide, and that blood is on your hands.

23 My name is Ivy. This is my healthcare.
24 Fuck you and trans rights.

25 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're excused.

1 Ladies and gentlemen, we are not going to
2 use what is highly inappropriate language in a
3 professional setting. If it happens, then you will
4 not be invited back to speak at another committee.

5 You're recognized. So Renee Davis,
6 followed by Madison Hilt.

7 RENEE DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
8 name is Renee Davis, and I'm a woman who happens to
9 be transgender.

10 And at 2:00 in the morning last night, I
11 drove here in about six and a half hours, and I
12 prepared a large speech. I'm a research scientist,
13 an entrepreneur, a homeowner, a taxpayer here in
14 Florida.

15 Unfortunately, I'm not going to get that
16 time to discuss those things. So instead I want you
17 to just sit here and look at me and realize that
18 we're here. We're trans, and we're not going
19 anywhere.

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

21 RENEE DAVIS: Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Madison Hilt followed
23 by Paul Arons.

24 You're recognized.

25 MADISON HILT: Hello, members. My name is

1 Madison Hilt. I come to speak in opposition of this
2 bill. I would like to read you a section out of the
3 Bible, actually. "Blessed are you, when people hate
4 you and when they exclude you, revile you and defame
5 you on account of the son of man. Rejoice on that
6 day and leap for joy. For surely your reward is
7 great in heaven. For that is how the ancestors
8 treated at their prophets."

9 I'm a deacon in a Baptist church, and I am
10 transgender. You're taking away my choices for
11 healthcare, not just the children's, mine as an
12 adult. Just process that and talk to your trans
13 friends for a minute --

14 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

15 MADISON HILT: -- okay? Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Paul Arons, followed by
17 Shane Mahoney or -- Shane, last name begins with an
18 M.

19 Paul Aarons, you're recognized.

20 PAUL ARONS: Thank you. Good afternoon.
21 My name is Paul Arons. I've been an MD for 42
22 years, 25 of which were with the Florida Department
23 of Health.

24 This anti-science bill intrudes government
25 controls into private relationships between gender-

1 diverse Floridians and their families and their
2 healthcare providers, many in specialized university
3 environments who have spent whole careers developing
4 sensitive and nuanced expertise.

5 It also violates medical ethics and human
6 rights as is tested by members of the Florida
7 Bioethics Network and the human rights campaign.
8 Please withdraw this ill-advised, life-threatening
9 bill.

10 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Shane?

11 PAUL ARONS: Thank you for the opportunity
12 to testify.

13 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Could you please
14 pronounce your name?

15 SHANE MAHONEY: Okay, here.

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. You're
17 recognized.

18 SHANE MAHONEY: I would really appreciate
19 it if you could say what treatments are happening
20 rather than just sex reassignment treatments.

21 Also, the child exists. They aren't just
22 the parents' plaything. And it is absurd for the
23 state to automatically side with one of the parents
24 over the other because of their opinion on their
25 child receiving gender-affirming care. Also, look

1 at the goddamn photos of the --

2 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: All right. You're
3 excused.

4 Wendell Bader -- Badey (phonetic), followed
5 by -- I'm sorry. You're welcome to come to the
6 podium, followed by Caroline Pryor.

7 You're recognized.

8 WENDELL BADEY: Chair committee, thank you
9 for having us. Gender dysphoria is real. And WPATH
10 works as mentioned earlier.

11 I would ask that you reject this bill in
12 that why would a parent put their child through what
13 I spent 45 years self-medicating and, you know, some
14 don't make it.

15 I'm a parent. I'm a grandparent. I'd
16 whatever it meant to keep them alive. Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Caroline
18 Pryor, followed by Melia Orrell.

19 You're recognized.

20 CAROLINE PRYOR: Good afternoon. As a
21 foster parent, I have seen firsthand the stress of
22 the system on our children, our most vulnerable
23 being those LGBT youth in the foster system.

24 I'm a parent. I am also a queer parent.
25 And attacking trans youth and trans families is

1 wrong, and that is what this bill does.

2 I urge you to oppose this bill, voice
3 support for families that don't look like your own,
4 and to protect trans children and families. Thank
5 you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Melia
7 Orrell, followed by Shayani Quinn Cutliffe
8 (phonetic), I believe.

9 You're recognized.

10 MELIA ORRELL: Hi, my name is Melia Orrell.
11 I'm a mother and a foster parent. My daughter is
12 behind me in the stroller.

13 I've seen firsthand the harm done to
14 Florida children when their parents reject them
15 based on their identity, they end up dead, or they
16 end up in the foster care system. At the same time,
17 I've witnessed the life-saving power of accepting
18 children as they are.

19 Gender-affirming care is life-saving care.
20 Affirmative parents and medical professionals save
21 the lives of children. Gender-affirming care should
22 not be criminalized. Affirming and supportive
23 parents should not --

24 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

25 MELIA ORRELL: -- be penalized.

1 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. And I'm
2 going to ask you if you would be so kind as to
3 pronounce your name because --

4 SHAYANI QUINN CUTLIFFE: No worries.

5 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: -- I mispronounced it.

6 SHAYANI QUINN CUTLIFFE: My name is Shayani
7 Quinn Cutliffe.

8 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Shayani. Okay.

9 SHAYANI QUINN CUTLIFFE: And I'm a
10 homeowner.

11 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: (Indiscernible) the
12 time, please.

13 SHAYANI QUINN CUTLIFFE: No worries.

14 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: On deck -- I'm going to
15 put my on-deck person is Emma Roy.

16 Now, I apologize. You're recognized.

17 SHAYANI QUINN CUTLIFFE: Thank you. I'm
18 not going to spend my time pleading with you guys.
19 I'm just going to say this: if you support this
20 bill, you clearly didn't do your research, and you
21 didn't look at the science behind it; and you didn't
22 talk to the people.

23 I commend you, sister, but that man never
24 answered your questions. Real talk. And the fact
25 that you all can't answer people's real questions,

1 and the fact that you just sit here and stare at us
2 weirdly tell us all we need to know. You don't want
3 to know us.

4 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

5 SHAYANI QUINN CUTLIFFE: You just want to
6 be bigots.

7 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Emma Roy is followed by
8 Heather Wilkie.

9 You're recognized.

10 EMMA ROY: Emma Roy.

11 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: You're recognized.

12 EMMA ROY: I'm a trans parent. This law
13 ensures deaths near death and uncertain death from
14 cherry picked data. It violates my parental rights,
15 also human and children's rights.

16 Shame on you for a complete lack of empathy
17 and no conscience. Vote no.

18 Every trans youth, this monstrous law
19 hurts. You are loved and you enrich the world.

20 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Heather Wilkie? You're
21 recognized.

22 HEATHER WILKIE: Good afternoon. My name
23 is Heather Wilkie, and I'm a licensed mental health
24 counselor. I'm also a queer woman and a parent of
25 an eight-year-old child.

1 For the past eight years, I've led an LGBTQ
2 youth organization called Zebra Youth in Orlando,
3 Florida, where I've seen hundreds of youth come
4 through our services needing life-saving care, which
5 we've provided.

6 We've been able to take them and help them
7 through gender-affirming care. What we know
8 statistically is that over half of the youth, as
9 indicated here in this room, have attempted suicide
10 in their life if they are gender-variant. I beg you
11 to please stop the nonsense --

12 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you.

13 HEATHER WILKIE: -- and please let them
14 live their authentic lives.

15 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Annie Filkowski is
16 waiving in support. Stephanie Nolder, National
17 Association of Social Workers is waiving against.
18 Ashley Bailey is waiving in support. Stephanie
19 Nolder is waiving against. Rob Powers is waiving
20 against. Atticus Luby, L-u-b-y, is waiving against.

21 Grayson Powers is waiving against.
22 Jennifer Jane is waiving against. Jessica Powers is
23 waiving against. Hayden B. is waiving against.
24 Darren Ball is waiving against. Nicholas Machuca is
25 waiving against. Annie Filkowski, Florida Alliance

1 of Planned Parenthood Affiliates is waiving against.
2 Charlotte Keaton is waiving against. Parker Keaton
3 is waiving against.

4 I believe it's Cheryl Citeff, C-i-t-e-f-f,
5 is waiving against. Kevin Kempson is waiving
6 against. Cynthia Lacquer is waiving against.
7 Thomas Lober is waiving against. Robert Brown is
8 waiving against.

9 Avery Baylor is waiving against. Yenisbel
10 Vilorio is -- the State Innovation Exchange Action
11 is waiving against. NR Hines, ACLU, Florida is
12 waiving against. Lauren Kelly-Manders is waiving
13 against.

14 Victoria Throop is waiving against. Dana
15 Farmer is waiving against. Brian Marquez waiving
16 against. Jordan Rue waiving against. David Grann
17 with American Atheist, I believe is what it says, is
18 waiving against.

19 Aaron Keith is waiving against. Brittany
20 Williams also with American Atheist, is waiving
21 against. Corey Elaine DeSaaran (phonetic), I
22 believe, is waiving against. Heather McClain is
23 waiving against. Jackson Oberlink is waiving
24 against.

25 Kelsey Kliznik (phonetic), thank you, for

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1 the Pat Health is waiving against. K. B. Francis is
2 waiving against. Michael Barrett, Florida
3 Conference of Catholic Bishops, is waiving in
4 support.

5 Billy John Hill Bardof is waiving against.
6 Natalie -- is there a Natalie Fadawn (phonetic) from
7 Miami, Florida?

8 Is there Natalie from Miami in the room?
9 We have a written record that she is waiving
10 against.

11 Mary Green is waiving against. Sylvia
12 Weber is waiving against. Icarus Jasper is waiving
13 against. Luis Rodriguez is waiving against.

14 Raphael Acosta is waiving against. And I
15 have Annie Filkowski, the Florida Alliance of
16 Planned Parenthood Affiliates waiving against.

17 Senators, we are now in debate. Is there
18 debate on the bill? Is there debate on the bill?
19 You'd like to go? A debate?

20 Senator Davis, you're recognized.

21 SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
22 know we all have said a lot and heard a lot today,
23 so I'm just going to repeat some of the things I
24 think bears repeating.

25 We've heard that this bill restricts access

1 to gender affirming care. We've heard that it
2 creates a potential for depression. Some have
3 suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts. The target is
4 on the back of the queer community.

5 Treatment of gender affirming care is not
6 experimental, a transphobic, extreme overreach by
7 the government, and the side effect to not having
8 this care is suicide.

9 And so those were the words that speaker
10 after speaker after speaker said. And all I could
11 hear was, love me as I am. Love me as I am.

12 Words hold an incredible amount of power.
13 And that's something that I think this legislature
14 should remember. Trans people are around 0.6
15 percent of the population in the United States, but
16 are more than four times likely to be victims of
17 violent crime.

18 And as we sit here, it simply feels like
19 what we've done today with this legislation is
20 vilify who you are.

21 LGBT youth, particular, our trans youth
22 have significantly higher rates of depression,
23 homelessness, and suicide. They're sent to
24 conversion therapy or kicked out or abused, or if
25 they're lucky, they have a supportive family, like

1 we've heard over and over today who loves them as
2 they are.

3 It's a proven fact that providing support
4 for them, even as simple as social transition, can
5 reduce their likelihood of suicide attempts by 73
6 percent. And it's one in three kids right now.

7 However, 35 percent of our trans kids are
8 likely to, again, attempt suicide before they're 18.
9 We heard that over and over again.

10 In my opinion, this bill would not only
11 disregard those kids, it would reinforce that high
12 suicide rate. It would keep our children hopeless,
13 and it's simply cruel. I think we need to be
14 careful of the rhetoric we create by hearing and
15 passing bills like this.

16 There are children out there who believe
17 they are better off dead because of the lack of
18 support. And all you've said today is, love me as I
19 am. Trans kids are rare, but they do exist.

20 This bill would be a massive step backwards
21 because of -- because simply all this bill does is
22 put more kids in harm's way.

23 I personally feel like this bill is
24 unconstitutional, and so with all of that, I know
25 you all know I'll be voting against this bill today.

1 And I simply urge my colleagues that will be voting
2 in support of this bill to look at what we're doing,
3 to listen to what's been said to us. And all you
4 should have heard is love me as I am.

5 Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Shall debate.

7 Senator Book, you're recognized.

8 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
9 it's tough to go after my colleague, Senator Davis.
10 I'd like to push back on something that the bill
11 sponsors started with when introducing this bill.
12 And that is we want to protect kids.

13 We all want to protect kids. Let's be
14 very, very clear about one thing. I have spent my
15 life protecting kids. I will spend the rest of my
16 life and my time when I'm no longer in the
17 legislature protecting kids.

18 The parents and adults who are here with
19 these children today want to protect kids. It may
20 not look the way you think it should, but we all
21 want to protect kids.

22 We all believe in parental rights, don't
23 we? Their rights as parents are the same as yours.
24 They may not think the way that you do, but they
25 want to protect their kids the way that it is their

1 right to do.

2 We know and have heard time and time again
3 the suicide rights that exist for this population.
4 We have a responsibility to allow parents the right
5 to protect their kids the way that they see fit.

6 I believe it's an extreme overreach when
7 we're talking about adults, adults to receive
8 gender-affirming care, putting block after block
9 after block.

10 All we do in this committee is talk about
11 telehealth and access to care. In rural
12 communities, if you say it out of one side for one
13 group, it should be the same for the other. Come
14 on, come on. This is wrong. And it's an extreme
15 overreach.

16 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Additional debate?
17 Senator Osgood, you're recognized.

18 SENATOR OSGOOD: Thank you. You know, I
19 have been toiling back and forth. I had a
20 conversation with Senator Yarborough, who I believe
21 in his own right, is doing what he feel is right.

22 And I've gone back and forth. I've
23 listened. I've been very thoughtful and also very
24 prayerful. And I know some might not want to hear
25 that, but that's a part of who I am.

1 And I thought about this from a perspective
2 as a parent. Decisions I would make as it relate to
3 my own child. I thought about the protection piece,
4 do I look to protect the child from suicide now or
5 from potential side effects in the future? That I
6 don't have any answers to.

7 Certainly was disturbed by all the
8 criminalization things that come forth and just
9 thinking that we have to find a way to live without
10 making everything where someone ends up in jail.

11 Then I thought about the parents' rights,
12 and when I was taking the task, because I believed
13 within everything that I stood for, that I should
14 use a mask to protect kids in school against COVID.
15 And I was constantly told that I was violating
16 parents' rights and choices when I still think today
17 that I saved thousands and thousands of kids' life.
18 And I'm still being told that I violated parents'
19 rights and choices.

20 And as I think through this bill and I see
21 children and I see adults totally separate, I do
22 think that we get to some age of maturation that we
23 should make decisions and be responsible for the
24 outcomes of those decisions as adults.

25 And as I continued to read and do research

1 and talk to different individuals, think about my
2 stepdaughter that I raised that's of the LGBT
3 community, it's just -- it's not as black and white.

4 Just because I don't understand some
5 elements don't mean that I hate anybody. I love
6 people. I think that we all are doing the best we
7 can to live in this world one day at a time with all
8 of our differences.

9 Being an African American person, I
10 understand that I have experienced some pains that
11 many people in this room have not. It doesn't make
12 me wrong and them right or vice versa.

13 So as we try to move forward, I came to a
14 place where, as a government entity, I think that
15 there are some limits. I think there are absolutely
16 -- with the background in public administration,
17 there are absolutely some things that the government
18 should not interfere with. That some things are
19 moral decisions based on individuals and whatever
20 they believe or not believe about whoever their
21 higher being is. I subscribe to that
22 wholeheartedly.

23 And it's just very difficult to ignore
24 pain. I have too many unanswered questions that I
25 don't want to make a decision and make a decision

1 that could potentially hurt someone even further.

2 I have some strong moral beliefs and my
3 dilemma is I don't have a way of abstaining if that
4 was my choice. It's been taken away.

5 I just think that this is something that
6 we're faced with that has been around for a while.
7 But because we have failed to be inclusive in our
8 discussions, in our deliberating, in our trying to
9 understand that we don't have what we need to -- I
10 don't have what I need to make solid concrete
11 decisions, but I do think that it is far, far
12 overreaching.

13 But, again, I don't think that anyone is
14 showing hate. I believe in my colleagues that are
15 here that I don't think that anyone here has a
16 spirit where they're trying to intentionally harm
17 someone. And I want to be fair in saying that
18 because I think it's very important as we move forth
19 as legislators. I'm kind of just tired of all the
20 one party against the other thing. I haven't found
21 anyone here to be where they're trying to harm
22 anyone. Just because you have a different
23 perspective, it doesn't mean you're trying to hurt
24 someone or retaliate against someone.

25 But for my own personal belief, I do just

1 think that it's too far overreaching, and that's why
2 I'm not supporting the bill. Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Thank you. Additional
4 debate on the bill? Is there any additional debate?

5 Seeing none, Senator Yarborough, you're
6 recognized to close on the bill.

7 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam
8 Chair. Thank you members of the committee for
9 having this bill in front of you today.

10 Thank you. I wanted to say too, thank you
11 to everyone who took the time to come to today's
12 meeting. I know many of you waited for more than
13 two hours to speak, and I want you to know that I
14 have great respect for each of you, and whether we
15 align or differ on our opinions, the fact that you
16 came to share with the Committee is meaningful. So
17 thank you very much for that.

18 I also would like to address -- many
19 speakers mentioned instances of youth taking their
20 own lives or fearing for their lives. And I want
21 you to know or I'll just say speaking for me, your
22 life does have value. I reject the notion that an
23 individual's worth and dignity is limited to
24 whatever preference that they may choose with regard
25 to the topic that's before us today because it's not

1 limited to that.

2 Every person was created with extraordinary
3 worth, incredible value, and a unique purpose that
4 was from the time that they were created. You can't
5 change that.

6 Procedures and all of the other efforts
7 cannot fill the deepest needs in a human heart, and
8 they don't give you your worth and value because,
9 again, you possess that when you were created. In
10 fact, before you were even born, you've had those
11 traits.

12 So this legislation does not impact the
13 ability, we've talked about it of an adult in the
14 state to make a decision to pursue any treatment or
15 surgery related to sex reassignment.

16 And also, as we've discussed, the bill is
17 consistent with the Florida Board of Medicine and
18 Board of Osteopathic Medicines rules to restrict the
19 reassignment prescriptions and procedures for
20 children. That is the thrust of the bill.

21 The Physician Medical Board spent the past
22 eight months considering the research, listening to
23 experts, and hearing from the public, and they
24 determined these treatments to be harmful for minors
25 and the Board of Medicine's rule banning treatment

1 for minors was already set to go into effect this
2 Thursday, March the 16th. The bill codifies that
3 rule.

4 Additionally, as reported in the New York
5 Times in October of 2022, England's National Health
6 Service proposed restricting use of the drugs for
7 gender dysphoric children to research settings.
8 Sweden and Finland have also placed limits on the
9 treatment, concerned not just with the risk of
10 puberty blockers, but the steep rise in young
11 patients.

12 Adult patients, fully informed by their
13 physician and the nature and risks of sex
14 reassignment prescriptions and procedures, can make
15 a decision about these treatments for themselves,
16 and many here today have indicated that they have
17 made that decision.

18 The fact remains that when it comes to
19 children, these treatments are experimental.

20 As I said in my opening remarks, I believe
21 as lawmakers we do have to draw the line. When
22 drastic life-altering gender dysphoria therapies and
23 surgeries are being prescribed for children,
24 sometimes very young children.

25 I believe we need to let kids be kids and

1 our laws need to set appropriate boundaries that
2 respect the rights and responsibilities of parents
3 while protecting children from the very serious
4 health and safety concerns associated with these
5 treatments.

6 I respectfully ask for the committee
7 support of this bill. Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Onha (phonetic), please
9 call the roll on Senate Bill 254.

10 ONHA:

11 Senator Albritton.

12 (No audible response)

13 Senator Avila.

14 (No audible response)

15 Senator Book.

16 (No audible response)

17 Senator Broxson.

18 (No audible response)

19 Senator Burgess.

20 (No audible response)

21 Senator Calatayud.

22 (No audible response)

23 Senator Davis.

24 (No audible response)

25 Senator Garcia.

1 (No audible response)

2 Senator Harrell.

3 (No audible response)

4 Senator Osgood.

5 (No audible response)

6 Chair -- sorry. Vice Chair Brodeur.

7 (No audible response)

8 Chair Burton?

9 CHAIRWOMAN BURTON: Yes.

10 By your vote, Senate Bill 254 will be
11 reported favorably as a committee substitute.

12 (END OF REQUESTED PORTION)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the digital recording provided to me in this matter.

I do further certify that I am neither a relative, nor employee, nor attorney of any of the parties to this action, and that I am not financially interested in the action.

Julie Thompson

Julie Thompson, CET-1036

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