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1           Whereupon, the following proceedings were  
2 transcribed from an audio recording:

3           PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: We will now continue  
4 the order of business.

5           Are there reports of committees?

6           THE SECRETARY: None on the desk, Madam  
7 President.

8           PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Are there motions  
9 relating to committee preference?

10          THE SECRETARY: None on the desk, Madam  
11 President.

12          PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Are there messages  
13 from the Governor and other executive  
14 communications?

15          THE SECRETARY: None on the desk, Madam  
16 President.

17          PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Are there messages  
18 from the House of Representatives?

19          THE SECRETARY: None on the desk, Madam  
20 President.

21          PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Are there matters  
22 on reconsideration?

23          THE SECRETARY: None on the desk, Madam  
24 President.

25          PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Pick up the bills

1 on third reading.

2 Read the first bill.

3 THE SECRETARY: The committee substitute  
4 for Senate Bill 254, a bill to be entitled "An  
5 Act Relating to Treatments for Sex Reassignment."

6 PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: The Senator of the  
7 4th District, Senator Yarborough, is recognized  
8 to explain the bill.

9 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam  
10 President. Good afternoon to you.

11 Good afternoon, Senators. This is the  
12 bill related to treatments for sex reassignment  
13 that we discussed yesterday.

14 PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Are there any  
15 amendments?

16 THE SECRETARY: None on the desk, Madam  
17 President.

18 PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Is there debate on the  
19 bill?

20 Senator Polsky, you are recognized.

21 SENATOR POLSKY: Thank you, Madam President.

22 Best practices medical care for transgender  
23 youth is supported by every leading medical  
24 association, including the American Medical  
25 Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American

1 Psychiatric Association, the Endocrine Society, and  
2 the American Academy of Child and Adolescent  
3 Psychiatry.

4           In 2022, more than 220 bills  
5 disproportionately targeting LGBTQ youth were  
6 introduced in state legislatures through strict access  
7 to school sports, healthcare, books and inclusive  
8 curriculum, and the bathroom. None of these bills are  
9 based in facts or medical expertise or supported by  
10 medical professionals who treat LGBTQ youth.

11           Evidence is growing about the harm of these  
12 bills and other efforts to target trans youth. 85  
13 percent of transgender and nonbinary youth and 66  
14 percent of all LGBTQ youth say that recent debates  
15 about state laws restricting the rights of transgender  
16 people have negatively impacted their mental health.  
17 52 percent of trans and nonbinary youth seriously  
18 considered suicide in the past year, and one in five  
19 attempted suicide. 36 percent of LGBTQ youth reported  
20 being physically threatened or harmed due to their  
21 sexual orientation or gender identity.

22           If we really cared about making children's  
23 lives safer through this bill, we would regulate the  
24 use of gender reassignment here, not ban it.

25           There are so many people who take drugs off

1 label, but that's not why we're doing this. I know  
2 that we read through a bunch of the side effects, but  
3 there are so many drugs that do that.

4 Honestly, this is persecution, plain and  
5 simple. But it is safe, and it's just that's what  
6 you all are hiding behind to believe that this is the  
7 right thing to do for our kids.

8 Just like the Don't Say Gay bill, it's mean.  
9 It's hurtful. And it goes beyond the black-and-white  
10 words on the page. If this was about safety, why do  
11 we care about pronouns or drag shows? We're talking  
12 sexual orientation in school. That has nothing to do  
13 with safety, physical safety or physical wellness.

14 If this is just about safety and health, we  
15 would expand Medicaid. We would make sure that  
16 everyone had access to mental health if we truly  
17 cared, if that's what the bill was about. But just  
18 like the 220 bills across state legislatures targeting  
19 LGBTQ youth, this is another one.

20 And for the sake of our youth, I hope that  
21 everyone does not support this bill.

22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Okay. Any other debate?

24 Senator Stewart.

25 SENATOR STEWART: Thank you, Madam President.

1           Gender-affirming care is often critical  
2 health care for the well-being of transgender youth  
3 or any young person who is struggling to understand  
4 their gender identity or understand their sense of  
5 self. Young people shouldn't be barred from  
6 gender-affirming care, and they shouldn't suffer the  
7 burdens of being forced into a gender identity that a  
8 government decided for them.

9           While the majority of this bill focuses on  
10 children, there are also provisions that negatively  
11 affect adults, such as the ban on telehealth for  
12 adults receiving transgender health care and the  
13 weaponizing of Florida's courts to disrupt the custody  
14 agreements between parents if a child is receiving  
15 gender-affirming care.

16           This bill is very concerning to me and its  
17 effect on our young people, as well as the adults,  
18 and I'm not going to be able to support it today.

19           Thank you very much for the time.

20           PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Senator Berman.

21           SENATOR BERMAN: Thank you, Madam President.

22           You know, we talked a little -- I'm going to  
23 talk a little bit about children, but I'm also really  
24 concerned that this bill hurts transgender adults in  
25 our state. It bans telehealth for transgender adults.

1 It bans qualified nurse professionals from  
2 administering health care to transgender adults,  
3 which is something that's been going on for years.  
4 So why are we changing it now? And it bans local  
5 governments from authorizing health care to adult  
6 transgender employees. So this is not only a bill  
7 that hurts our transgender youth, but it is wrong for  
8 our transgender adults also.

9 And I will say free states don't ban health  
10 care. This state should not be stepping in to  
11 override parents' decisions about health care for  
12 their children. The bill strips Florida parents of  
13 the right to follow the evidence-based advice of  
14 health care providers to provide the best care for  
15 their transgender child.

16 As you've heard, leading national  
17 organizations support gender -- including the American  
18 Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological  
19 Association, and the American Medical Association  
20 support gender-affirming care for transgender  
21 children.

22 And this bill also, in addition to hurting  
23 children, could lead to the imprisonment of health  
24 care providers for providing widely accepted,  
25 medically necessary, and potentially lifesaving care.

1           This bill is wrong in the way it attacks  
2 transgender adults, wrong in the way it attacks  
3 parents' rights to raise their children, and wrong in  
4 that it puts medical professionals at risk. And  
5 I urge all of you to vote against it.

6           PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Further debate?

7           Senator Davis.

8           SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam President.

9           This bill has been hard to watch. It's  
10 been hard to ask questions on. But this legislature  
11 is taking a stance continually to vilify people who  
12 have done nothing wrong. They're not asking anything  
13 from us. They're only be asking to be allowed to be  
14 themselves. And in committee the words I said was  
15 they're asking for us to just simply love them as they  
16 are.

17           Every single person in this room has had the  
18 luxury to not think about their gender identity.  
19 Almost everyone here has had the luxury to not think  
20 about their sexual orientation because you were  
21 born in that way that society accepts. And that's  
22 kind of the point. We're born with our identity  
23 already engrained, and we have gender-affirming care,  
24 and we don't have to think about it.

25           But the things like Viagra, breast



1 augmentation, hair transplants, and other treatments  
2 already exist for people. But for those of us who are  
3 not transgender, it's just called health care.

4           If the debate was truly just about restricting  
5 genital surgeries to adults, that would be a different  
6 conversation, but that's not why we're here. It's  
7 gender-affirming care as the concept. The rates of  
8 mental illness are so much higher in our LGBTQ youth  
9 because people like us stand in rooms like this and  
10 tell them that they are unnatural and they're  
11 unlovable, that they are not allowed to live their  
12 lives in the way they view it fit. That is what  
13 causes 58 percent of our LGBTQ youth to be depressed.  
14 That's what causes near 40 percent of our trans youth  
15 to attempt suicide. And we know for a fact that  
16 gender-affirming treatments reduce their likelihood  
17 of suicide by 73 percent.

18           And yet we sit here as a legislature, and we  
19 hear bills like this, and we hear people tell us how  
20 unworthy they feel when we are discussing bills like  
21 this. And so I want to address everyone in this room.  
22 When I say someone is living a lifestyle that doesn't  
23 align with yours, it does not mean that they're wrong.  
24 And what we say here has the potential to be turned  
25 into dangerous, harmful rhetoric for people that are

1 listening.

2           And, again, I know I won't change anyone's  
3 mind in this room, but I know that there are people  
4 who are watching us and listening to every word we say,  
5 and all I want to say to them is we hear you, we  
6 see you, and we love you.

7           But with this bill being damaging rhetoric,  
8 as I feel it is, I will not be able to support it.  
9 And, again, I ask my colleagues to really think  
10 about and contemplate what we're doing here. This is  
11 a measure to continually vilify people who are simply  
12 different and living different than we are.

13           PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Any other debate?

14           Senator Thompson.

15           SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam  
16 President.

17           Senators, I am one of two children born to my  
18 parents. I'm the oldest. I had a younger brother,  
19 and I remember when he was nursing and he would be  
20 given a bottle, he would reach for the bottle with  
21 his left hand. And when he began to feed himself,  
22 he would grip the spoon in his left hand. And I  
23 remember my family being very concerned -- I was the  
24 big sister -- and they wrapped his left hand in cloth  
25 to try to force him to use his right hand. And when

1 he went to school, he would hold his pencil in his  
2 left hand, and he was disciplined for using the wrong  
3 hand.

4           When he grew up, he decided that he wanted  
5 to enter the trades, and he became a plumber, using  
6 his left hand. And he built a thriving business. He  
7 earned more than his big sister, who was a teacher,  
8 and he did this with his left hand.

9           And throughout his life, in so many stages  
10 of growing up, there were people who wanted him to  
11 conform. There was no one else in the family who  
12 used their left hand. In the school most of the  
13 students used their right hand, so they wanted him to  
14 conform.

15           And the point that I want to make today,  
16 Senators, is that we are not all wired the same. And  
17 I do not believe that my brother woke up one day and  
18 decided that he would be left-handed. It was  
19 biological. He came here left-handed, and no matter  
20 how many people, how many institutions wanted him to  
21 conform and wanted him to change, he was left-handed.

22           And he died young a number of years ago.  
23 He was 49 years old. And for 49 years, my brother was  
24 left-handed. And he did not function well in school  
25 when people tried to make his right hand his dominant

1 hand because he was left-handed.

2           And what we're talking about here this  
3 afternoon are children, children whose gender identity  
4 or expression doesn't correspond with the sex they  
5 were assigned at birth. I looked at my birth  
6 certificate recently, and on the birth certificate  
7 under "Race" was the word "colored." Someone  
8 assigned that category to me when I was born. And  
9 maybe that's who I was then, but that's not who I  
10 believe I am, and that's not who I am today. But  
11 people want to classify you and put you in the box  
12 where they believe that you belong.

13           So we're talking about children whose gender  
14 identity or expression doesn't correspond with the  
15 sex they were assigned at birth. And these are  
16 children who go through a lot of anguish trying to be  
17 what other people want them to be. But at a point  
18 they begin to adopt different pronouns and perhaps  
19 they seek hormone therapy. Maybe they seek surgery.  
20 And perhaps they are cross-dressing. And all of  
21 these things subject them to rejection. Rejection,  
22 discrimination, dehumanization, that's what these  
23 young people go through.

24           I shared in committee when this bill came up  
25 that I represent the community where the Pulse

1 nightclub was located in Orlando. And after 49 people  
2 were killed there I went to vigils; I went to marches.  
3 And one of the vigils that I attended was in a church,  
4 and there was a young Black woman there, and she was  
5 in tears. And I went to talk with her to see if I  
6 could comfort her, and I asked her what the major  
7 issue was. And she said, of course, she was mourning  
8 her friends who were killed at the Pulse nightclub,  
9 and she felt guilt that she was alive.

10 But she said more than anything else she was  
11 crying because it felt so good to be allowed in the  
12 church. And when I asked her what that meant, she  
13 said when she finally told people who she was, when  
14 she came out, she was expelled from her church, the  
15 place where you would expect to find acceptance and  
16 love and tolerance. She was expelled from church.  
17 And so she was crying because she felt a connection  
18 with the deity that created her in the image of the  
19 one who makes us, and she felt grateful to be in  
20 church. And she told me not only was she expelled  
21 from church, her parents put her out of the home  
22 because she told them who she really was.

23 And we've got to stop throwing our children  
24 away. We've got to begin to embrace our children and  
25 to understand that we're not all wired the same.

1           My brother was left-handed and remained  
2 left-handed throughout his life. And what we're  
3 doing here today has far-reaching consequences. When  
4 you can reject people and you start with words, you  
5 then begin to reject them in so many other ways.

6           Some of you may remember a young man named  
7 Matthew Shepard who was at a gathering of people, and  
8 he was visiting and socializing. And because of his  
9 mannerisms and his approach, he was kidnapped, taken  
10 from the location where he was, and he was nailed to  
11 a post, wrapped to the post and beaten savagely.  
12 Matthew Shepard. And a person on a bicycle came by  
13 and saw Matthew Shepard and thought he was a  
14 scarecrow, but the image moved, and he realized it was  
15 a human being. And he took Matthew Shepard to the  
16 hospital, but Matthew Shepard died. And today  
17 Matthew Shepard's family has the Matthew Shepard  
18 Foundation to teach love and tolerance and acceptance.

19           And you may remember a man named James Byrd  
20 who was walking home one evening, and two people  
21 passed him in a truck and decided that they would put  
22 chains around him. And they tied the chains to a  
23 pickup truck, and they drug James Byrd down the road,  
24 and he died.

25           And today the United States of America has

1 the Shepard-Byrd hate crimes bill because it starts  
2 with words; it starts with exclusion; it starts with  
3 rejection, and it ends up with genocide. People act  
4 on the messages that they hear in our society.

5 So I can't support this. I've said many  
6 times that, in the words of Frederick Douglass, I will  
7 work with anybody to do right and with nobody to do  
8 wrong. And so I will not cosign on this today. I  
9 will not cosign on vilifying young people who are  
10 trying just to be who they are, vilifying parents when  
11 they want to seek gender-affirming care, vilifying  
12 physicians who provide this care. I will not cosign  
13 on this today.

14 So I'm going to vote no, and I ask you to  
15 think about the far-reaching effects of what we're  
16 doing here if we can have a Shepard-Byrd anti-hate  
17 crime because one person was deemed undesirable,  
18 because he was viewed as being gay, if one person  
19 can be walking home, his only crime was walking while  
20 Black, and we're sending these kind of signals to  
21 people who will act on them. And so I will not be  
22 cosigning on this today.

23 We have accredited medical associations  
24 that support gender-affirming care. And instead of  
25 dealing with property insurance and so many other

1 things that we need to be focused on, we're banning  
2 books; we're prohibiting children from playing on  
3 certain teams or using certain bathrooms. And so  
4 while I will work with anybody to do right, I won't  
5 work with anybody to do wrong, and I feel this is  
6 wrong.

7 Thank you, Madam President.

8 PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Before we continue  
9 debate, we have a visitor in the chamber today, former  
10 Senator Victor Crist. Welcome back to the Florida  
11 Senate.

12 Senator Jones.

13 SENATOR JONES: Thank you so much, Madam  
14 President. And good afternoon, Members.

15 So, Members, let's be honest as we talk about  
16 this piece of legislation. One thing I want to  
17 acknowledge first is that I truly believe that the  
18 bill sponsor has no evil intent, and I truly believe --  
19 when he called me prior to this bill becoming -- him  
20 presenting it, he walked me through it. He said,  
21 Shev, this is about what I'm about to do, because he  
22 and I have that respect for each other that we had in  
23 the House. I really appreciate that, so I want to  
24 acknowledge that, Senator, so thank you.

25 And, Members, I also want to point out that,



1 you know, across the country -- Senator Polsky made  
2 mention of it -- there are a lot of all-out attacks.  
3 Of the many bills that have been filed across this  
4 country, over 200 of those bills attack our LGBTQ  
5 community. Today we're dealing with our transgender  
6 youth.

7           The bill sponsor has constantly said that  
8 we need to protect children, and I agree with that.  
9 I agree that we have to protect children at all costs.  
10 And I think reasonable minds and everyone in this  
11 chamber, we definitely agree with that. But I also  
12 want to acknowledge the fact that we have to ask the  
13 question of what children are we speaking about? Is  
14 it the protection of all children, the children like  
15 Senator Davis made mention of, and ensuring that these  
16 children can live, work, and play, and be their  
17 authentic selves?

18           I also want to acknowledge that I am clear  
19 that we all have our different views. We all have our  
20 different beliefs. But every time I come in this  
21 chamber, I have to check a lot of things at the door  
22 to ensure that the people who sent me here to fight  
23 for them, that I represent every last one of them,  
24 which leads me to making clear to this entire body that  
25 although while you might not know it, but you have not

1 just gay people who live in your district, but I'm  
2 sure you probably have some transgender men and women  
3 who live in your district also.

4 When we take that oath of office, we don't  
5 take the oath of office and say that, I'm only going  
6 to support the people who look like me, act like me  
7 and do like I do. We take an oath of office to say  
8 we are going to support and we will protect all people.

9 There has been this notion constantly  
10 mentioned in this chamber and also across the nation  
11 that for some strange reason that trans youth have  
12 some psychological problem or that they have some  
13 mental issue and that's why they are acting in this  
14 way.

15 I looked on Twitter yesterday. Someone who  
16 is an elected official in -- not in this body, but in  
17 the other chamber made mention of these individuals  
18 being mentally incapacitated.

19 Now, we all in this room can agree if someone  
20 said yesterday that when we pick these microphones up,  
21 not only do our words have power, but when we pick  
22 these microphones up, the people who are watching, who  
23 will see this, they have an expectation that we will  
24 truly be careful in how we use our words and how we  
25 carry ourselves when we're talking about some of

1 these issues such as this. And I will be honest,  
2 this is not an easy issue for us to come in this  
3 body to talk about because we have different views,  
4 because we have different beliefs.

5 It was made mention that these youth need  
6 to seek help professionally -- this was made mention  
7 yesterday -- and we should not look at totally  
8 forgetting the fact that these parents who are  
9 seeking -- when I offered the amendment, the amendment  
10 that I offered was, again, from a Republican-led  
11 legislator, by the majority leader, who was a  
12 doctor, who said that in some instances that some  
13 youth do come into a case to where they need this  
14 type of care. We voted that down.

15 In this case, though, we are talking about  
16 reassignment surgeries for children. Members in  
17 both committees, and even in this chamber, asked the  
18 question how many of these are actually happening  
19 here in this state? Just as silent as this room  
20 is right now, that's how many is happening. None,  
21 zero. There's none happening here in this state.

22 We talked extensively in the chamber about  
23 parental choice on a lot of things except this. Nope,  
24 not this. We say that we need to be in charge and we  
25 need to be the ones to tell parents what they need

1 to do with their child, and I think we can all agree  
2 that that's wrong.

3           Senator Polsky said there are these type  
4 of bills that we're speaking of, but she went on to  
5 make mention of the fact that the people who are  
6 following these types of legislations in these  
7 various chambers and how they are categorizing these  
8 young people. And I know we're clear where this bill  
9 is going to go today, and I know that it is going to  
10 pass. But my hope is that as we look over the next  
11 couple of days, as we talk through a lot of these  
12 bills that will be tough conversations, that we  
13 begin -- let Florida lead with debunking this whole  
14 concept of calling individuals who may support a  
15 parent's choice in how they want to care for their  
16 child. Let's be careful and push back when they  
17 call individuals like us groomers or pedophiles  
18 and all of these things.

19           We have different views, but I don't think  
20 that Senator Davis, Senator Thompson, or anyone else  
21 in this room who might think differently fall into  
22 that category.

23           The last few things I'll make mention of is  
24 something that one of the young people said when she  
25 visited my office. And she spoke about this bill, and

1 she said, This is just me. Have we thought about  
2 the young people who actually have friends and family  
3 who fall into this category who we're trying to  
4 silence or muzzle? Where do we want these young  
5 people to go? If we don't want them here in Florida,  
6 where should they go?

7 That's why Senator Davis just made mention  
8 of the rate of young LGBTQ youth who commit suicide.  
9 They're not committing suicide because they're not  
10 happy with who they are. They're committing suicide  
11 because of how they're treated. And do we want to be  
12 that type of body to where we're continually pushing,  
13 pushing, pushing these young people who might look  
14 different and they might not be like your child or  
15 anything? Do we want to continue to put legislation  
16 like this that is going to constantly make them feel  
17 bad and parents not feel supported?

18 My final thing I will say is this is there  
19 was a father who -- I wasn't in that committee, but  
20 he made mention of these procedures, and he basically  
21 said, This is not happening like you think it is.  
22 These young people go through and they try to process  
23 it with their parents. They try to process this with  
24 counsel. They try to process this stuff with doctors  
25 to figure out is this something that they want to

1 do, and they say it's a hard decision that they have  
2 to make. But it is the parents that's with them,  
3 not the Senate, not the Florida House that's doing it.

4 I'll read something to you, and then  
5 I'll take my seat. There was a quote that I just saw  
6 that came from Judith Light. She said that, you know,  
7 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, they are people.  
8 All they want to be is human beings.

9 These people just want to live their lives.  
10 They don't want to be bothered by us. They're not  
11 hurting anyone. And at the end of the day, I believe  
12 the parents, they will be more supportive if they can  
13 see us as someone or individuals who support them to  
14 support their child rather than us hindering them from  
15 supporting their child.

16 Thank you so much, Madam President.

17 PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Any other debate?

18 Senator Yarborough, you're recognized for  
19 closing.

20 SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you, Madam  
21 President.

22 I wanted to again thank all of the individuals  
23 who testified in our committee. Senator Jones just  
24 made mention of some of those individuals, and I  
25 realize that some of them traveled a great distance

1 to Tallahassee to provide their input. So thank you  
2 to each of them who traveled and helped us as we  
3 considered this issue.

4 I also wanted to say thank you, too, to our  
5 professional Senate staff who have been  
6 extraordinarily helpful in working through the details  
7 on this. They do an amazing job. So I wanted to  
8 tell them thank you.

9 Senators, thank you for your consideration  
10 of this bill and for your questions and the robust  
11 debate on the topic.

12 Madam President, thank you for your strong  
13 leadership and for entrusting me to work with you and  
14 our colleagues on this very important policy for our  
15 state.

16 Senator Thompson, before I make my other  
17 remarks, I wanted to acknowledge what you just said  
18 about Matthew Shepard and James Byrd. When you and  
19 I met a few weeks ago before the bill started moving  
20 in committees in your office, you were kind enough to  
21 give me the time. You mentioned to me the story about  
22 Matthew Shepard, which I had not heard until that  
23 time. And I would like to say about Mr. Shepard and  
24 Mr. Byrd, those are atrocious circumstances, and  
25 those should not have happened. Regardless, they

1 should not have happened. So I wanted to acknowledge  
2 that.

3           Senators, this legislation does not impact  
4 the ability of an adult in our state to make a  
5 decision to pursue any treatment or surgery related  
6 to sex reassignment. As we've discussed, the bill  
7 is consistent with rules by both the Florida Board of  
8 Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine that  
9 restricts sex reassignment prescriptions and  
10 procedures for children. These physician medical  
11 boards spent the past eight months considering  
12 medical research, listening to experts, and hearing  
13 from the public. They determined these treatments to  
14 be harmful for minors, and the board's rules went  
15 into effect March 16 and March 28, respectively.  
16 This bill codifies those rules.

17           Additionally, as reported in the *New York*  
18 *Times* in October of 2022, England's National Health  
19 Service proposed restricting use of the drugs for  
20 gender dysphoric children to research settings.  
21 Sweden and Finland have also placed limits on the  
22 treatment, concerned not just with the risk of puberty  
23 blockers, but the steep rise in young patients.  
24 Adult patients fully informed by their physician of  
25 the nature and risks of sex reassignment prescriptions



1 and procedures can make a decision about those  
2 treatments for themselves. The fact remains, though,  
3 that when it comes to children, these treatments are  
4 experimental.

5 As I said when introducing the bill, as  
6 lawmakers we do have to draw the line when drastic  
7 life-altering treatments and surgeries are being  
8 prescribed for children, sometimes very young  
9 children.

10 As a follow-up to yesterday's discussion,  
11 within 60 days the Board of Medicine and Board of  
12 Osteopathic Medicine must adopt rules pertaining to  
13 standards of care for minors who are continuing  
14 prescriptions and treatments under the grandfathering  
15 provisions of the bill. That was through an  
16 amendment that we adopted yesterday.

17 Senators, I believe we need to let kids be  
18 kids, and our laws need to set appropriate boundaries  
19 that respect the rights and responsibilities of  
20 parents while protecting children from the very  
21 serious health and safety concerns associated with  
22 these treatments.

23 And as a final word, Senators, Madam  
24 President, several members of the public and also  
25 some colleagues here made points about instances of

1 youth taking their lives or fearing for their lives.  
2 I want everyone to know that his or her life has  
3 value. The idea that someone's worth and dignity  
4 could come through prescriptions or surgeries could  
5 not be more untrue. Every person on this earth and  
6 every person who has lived before us and who will  
7 live after us, both children and adult, was or  
8 will be created with extraordinary worth, incredible  
9 value, and a unique purpose. This is true about every  
10 person before they're even born, and no one can change  
11 that. Procedures and all of these other efforts  
12 cannot fill the deepest need in the human heart.

13 With that, I close, and I ask for your  
14 support on this important bill.

15 PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: The secretary will  
16 unlock the board. Senators will proceed to vote.

17 Have all senators voted?

18 Have all senators voted?

19 Lock the board and record the vote.

20 THE SECRETARY: 27 yeas, 12 nays, Madam  
21 President.

22 PRESIDENT PASSIDOMO: Show the bill  
23 passes.

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF IOWA)  
COUNTY OF WARREN)

I, Terri L. Martin, Certified Shorthand Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically transcribe the foregoing audio recording to the best of my ability and that the transcript is a complete record of my stenographic notes.

Dated this 15th of August, 2023.

/s/ Terri L. Martin  
Terri L. Martin, CSR, RPR, CRR