

TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO RECORDING

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE GENERAL SESSION - FLORIDA CHANNEL

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Stenographically Transcribed Audio Recording By:  
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1           Whereupon, the following proceedings  
2 were transcribed from an audio recording:

3           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Read the next bill.

4           THE CLERK: By Health and Human Services  
5 Committee, Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee,  
6 Representative Fine, Representative Massullo, and  
7 others, CS for CS House Bill 1421, a bill to be  
8 entitled "An Act Relating to Gender Clinical  
9 Interventions."

10           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
11 you're recognized for a motion.

12           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

13           I move that CS for SB 254, a companion  
14 measure, be substituted for CS for CS for HB 1421  
15 and that the Senate bill be read a second time by  
16 title.

17           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine  
18 moves that CS for SB 254 be substituted for CS for CS  
19 for HB 1421 and the Senate bill be read a second time  
20 by title.

21           All those in favor, say yea.

22           All those opposed, no.

23           Show the motion adopted.

24           Read the bill a second time by title.

25           THE CLERK: By Health Policy and Senator

1 Yarborough and others, CS for Senate Bill 254, a bill  
2 to be entitled "An Act Relating to Treatments for Sex  
3 Reassignment."

4 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
5 you're recognized to explain the Senate bill.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

7 There's evil in this world, and we face it  
8 here today. CS for SB 254 would make it illegal to  
9 do certain medical treatments on children that have  
10 the result of amputating perfectly good body parts,  
11 as well as drugs that have severe physical effects,  
12 up to and including castration.

13 The bill also puts into place various things  
14 relating to adults, for example, cause of action and  
15 informed consent. I'm happy to get into it now or  
16 later, because I'll have an amendment that brings the  
17 bill largely in line with the House bill today.

18 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Are there any questions  
19 of the sponsor?

20 Any questions of the sponsor?

21 Representative Hinson, you're recognized  
22 for a question.

23 No questions on the amendment, just on the  
24 strike all per the amendments.

25 All right. Are there any questions from

1 members on the bill?

2 Any questions on the bill?

3 Are there any amendments?

4 THE CLERK: On the desk, Mr. Speaker.

5 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Read the first  
6 amendment.

7 THE CLERK: Representative Harris offered the  
8 following amendment, with title amendment, barcode  
9 311545, remove lines 83 through 333 and insert  
10 amendment.

11 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris.

12 And before you start explaining your  
13 amendment, please, we have 30 minutes. 30 minutes is  
14 the instruction.

15 I'm sorry. Representative Harris, you're  
16 recognized to explain your amendment.

17 Representative Harris, you withdraw your  
18 amendment? Show that amendment temporarily postponed.

19 Read the next amendment.

20 Read the next amendment.

21 THE CLERK: Representative Fine offered the  
22 following amendment, with title amendment, barcode  
23 256341, remove lines 83 through 370 and insert  
24 amendment.

25 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,

1 you're recognized to explain your amendment.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3 This amendment incorporates the majority of  
4 the provisions of HB 1421 into the Senate bill. So  
5 specifically what it would do is it would prevent  
6 certain medical procedures for minors, with clinical  
7 exceptions, including allowing a minor to continue to  
8 receive certain drugs until December 30 of this year  
9 if they had been receiving continuous treatment since  
10 January 1 of this year.

11 It provides various administrative and  
12 criminal penalties for those who choose not to follow  
13 the law.

14 It establishes requirements for informed  
15 consent for adults.

16 It prohibits the use of any funds by  
17 government entities for so-called gender clinical  
18 interventions.

19 It creates a cause of action for minors and  
20 adults and wrongful deaths for the estate or legal  
21 representative.

22 It prohibits the Department of Health from  
23 changing the birth sex on birth certificates for  
24 so-called gender identity changes and prohibits  
25 insurance companies from providing coverage for

1 so-called gender clinical interventions.

2 It requires physicians who provide this  
3 treatment to obtain medical malpractice insurance.

4 It adopts the Senate bill child custody  
5 provisions which grant Florida courts temporary  
6 emergency jurisdiction to protect a child from gender  
7 clinical interventions. It considers gender clinical  
8 interventions to be, quote, "serious physical harm,"  
9 end quote, for purposes of a physical custody warrant,  
10 and, you know, a few other sort of minor technical  
11 changes. But that is the amendment.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
13 having explained his amendment, Members, we're on  
14 barcode 256341. We're going into a previously  
15 arranged 10-minute structured -- 30-minute structured  
16 questions.

17 Representative Cassel, you're first in  
18 recognition for questions of the sponsor.

19 REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Speaker.

21 Representative Fine, referring to line 22 of  
22 your amendment, the bill refers to person. Is the  
23 bill referring to an individual person or does this  
24 also apply to corporate personhood as established  
25 in Citizens United?

1           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
2 you're recognized.

3           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: I think it would be  
4 any legal entity providing services on behalf of any  
5 such agency, whether it's an individual or a corporate  
6 person. I think your question is a good one.

7           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel,  
8 you're recognized for a question.

9           REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Speaker.

11           Representative Fine, turning your attention  
12 to line 24 of the amendment, you reference "not expend  
13 funds." What type of funds are you referring to in  
14 line 24 of the bill?

15           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

16           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
17 Any.

18           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel.

19           REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Speaker.

21           In follow-up to my previous question, so  
22 would your bill prevent a corporation from using  
23 private funds to provide or reimburse for gender  
24 clinical interventions?

25           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,

1 you're recognized.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3 I'm not sure how you get from there to  
4 there. Let me just read it, and we can talk about it:  
5 *A state agency, political subdivision, public*  
6 *post-secondary institution as defined in the law,*  
7 *or person providing services to or on behalf of any*  
8 *such agency, subdivision, or institution, by contract*  
9 *or other agreement or relationship, may not expend*  
10 *funds to provide or reimburse for gender clinical*  
11 *interventions as defined in this law.*

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel,  
13 you're recognized.

14 REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker.

16 In following up with regards to that, based  
17 on your definition of person, including corporations,  
18 will this bill prevent corporations -- for example,  
19 Coca-Cola, if they are a vendor of Miami Beach, would  
20 your bill prevent Coca-Cola from using private  
21 corporate funds to provide or reimburse for gender  
22 clinical interventions?

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
24 you're recognized.

25 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



1           It would for minors because you can't do it  
2 at all under this bill. I don't believe that it would  
3 for adults, I mean, again, assuming they go through  
4 the processes and procedures in this bill.

5           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel,  
6 you're recognized for a follow-up.

7           REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Speaker.

9           Turning your attention to line 148, the bill  
10 refers to health insurance policies. Are these health  
11 insurance policies issued by private companies or  
12 state-issued health insurance companies that the bill  
13 is referring to?

14           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
15 you're recognized.

16           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

17           And thank you. That is a good question.  
18 It is all health insurance policies.

19           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel,  
20 you're recognized for a follow-up.

21           REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23           Would this section of the bill prevent  
24 private health insurance companies from providing  
25 coverage to, then, individuals over the age of 18 for

1 gender clinical intervention?

2 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
3 you're recognized.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
5 And thank you for that question. To be  
6 clear, yes, it would.

7 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel,  
8 you're recognized again.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Does your bill  
10 mandate that insurance companies that currently  
11 provide this coverage and will stop writing this  
12 coverage as a result of this law return any unearned  
13 premiums or reduce premiums as a result of reduction  
14 of coverage of this bill?

15 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
17 Hopefully, in the panoply of things that  
18 insurance companies cover today, this is not a large  
19 percentage of it and would be a nominal amount in the  
20 grand scheme of what they underwrite. But, no,  
21 it would not do that.

22 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel,  
23 you're recognized for a follow-up.

24 REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker.

1           Your bill does not provide any reference to  
2           an agency or department that will oversee or enforce  
3           these provisions. What agency or department will  
4           oversee or enforce this ban of health coverage?

5           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
6           you're recognized.

7           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you. Thank you,  
8           Mr. Speaker.

9           It does not because how health insurance  
10          companies are regulated is already under state statute.  
11          This bill does not change that.

12          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel  
13          for a follow-up.

14          REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
15          Mr. Speaker.

16          Does current state statute regulate and  
17          dictate to insurance companies what type of coverage  
18          they provide?

19          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

20          REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you. Thank you,  
21          Mr. Speaker.

22          At times, yes, it does.

23          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Follow-up,  
24          Representative Cassel.

25          REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,

1 Mr. Speaker.

2 And this question is actually directed to  
3 Representative Massullo.

4 I had an opportunity to watch the March 22,  
5 2023, Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee where you  
6 mentioned that the reason why we are telling insurance  
7 companies that they can't provide this coverage is  
8 because you believe that these procedures are  
9 cosmetic.

10 Does the State of Florida already dictate to  
11 private insurance companies what they determine is  
12 cosmetic versus elective versus necessary?

13 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
14 you're recognized.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Speaker.

17 What is cosmetic is not covered by insurance.  
18 I don't know of any insurance company that covers  
19 cosmetic procedures.

20 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel,  
21 you're recognized for a follow-up.

22 REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Speaker.

24 And thank you, Representative Massullo, for  
25 that answer.

1           Is that currently a business decision that  
2 insurance companies are making, or is that currently  
3 dictated by state statute?

4           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: You're recognized for  
5 an answer, Representative Massullo.

6           REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Speaker.

8           That is currently a business decision.

9           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Cassel,  
10 you're recognized.

11          REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Speaker.

13          Does your bill provide any additional funding  
14 or resources for mental health services to be provided  
15 as a result of this bill?

16          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
17 you're recognized.

18          REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

19          It does not. The legislature does  
20 appropriate a substantial amount for mental health  
21 funding, but I do think that that is something that  
22 Representative Massullo and I do have interest in  
23 trying to do.

24          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Follow-up,  
25 Representative Cassel. You're recognized.

1           REPRESENTATIVE CASSEL: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Speaker.

3           And this will be my last question. But just  
4 for clarification, I appreciate your future intent,  
5 but does this bill provide any additional resources  
6 or funding to children for mental health services  
7 or resources?

8           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
9 you're recognized.

10          REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

11          This bill in no way affects the ability of  
12 a child to get mental health services. The status quo  
13 as it relates to mental health services for dealing  
14 with gender dysphoria is not changed. It is not  
15 limited. It's not increased. It's not decreased  
16 at all in the bill as written today.

17          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Members, stop the clock.

18          Before we go to Representative Rayner-Goolsby,  
19 Representative Payne has an introduction in the  
20 gallery.

21          Representative Payne, you're recognized.

22          REPRESENTATIVE PAYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

23          Members, please join me in welcoming a good  
24 friend of mine from Putnam County, Clerk of Court  
25 Matt Reynolds. Welcome to the Florida House, Matt.

1           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Welcome to the Florida  
2 House.

3           Representative Rayner-Goolsby, you're  
4 recognized for a series of questions.

5           REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you so  
6 much, Mr. Speaker. And it's so good to see you  
7 up there today.

8           So I want to -- Representative Fine, with  
9 respect to your amendment, starting on page 1, line 5,  
10 it says *being subjected to gender clinical*  
11 *interventions as defined in*, and then it lists the  
12 statute that I believe would be added.

13           Could you define "gender clinical  
14 interventions" for me?

15           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
16 you're recognized.

17           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: It says: *As defined*  
18 *in section 456.521*. I can -- if you give me a minute,  
19 I don't mind stopping the clock.

20           It's page 4, so it actually tells you where  
21 to look. And maybe I'll just read it: *For the*  
22 *purposes of this section, gender clinical*  
23 *interventions means procedures or therapies that*  
24 *alter internal or external physical traits for the*  
25 *purpose of affirming a person's perception of his or*

1 her sex if that perception is inconsistent with  
2 the person's sex at birth. The term includes, but is  
3 not limited to: One, sex reassignment surgeries or  
4 any other surgical procedures that alter primary or  
5 secondary sexual characteristics; and, two,  
6 puberty blocking hormone and hormone antagonistic  
7 therapies.

8 And, B -- I'm not going to read all of  
9 these, but it says the term does not include a  
10 number of things. I'm happy to read that too if  
11 you'd like.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
13 Rayner-Goolsby for a follow-up.

14 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker. And thank you for that answer,  
16 Representative.

17 On line 13 of your amendment, it says:  
18 *When the child is likely to imminently suffer --*  
19 *and then on the next page, on line 14 -- serious harm*  
20 *or removal from the state.*

21 What does "imminently suffer" mean? Can you  
22 define that?

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
24 for a definition of imminently suffer.

25 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



1           In this process, where you underline or  
2     strike out something, that's what the amendment is.  
3     What you're describing is something that we are not  
4     modifying in this amendment.

5           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
6     Rayner-Goolsby for a follow-up.

7           REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you,  
8     Mr. Speaker.

9           And thank you for explaining the process to  
10    me, Representative Fine.

11          I want to turn to Chapter 39.01(f), and that  
12    particular statute addresses medical neglect. How  
13    does your bill comport with that portion of this  
14    statute?

15          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

16          REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

17          I mean, we'll have to pull that statute. I  
18    can have staff try to go and pull that statute for us,  
19    and we can answer that question later, but -- I don't  
20    generally bring all Florida statutes with me to the  
21    floor of the House.

22          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: A follow-up by  
23    Representative Rayner-Goolsby.

24          REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you so  
25    much, Mr. Speaker.

1           And, actually, if you could have staff pull  
2           that because, actually, your bill affects Chapter 39  
3           and also Chapter 61.13.

4           So I would like to maybe come back when  
5           Representative Fine has had the opportunity to  
6           actually review the statute that his bill impacts.

7           Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

8           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Are there other  
9           questions of the sponsor?

10          Other questions of the sponsor?

11          Representative Eskamani, you're recognized  
12          for a series of questions.

13          REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
14          Mr. Speaker.

15          Representatives, are puberty blockers and  
16          hormone therapies safer for minors when used to treat  
17          precocious puberty and other conditions in contrast  
18          when they're used for gender dysphoria? What is  
19          your opinion on that, Doctor?

20          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
21          you're recognized for an answer.

22          REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
23          Mr. Speaker.

24          Any medication has side effects and risks.  
25          These particular medications are very, very risky,

1 and they have a lot of long-term side effects,  
2 whether they're used for any particular condition.

3 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
4 you're recognized.

5 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Speaker.

7 So thank you for that. What is the State's  
8 compelling interest in discriminating between the  
9 parents of a nontransgender 16-year-old who has a  
10 right to access such medication for whatever their  
11 diagnosis is in contrast to a transgender 16-year-old  
12 who your bill is going to ban from getting the same  
13 type of healthcare that the child is deemed medically  
14 necessary to need?

15 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

17 This bill does not discriminate what parents  
18 can get for their children for the purposes that we've  
19 laid out in this bill. All parents can get them for  
20 all children if they're one of those specific  
21 conditions that we have recognized here.

22 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Speaker.

25 What about parents of a trans child? Are

1 they able to access the medication they need to be  
2 happy, safe, and strong?

3 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
4 you're recognized.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
6 You're not going to like the answer, but we  
7 reject the premise of the question.

8 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani  
9 for a follow-up.

10 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you.

11 Could you explain to me why you reject the  
12 premise of the question?

13 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Another question,  
14 Representative Eskamani. You're recognized.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Sure, Mr. Speaker.  
16 Does your bill contemplate the existence of  
17 trans people?

18 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
19 you're recognized.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Speaker.

22 Our bill doesn't address the existence of  
23 trans people.

24 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative, you're  
25 recognized for a follow-up.

1           REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Speaker.

3           Does your bill eliminate access to health  
4 care for trans people?

5           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

6           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Our bill says two  
7 things. It says that consenting adults who are over  
8 the age of 18 can do whatever they want relating to  
9 these issues so long as they pay for it themselves.

10           And then as it relates to minors, it says  
11 that minors should not be making decisions relating  
12 to gender dysphoria that can have life-altering,  
13 long-term, irreversible conditions. That's what the  
14 bill does.

15           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
16 you're recognized.

17           REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Speaker.

19           You mentioned that as long as adults pay for  
20 it themselves that they can still access services.  
21 Do adults pay for their own insurance coverage in the  
22 private market?

23           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
24 you're recognized.

25           REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,

1 Mr. Speaker.

2 Yes, adults pay for their own insurance  
3 coverage or it's paid for by their employer. However,  
4 that is for health insurance. We believe these are  
5 cosmetic procedures and not necessarily related to  
6 their health.

7 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Speaker.

10 So just to kind of pair those two answers  
11 together, adults can't do everything if they pay  
12 for it themselves because you're prohibiting insurance  
13 coverage that they pay for from accessing care that  
14 they need?

15 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
16 you're recognized.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

18 We reject the premise that if someone else  
19 isn't required to pay for it for you that you cannot  
20 access it yourself.

21 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani.

22 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Speaker.

24 Does your bill contemplate individuals who  
25 are low wealth who can't afford to access services

1 out of pocket, despite they have insurance coverage?  
2 Is there any contemplation of people who can't afford  
3 that type of care out of pocket?

4 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

6 As with other cosmetic surgeries, that is up  
7 to the individual to figure out how to make that  
8 happen.

9 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Follow-up,  
10 Representative Eskamani. You're recognized.

11 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Speaker.

13 Could you just expand upon more -- what  
14 portions of your bill specifically impact transgender  
15 adults?

16 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
17 you're recognized.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: I mean, it's an 11-page  
19 amendment. I mean, I think -- I'll talk about how  
20 the bill deals with adults. Again, I reject the  
21 premise of your question. But what it does say as it  
22 relates to adults is it establishes requirements for  
23 informed consent so that they know what they are  
24 doing, and they've got to sign off on certain things.  
25 It does say the government can't pay for it. It does

1 create a cause of action if that adult [inaudible]  
2 over the decision they may have made. It does say  
3 they can't change their birth certificate. It does  
4 prohibit insurance companies from covering it. It  
5 requires physicians who do it for adults to get  
6 medical malpractice insurance which, remarkably,  
7 they don't have to have today.

8 So those are things that it would do relating  
9 to adults. But what it does not do is say that anyone  
10 over the page of 18 cannot get any of these procedures  
11 if they so choose.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
13 do you have a follow-up?

14 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: I do, Mr. Speaker.

15 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: You're recognized.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you.

17 Shifting gears a little back to parents,  
18 how does the bill impact the rights of parents if they  
19 get a diagnosis of gender dysphoria from a doctor,  
20 whether it's -- maybe they got that diagnosis outside  
21 of Florida, but they moved to Florida or it happened  
22 in Florida, but how does this impact a parent's rights?

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
24 you're recognized, or Representative Massullo.

25 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.



1           If Representative Massullo wants to add  
2 something, he can. I'd just say it doesn't affect the  
3 right of a parent to get their child treated by a  
4 licensed psychologist or psychiatrist for that  
5 psychiatric condition.

6           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
7 anything to add?

8           REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: No. I would  
9 concur with that answer.

10          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani  
11 for another follow-up.

12          REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Speaker.

14           But to be clear, if a doctor recommends  
15 puberty blockers or hormone replacement therapy,  
16 that's no longer going to be available in the state  
17 of Florida, even in clinical trials?

18          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo.

19          REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Speaker.

21           Hopefully, if this bill becomes law, yes.

22          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani.

23          REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Speaker.

25           I understand that some of my questions have

1 been rejected. So maybe you can just tell me, what  
2 population of people do you consider to be most  
3 impacted by this bill?

4 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: I think this bill  
6 protects children from making decisions that would  
7 have irrevocable, life-changing consequences in their  
8 lives. I think this bill protects our kids, as do a  
9 number of the things that we're trying to do this  
10 session.

11 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
12 you're recognized.

13 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Speaker.

15 Is there a specific population who needs  
16 gender-affirming treatment under y'all's' opinion?

17 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
18 you're recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Speaker.

21 Yes, there are certain individuals -- and,  
22 unfortunately, that number of individuals has  
23 increased exponentially in recent years -- that need  
24 gender-affirming care to affirm the gender of their  
25 birth.

1 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
2 you're recognized.

3 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Speaker.

5 Do you have no concern for the mental health  
6 consequences of the statement you just made with  
7 someone being forced to fit into an identity that they  
8 do not reflect and they've been diagnosed otherwise?

9 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
10 you're recognized.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you.

12 I don't know of any diagnosis where someone  
13 is actually diagnosed to be something that they're not  
14 physiologically. I know of diagnoses where people  
15 think and have beliefs that they believe they're  
16 something that they're not.

17 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
18 you're recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Speaker.

21 Are you advocating for a conversion therapy  
22 as the option for someone who's been diagnosed with  
23 gender dysphoria?

24 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine, I  
25 don't believe that's in the bill, but answer if you

1 can, please.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

3 The bill does not require or necessitate  
4 anyone to go backwards or undo what it is that they  
5 have done. So if you've gotten one of these surgeries  
6 or whatever the impacts of these drugs are, we don't  
7 require you to go and attempt to get it undone,  
8 although we have met with a number of people who wish  
9 they could.

10 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
11 you're recognized.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Speaker.

14 You just said it doesn't force anyone to,  
15 you know, quote, "undo something." But I am curious,  
16 if someone loses insurance coverage for  
17 gender-affirming treatment, what are their options if  
18 they can't afford treatment without insurance  
19 coverage?

20 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine or  
21 Representative Massullo, you are recognized.

22 Representative Fine.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

24 I'm happy to answer that. However,  
25 Dr. Massullo and I are not aware of insurance coverage

1 that covers this today. So I'm not sure what coverage  
2 would, quote/unquote, "be lost." Maybe it exists, but,  
3 again, we believe fundamentally that -- I'll explain  
4 the rationale behind this.

5 Health insurance is generally not a free  
6 market. It's not like auto insurance where there's 12  
7 companies and you can pick which one you want and  
8 you could say, Well, I want a coverage that  
9 covers this or that.

10 Health insurance, oftentimes you only have  
11 one choice. It's what your employer is going to  
12 provide you. Look at us, We have, like, two. And so  
13 we do not believe that individuals should be forced  
14 to pay for these sorts of treatments by other adults.  
15 That is the motivation behind the bill.

16 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
17 you're recognized.

18 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Speaker. This is my last question.

20 So you just said that you don't think there's  
21 any private insurance companies that provide coverage  
22 for gender-affirming care. Just so -- I don't want to  
23 put words in your mouth. Is that what you said, that  
24 there are no private insurance companies that provide  
25 gender-affirming care? And if there are, which

1 ones and how many people are impacted?

2 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
3 you're recognized.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

5 What I said is we're not aware of any.  
6 There's lots of insurance companies. They may exist  
7 out there. But what I tried to explain was our  
8 premise, which we do not believe people should be  
9 forced to pay for this for others, which is what  
10 happens given the way health insurance works today  
11 in the United States.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Follow-up?

13 Representative Harris, you're recognized for  
14 a series of questions.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you so much,  
16 Mr. Speaker.

17 The Florida Constitution enshrines the  
18 right to privacy. How are infringing on medical  
19 decisions made between parents and minor children and  
20 criminalizing such decisions not a violation of  
21 privacy?

22 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
23 you're recognized.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker.

1           There are several different criminal types of  
2 incidences that parents can inflict on their children.

3           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
4 you're recognized.

5           REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: This is about medical  
6 decisions between them and a medical doctor.

7           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
8 you're recognized for an answer.

9           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
10           I don't think anything in this bill has to do  
11 with privacy. I mean, it can have to do with other  
12 things that I understand and respect that you may not  
13 like. But as it relates to privacy, I don't think  
14 this bill has anything to do with privacy.

15           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
16 you're recognized.

17           REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Speaker.

19           What basis does the Florida Legislature have  
20 for overriding out-of-state child custody decrees in  
21 light of the Full Faith and Credit Clause?

22           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
23 you're recognized.

24           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

25           We have the obligation to protect children,

1 so some of you may have seen recently -- and we'll  
2 probably talk about it tomorrow -- that the State  
3 of Washington basically said that children can get  
4 taken away from their parents if their parents have  
5 an issue with this sort of thing. We believe --  
6 as much as the State of Washington believes in taking  
7 children away from parents who have a concern about  
8 this, we believe in protecting the rights of parents  
9 to keep this from happening to their children.

10 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
11 you're recognized.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Does that include  
13 protecting rights of parents who are giving their  
14 child medically prescribed treatment that is also  
15 endorsed by organizations like the APA, the AMA,  
16 which are organizations, by the way, that we  
17 referenced in a previous bill about what time children  
18 should be starting school?

19 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
20 you're recognized.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: I'm going to ask you  
22 to restate the question because you're sort of  
23 mixing metaphors. So on one we're talking about  
24 custody, and the other one we're talking about  
25 treatment.



1           For what it's worth, the custody provisions  
2 would only matter if one of the two parents did not  
3 agree. And so that's how you resolve that dispute.  
4 There would be no custody dispute if both parents  
5 felt the same way.

6           If you want to ask a question about treatment,  
7 we're certainly happy to answer that.

8           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Did that answer your  
9 question, Representative Harris? You're welcome to  
10 follow up.

11           REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Speaker.

13           Actually, I was going to ask a different  
14 question. This is about birth certificates. So  
15 there is lines in the bill, 69 to 74, that denies  
16 people the right to change their birth certificate.

17           Why does this bill only target transgender  
18 people regarding birth certificates?

19           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Dr. Massullo, you're  
20 recognized for an answer.

21           REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23           It doesn't target any particular set or  
24 population of people. As a matter of fact, it allows  
25 for change in birth certificates based on a scrivener

1 error and also for some individual that may have  
2 some sort of chromosomal abnormality to where their  
3 biologic sex isn't actually apparent at birth.

4 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

6 And if you want to give someone else a  
7 chance to ask questions and come back, the amendment  
8 that we're talking about, lines 69 to 74, don't have  
9 anything to do with birth certificates. However, the  
10 underlying view is we believe in biology and you  
11 cannot change that.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
13 you're recognized for another follow-up.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker.

16 What is the State's compelling interest  
17 to interfere with mature, well-informed, consenting  
18 adults' freedom to make these sort of decisions for  
19 themselves?

20 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
21 that one has been asked and answer.

22 Do you have another question? I'm happy  
23 to entertain it.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: No, not right now.

25 Thank you.

1           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Hart,  
2 you're recognized, and then we'll go to Representative  
3 Hinson.

4           REPRESENTATIVE HART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
5           Representatives, I was just wondering, how  
6 will this impact the people who are currently in our  
7 prison system who are receiving these drugs?

8           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

9           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
10          We would not allow the state funds to go  
11 to this sort of thing.

12          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Hart.

13          REPRESENTATIVE HART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
14          So are they going to get some other form of  
15 treatments, counseling? Are we putting money into  
16 place to be able to help them transition from not  
17 having these drugs?

18          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

19          REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
20          This -- I don't know how medical decisions  
21 work in prison, but what I will say is this. This  
22 bill does not affect the funding for prison health  
23 care. So, theoretically -- these drugs we have been  
24 told are quite expensive, and these surgeries can be  
25 expensive. We're not taking that money away, so,

1 theoretically, that money will be freed up, and they  
2 could use it to do more psychiatric or psychological  
3 services. This bill does not cut prison health care  
4 funding in any way. It does say they couldn't do  
5 it. But whatever they're spending on that, they  
6 could then go spend, theoretically, on something else.

7 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Hart,  
8 you're recognized for a follow-up.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HART: Thank you.

10 So I just want to make sure I understand.  
11 They will no longer be able to utilize any state  
12 funding in the prisons for their meds?

13 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
14 you're recognized.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Speaker.

17 Representative Hart, they won't be allowed  
18 to use state funding for those medications, for those  
19 particular treatments.

20 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Hinson,  
21 you're recognized for a question.

22 There's 4 minutes and 19 seconds left in  
23 this period.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HINSON: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker.

1           Representatives, what health care providers  
2 besides physicians licensed under Chapter 458 and  
3 459 currently deliver gender-affirming care?

4           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo.

5           REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Speaker.

7           Nurse practitioners oftentimes do and  
8 sometimes physician assistants.

9           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Hinson,  
10 you're recognized for a follow-up.

11          REPRESENTATIVE HINSON: Thank you.

12          What sort of certifications do these  
13 providers hold, and what therapies are they able to  
14 provide?

15          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
16 you're recognized.

17          REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Speaker.

19          They're licensed in Florida by the particular  
20 boards of their specialty, and they are allowed  
21 to prescribe medications.

22          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: One more question.  
23 Representative Hinson, you're recognized -- two more  
24 questions. Representative Hinson, you're recognized.

25          REPRESENTATIVE HINSON: Thank you,

1 Mr. Speaker.

2 What is the State's compelling interest in  
3 now, after decades of practice, banning nurses from  
4 delivering this health care to adults?

5 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Speaker.

8 We believe this particular type of treatment  
9 is such that a physician should be the one  
10 administering it.

11 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Hinson.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HINSON: Finally --  
13 Mr. Speaker, thank you -- will parents of transgender  
14 children under 12 be charged with a sex offense  
15 for a gender-affirming treatment?

16 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
18 No. There's no criminalization of parental  
19 behavior under this bill.

20 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Plakon,  
21 you're recognized for a question with 2 minutes and  
22 44 seconds left.

23 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Speaker.

25 I have a question for Dr. Massullo.

1           How would a doctor ever know if a child is  
2 really consenting to a sex reassignment or if the  
3 parents just wished they had a child of the other  
4 gender?

5           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo.

6           REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Speaker.

8           Children in our particular culture do not  
9 consent under the age of 18.

10          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Are there any further  
11 questions in the remaining time?

12          Any further questions?

13          Representative Eskamani, you're recognized.

14          REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker.

16          During the committee process, many members  
17 of the public spoke in opposition to this bill,  
18 including members who feel like and know they're  
19 directly impacted and they identify as trans. And so  
20 what is your feedback response to those who are  
21 worried about their ability to live in the state of  
22 Florida if and when this bill becomes law?

23          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
24 then Massullo.

25          REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1 I would say if they're adults, they can  
2 continue to do what they've always done; they just  
3 can't expect other people to pay for it. And if  
4 they're children, we believe these kind of  
5 life-altering decisions need to wait until  
6 they're adults.

7 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Any follow-up,  
8 Representative Massullo?

9 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Speaker.

11 And we also, in addition to that, want to  
12 make sure that those adults understand the risks and  
13 consequences of the treatments that they're currently  
14 involved in and what they may in the future be  
15 involved in surgically.

16 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
17 for the last question of the segment.

18 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Speaker.

20 Can you name for me any other medical  
21 procedure beyond abortion that is as heavily  
22 regulated as what you are doing and proposing today  
23 in the state of Florida through statute, not  
24 business decisions, but statute?

25 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,



1 you're recognized.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3 One of the challenges of this is this isn't  
4 really regulated at all today. So we are attempting  
5 to put in place a framework that says that there is  
6 emerging research that talks about the danger of a  
7 lot of this stuff. If you're an adult and you're a  
8 consenting adult, have at it. But for children, the  
9 research continues to show -- as we see other countries  
10 around the world pull back on these things and say,  
11 Whoa, we went too far. This is a problem. We don't  
12 want those same problems to be happening here in  
13 Florida.

14 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: One more. We have time  
15 for one more.

16 Representative Eskamani, you're recognized.

17 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Speaker.

19 There's some researchers that say that breast  
20 implants are dangerous. Has this legislature taken  
21 any policies in the past to ban breast implants or  
22 restrict breast implants for those who wish to  
23 enlarge their breasts?

24 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
25 you're recognized.

1           REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Speaker.

3           Any medical procedure has risks and benefits.  
4 Breast implants are not considered in this bill in  
5 the scope that we're trying to basically gauge the  
6 legislation.

7           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Members, time has  
8 expired on the questions of the sponsor for CS for  
9 SB 254, the barcode 256341, the House amendment by  
10 Representative Fine. We are going to entertain  
11 amendments to the amendment.

12           When we do, Members, we're going into  
13 structured debate, and the amendatory process on this  
14 bill, there's 26 -- 26 -- nonsponsored amendments.  
15 They've been filed. And pursuant to our procedure  
16 adopted by special order report, that means that we  
17 will spend 3 minutes and 28 seconds on each amendment.

18           Would the clerk read the first amendment --  
19 amendment to the amendment.

20           THE CLERK: Representative Rayner-Goolsby  
21 offered the following amendment to amendment, with  
22 title amendment, barcode 289149, remove lines 7  
23 through 16 and insert amendment.

24           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
25 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized to explain your

1 amendment.

2 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Speaker.

4 Members, this amendment prevents the State  
5 from taking children away from supporting parents.  
6 That is the amendment.

7 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Any questions of the  
8 sponsor?

9 Any questions of the sponsor? We're on  
10 barcode 289149 by the good Representative  
11 Rayner-Goolsby.

12 Representative Fine, you're recognized for a  
13 question.

14 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

15 And I was not planning to ask a question  
16 on this, but if we go back to the amendment to the  
17 bill, isn't the bill having to deal with custody  
18 fights between parents?

19 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
20 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized.

21 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23 Representative Fine, can you re-ask your  
24 question? I'm not sure I quite understand the premise  
25 of your question.

1           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: And I would remind  
2 members, please don't ask questions if you already  
3 know the answer to the questions that you're posing  
4 to the sponsor.

5           Other questions of Representative  
6 Rayner-Goolsby on her amendment?

7           Other questions?

8           Representative Fine, you're recognized.

9           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
10          No, I don't know the answer to this because  
11 I was expecting to hear a very different explanation.  
12 So this is not that.

13          So this amendment proposes to delete lines 7  
14 to 16 of the bill. Now, lines 7 to 13 we do not change  
15 under current law. All we've changed is *Serious*  
16 *physical harms includes, but is not limited to, being*  
17 *subjected to gender clinical interventions.*

18          My question is -- what my question is is  
19 this -- you said this is the State going to take away  
20 children. What part of the language that you're  
21 attempting to amend lets the State take away children?

22          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
23 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized.

24          REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you so  
25 much, Mr. Speaker.

1           And, yes, Representative Fine, I now  
2 understand what you're saying. So when I actually  
3 spoke of Chapter 39 -- which I'm assuming you haven't  
4 looked up yet. When I spoke of Chapter 39, when you  
5 think of any custody issue that's happening in the  
6 state of Florida, there are two ways a child can be  
7 removed. It could be removed from parents and a judge  
8 making a custody decision in a family law case, or the  
9 State could actually do it pursuant to Chapter 39,  
10 which actually your bill does affect.

11           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
12 you're recognized.

13           REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

14           The definitions of child abuse under Chapter  
15 39 do not affect this bill in any way, so I'll ask  
16 again. You said in your opening that you're running  
17 this amendment to stop the State from being able to  
18 take a child away. Let me ask it differently.

19           If both parents were okay with these  
20 decisions, how would the State be involved at all?

21           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
22 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized.

23           REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you so  
24 much, Mr. Speaker.

25           And I -- you know, Representative Fine, you

1 indicated that this bill does not have an impact on  
2 Chapter 39. Actually, the way that I read it as a  
3 practicing attorney who has practiced in this area, it  
4 actually does. So I think you and I just have a  
5 difference of opinion on that and a difference of  
6 opinion on impact.

7 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further questions?  
8 Further questions of the sponsor?

9 Further questions of the sponsor?

10 Seeing no further questions, is there debate,  
11 debate on the bill?

12 Representative Fine.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

14 What this amendment does is both eliminates  
15 existing law having nothing to do with this amendment  
16 relating to physical custody. It actually would  
17 delete -- I want folks to understand what it would  
18 mean if this would pass. I'm going to read the  
19 language that has nothing to do with this bill.

20 It would delete the ability for a  
21 petitioner to file a verified application seeking  
22 enforcement of a child custody determination for a  
23 warrant to take physical custody of the child if the  
24 child is likely to imminently suffer serious physical  
25 harm or removal from the state. This amendment

1 would eliminate that existing law that the amendment --

2 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
3 time has expired on barcode 289149.

4 I'll reiterate to the members, because we  
5 have 26 nonsponsored amendments, we can only spend in  
6 totality 3 minutes and 28 seconds for everything.  
7 That's questions, open, close, debate, period.

8 The question will now recur on barcode  
9 289149.

10 All those in favor, say yea.

11 All those opposed, say no.

12 Members by your vote show the amendment fails.

13 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

14 THE CLERK: Representative Eskamani offers the  
15 following amendment to amendment, with title amendment,  
16 barcode 531629, removal of lines 17 through 26 and  
17 insert amendment.

18 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
19 you're recognized.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Speaker.

22 Members, this is a pretty simple amendment.  
23 It just removes lines, as you can see on the board,  
24 17 to 26 of the strike-all. What those lines are  
25 doing right now is it reads *public expenditures*

1 *for gender clinical interventions and a prohibition...*

2           So basically, at least my interpretation  
3 of it -- the bill sponsor can agree or disagree --  
4 but it seems like it is totally stripping away any  
5 type of, like, state insurance coverage or just  
6 public insurance coverage for employees of the State.

7           Representative Hart mentioned questions  
8 about our prison population, and so I'm just concerned  
9 that this type of language where it reads *may not*  
10 *expend funds to provide or reimburse for gender*  
11 *clinical interventions* is taking away access to care  
12 for those who work in the state or those who are wards  
13 of the State. And I don't think that's appropriate.  
14 I think, especially if you're already accessing care,  
15 you should be able to. And so we just want to remove  
16 that language from the bill -- or the amendment.

17           Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

18           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Thank you,  
19 Representative Eskamani.

20           If you could stop the clock for just one  
21 moment, I would like to invite everyone on the floor  
22 and in the gallery -- we're so happy to have guests  
23 and residents and constituents from all over the state  
24 of Florida. We will ask you to observe the decorum  
25 that we have in this chamber today. So we will not



1 have any outbursts. We'll have not any clicking.  
2 We'll not have any boos, hissing, or cheering, or  
3 booing.

4 So we're going to continue with this, and we  
5 would just ask each and every one of you to help us  
6 maintain this decorum. If you cannot, the Sergeant  
7 will invite you to watch the proceedings from  
8 some other area of the Capitol.

9 So, Representative Eskamani, you're  
10 recognized.

11 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Mr. Speaker, I was  
12 done with my amendment to the introduction.

13 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: All right. Any  
14 questions of the Representative?

15 Any questions of the sponsor?

16 Any questions of the sponsor?

17 Seeing no questions, are there debate?

18 Are there debate?

19 Representative Massullo, you're recognized  
20 for debate.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23 I would ask members to vote down this  
24 amendment. We do not want to use taxpayer funds to  
25 pay for procedures that evidence shows are damaging to

1 individuals, both physiologically and psychologically.

2 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

3 Further debate?

4 Representative Fine, you're recognized in  
5 debate.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

7 While I would echo what my friend  
8 Representative Massullo said, I just want you to  
9 understand this is just a public policy dispute. If  
10 you vote for the amendment, you think it is an  
11 appropriate use of taxpayer funds to pay for these  
12 kinds of things. Some people obviously do. I don't  
13 agree, but I understand that. If you do not think  
14 taxpayer funds should be used to pay for these sorts  
15 of surgeries and drugs, then you will oppose the  
16 amendment.

17 It's a very simple decision: yes or no.  
18 We're obviously down on it, and I hope you'll join us.

19 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

20 Further debate, Members?

21 Further debate?

22 Representative Eskamani, you're recognized to  
23 close on your amendment.

24 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker.

1 I want to be clear, Members, that there's  
2 already been more than one occasion where evidence  
3 cited by my colleagues' responses to the bill that  
4 they're using the evidence incorrectly. There have  
5 been researchers who have called out the bill sponsors  
6 and others that have cited their research in order to  
7 ban gender-affirming care as that assessment, that  
8 interpretation as being inaccurate.

9 So I just want to set the record straight on  
10 that point.

11 Furthermore, in my district I am proud to  
12 represent a diverse community, and that includes  
13 transgender people and parents of transgender kids.  
14 And I'm concerned for those who work for the State or  
15 maybe work at a university or work in a contract with  
16 the State that we are taking away their access to  
17 care.

18 And I also want to push back against this  
19 notion that, you know, it's only about public money.  
20 Because these are public employees, Members, like,  
21 they work for us. They are our staff. They are the  
22 folks who clean up after us in this chamber. They are  
23 the folks who keep us safe. These are all public  
24 workers who they earned that money that we allocate  
25 as a state. So it's not fair to just say because

1 you're trans, you now can't access care anymore  
2 because your identity means that your hard work and  
3 labor doesn't dictate coverage of medical care.

4 And so, for those reasons, I encourage folks  
5 to strike this, and let's ensure that our public  
6 employees, those in the prison system, can be  
7 themselves and access the care they deserve and need.

8 Thank you.

9 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
10 having closed on her amendment to the amendment,  
11 barcode 256341, the question now recurs on the  
12 amendment.

13 All those in favor, say yea.

14 All those opposed, say no.

15 Members, by seeing five hands, the clerk will  
16 unlock the machine, and all members will proceed to  
17 vote.

18 Will all members proceed to vote?

19 Will all members proceed to vote?

20 Will the clerk lock the machine and record  
21 the vote?

22 THE CLERK: 27 yeas, 81 nays, Mr. Speaker.

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Show the amendment  
24 fails.

25 And will the Sergeant invite those disrupters

1 to watch the proceedings from some other area of the  
2 Capitol?

3 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

4 THE CLERK: Representative Rayner-Goolsby  
5 offered the following amendment to amendment, with  
6 title amendment, barcode 117705, removes lines 27  
7 through 50 and insert amendment.

8 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
9 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized to explain your  
10 amendment.

11 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Speaker.

13 This amendment just simply allows birth  
14 certificates to continue to be changed. That's  
15 the amendment.

16 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
17 Rayner-Goolsby, having explained her amendment, are  
18 there any questions?

19 Questions for the sponsor?

20 Questions for the sponsor?

21 Seeing no questions, are there debate?

22 Is there any member wishing to debate?

23 Representative Fine, you're recognized in  
24 debate.

25 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1           Members, this is another public policy  
2 decision in this bill. So we have taken the approach  
3 that we believe in science, and we believe in biology.  
4 And there are X chromosomes and there are Y  
5 chromosomes, and what you're born is with is what  
6 science said you are. And so you don't just get to  
7 play "choose your own adventure" and change it and one  
8 day you're one thing and one day you're another and  
9 go up and back.

10           If you believe the birth certificate is  
11 something that can be changed at will, then you'll  
12 support this amendment. If you believe in biology,  
13 you will not.

14           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
15 in debate, you're recognized.

16           REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Speaker.

18           A question that I don't think was asked or  
19 answered is, you know, what happens with someone who  
20 has already changed their birth certificate and how  
21 would they be impacted here in the state of Florida?

22           And I think it's really important that we  
23 understand just the personal, private nature of this.  
24 This is not an easy decision that people make. It's  
25 even more difficult under the political climate

1 today. And to respect the privacy of someone who is  
2 making this decision is something that I really  
3 encourage everyone here to consider.

4 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

5 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Is there further debate?  
6 Representative Massullo, you're recognized in  
7 debate.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Speaker.

10 Our legal documents should reflect truth as  
11 best as possible. A birth certificate is a document  
12 that we use many, many times during our lives to  
13 identify ourselves. And that identification should  
14 reflect exactly who we are from birth. And there's  
15 only two sexes that are recognized, male and female.

16 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Other debate? Any  
17 members wishing to debate the question, I'm happy  
18 to entertain them.

19 Representative Rayner-Goolsby, seeing no  
20 debate, you're recognized to close on your amendment  
21 to the amendment.

22 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Speaker.

24 Members, you know my mama often says that  
25 you can disagree without being disagreeable. And I

1 often take that to mean you can disagree without being  
2 disrespectful. When we talk about science and what is  
3 true, here's the reality of the situation.

4 Transgender people do exist. They have existed long  
5 before us, and they will exist long after us. And so  
6 at this point, we allow people to change their names.  
7 We allow different things to happen on birth  
8 certificates if it's in regard to an adoption. And  
9 when you are denying a person the right to change  
10 their birth certificate, it's not just an assault on  
11 their personhood, but you're also stripping them of  
12 their legal right to be recognized as the identity  
13 they live in every day.

14 Here's the thing. It's not for you to  
15 understand who someone is or how they show up. It's  
16 for you to accept it, especially if that identity is  
17 not harming you or your family in any way.

18 So I ask that you would vote up on this  
19 amendment.

20 But also, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that as we  
21 are addressing this issue, if we could just be  
22 respectful in the way that we talk about transgender  
23 people. Because, like, I'm ready to let you all have  
24 the chamber and just watch from my office. Like, if  
25 we could just do that, that would be great.



1 Thank you.

2 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
3 Rayner-Goolsby, having closed on her amendment to the  
4 amendment, barcode 256441, all those members wishing  
5 to support the amendment, say aye.

6 All those opposed, say no.

7 Members by your vote show the amendment fails.

8 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

9 THE CLERK: Representative Harris offered the  
10 following amendment to amendment, barcode 374289,  
11 remove lines 69 through 95 and insert amendment.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
13 you're recognized to explain your amendment to the  
14 amendment.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Speaker.

17 So my amendment would prohibit surgery for  
18 minors but would allow other treatments such as  
19 puberty blockers and hormones.

20 And that's my amendment.

21 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
22 having explained her amendment to the amendment, are  
23 there any questions of the sponsor?

24 Representative Fine, you have a question  
25 of the sponsor.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

2 As you put your amendment together, are you  
3 aware that in western Europe where they sort of,  
4 quote/unquote, "pioneered" a lot of these things and  
5 allowing these drugs to be pushed on children or  
6 allowed on children -- are you aware that in many of  
7 the western European countries they are now moving  
8 in the direction of this, and your amendment sort of  
9 would go inapposite of what these folks have now  
10 found to be best practices?

11 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine, I  
12 believe you know the answer to that question. Do  
13 you have another question?

14 Further questions?

15 Further questions?

16 All right. Is there debate?

17 Is there debate?

18 Representative Massullo, you're recognized  
19 for debate.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Speaker.

22 Some of those side effects that Representative  
23 Fine was referring to include an inability to have  
24 sexual satisfaction, demineralization of bones,  
25 pseudotumor cerebri, which is a brain tumor,

1 cardiovascular effects, all these things. They're  
2 almost unconscionable that we would expose our  
3 children to them, let alone give our adults rights,  
4 which they have, to take them if they so desire.

5 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: I think we're in  
6 questions. We're in questions.

7 We're in debate. All right.

8 Representative Fine, you're welcome to debate.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

10 And in my defense, I knew the answer. I  
11 didn't know she did. So now that I think about  
12 it, I wanted to know, because if you don't know  
13 that and you learned it, you might have actually  
14 chosen to withdraw the amendment.

15 Representative Massullo talked about a  
16 number of things that we're now learning from the  
17 research. One thing he did not mention is that we're  
18 also seeing that this can have effects on brain  
19 development.

20 And let's just think about the logic of  
21 this. Any of you have kids? Their brains aren't the  
22 same when they're 5, when they're 10, when they're 15.  
23 I'm going through this with my teenage son right  
24 now. They are changing. Their brains are developing.  
25 And to give people things like puberty blockers --

1 I just want you to think of what it is. It is a drug  
2 that is intended to stop the natural process of  
3 puberty. To think that that would not have an effect  
4 on brain development, well, frankly, it's insane.  
5 And that is what the studies are starting to show.

6 So, yes, while we can focus on the fact that  
7 the surgery appears to be sort of the most egregious  
8 because you can actually see it, I would argue that  
9 what happens to people's brains might even be worse.  
10 And so that is why it is important to not only take  
11 on surgeries but also these drugs as well for children.

12 And so I ask that you vote down this  
13 amendment.

14 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani  
15 in debate.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Speaker.

18 I'm going to ask my colleagues to just slow  
19 it down and take the temperature down.

20 Every medication -- as our Representative  
21 Massullo said, every medication, regardless of its  
22 intent, can have side effects. Birth control can  
23 have side effects. Cancer medications have serious  
24 side effects.

25 When you have a diagnosis that is serious;

1 you've went to multiple doctors; you have Googled the  
2 hell out of the situation; you've met with therapists;  
3 you're doing everything you can to figure out why  
4 your child or why you are not in a place of good  
5 health. And this is something that doctors have  
6 prescribed for cases that do not impact trans people.

7 And so, again, I don't think the hyperbolic  
8 language is necessary or independent to this issue.  
9 So I would encourage folks to not let that deter you  
10 from understanding the intent of Representative  
11 Harris's amendment.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Members' time has  
13 expired on this particular amendment to the  
14 amendment.

15 We will proceed to vote on Representative  
16 Harris's barcode 256341.

17 All those members supporting this amendment  
18 to the amendment, say aye.

19 All those opposed, say nay.

20 Members, by your vote show that the amendment  
21 fails.

22 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

23 THE CLERK: Representative Harris offered the  
24 following amendment to amendment, barcode 388571,  
25 between lines 95 and 96, insert amendment.

1           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
2 you're recognized.

3           REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Speaker.

5           So this amendment would allow for  
6 gender-affirming care to be provided to minors as  
7 part of a clinical study. So there are -- I've heard  
8 that there are concerns about the safety. I do  
9 reiterate my colleague's statement.

10           My own child has PCOS and takes birth control  
11 to treat it. But I think there's always the  
12 opportunity to find treatments that are even safer  
13 and even more effective. And so I think that allowing,  
14 you know, minors to be part of a clinical study would  
15 be a way that we could achieve the outcome that we're  
16 looking for but with better safety.

17           And that is my amendment.

18           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
19 having explained her amendment to the amendment,  
20 are there questions of the sponsor?

21           Questions of the sponsor?

22           Are there debate?

23           Is there debate?

24           Oh, you have a question. I'm sorry.

25           Representative Massullo for a question. You're

1 recognized.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Speaker.

4 Representative Harris, what actual clinical  
5 outcome would you hope that these clinical trials,  
6 which are basically experiments, would actually  
7 produce?

8 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
9 you're recognized.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Well, I think all  
11 clinical trials are, quote/unquote, "experiments," but  
12 we know that they're done in a very certain situation,  
13 in a very particular setting. And I would think  
14 that the outcome would be to find other treatments  
15 for kids that are transgender and ways for them to  
16 express the identity that they are.

17 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further questions?

18 Further questions of the sponsor?

19 Further questions of the sponsor?

20 Seeing no further questions of the sponsor,  
21 we'll enter debate.

22 Representative Massullo, you're recognized  
23 in debate.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker.

1 I would ask all of the members to vote this  
2 particular amendment down. I don't think we should be  
3 experimenting on our children, particularly that  
4 we know -- and I have over 50 studies to show -- that  
5 these types of treatments are extremely dangerous  
6 and have long-term and irreversible side effects.

7 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Black,  
8 in debate.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
10 The idea that we would allow what can only be  
11 called gruesome medical experiments to be conducted on  
12 our children in medical schools is, frankly,  
13 preposterous. They shouldn't be conducted anywhere  
14 in this state.

15 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

16 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani  
17 in debate. You're recognized.

18 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you so much,  
19 Mr. Speaker.

20 I think folks don't understand what the  
21 clinical trial or clinical work is and the consent it  
22 requires, the IRB approval that would have to be  
23 conducted.

24 And I also want to emphasize I attended every  
25 single Board of Medicine meeting where this topic was



1 debated and discussed. And the two boards before  
2 being forced to consolidate a decision had contrasting  
3 opinions when it comes to gender-affirming care,  
4 specifically for those under the age of 18, where  
5 one Board of Medicine said complete ban, but the other  
6 Board of Osteopathy said allow trials. Because,  
7 again, the point that many of our members have made is  
8 there isn't enough research, and so it would behoove  
9 folks who want to see more research -- and, again, it  
10 requires consent, IRB approval, and heavy examination  
11 and ethics. Ethics would be a part of that discussion.

12 And so I think allowing there to be the  
13 option of research to ensure that if a child is in a  
14 situation, they can access the care they need in  
15 a very structured setting would not be an antithesis  
16 of the bill. I think it actually would at least  
17 provide some option for parents in this situation.

18 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
19 having ended debate, and this is the time for this  
20 segment for the amendment to the amendment, we'll  
21 proceed to vote.

22 All those in favor supporting Representative  
23 Harris in barcode 388571, please say yea.

24 All those opposed, say no.

25 Members, by your vote show the amendment

1 fails.

2 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

3 THE CLERK: Representative Rayner-Goolsby  
4 offered the following amendment to amendment, barcode  
5 389103, between lines 95 and 96 insert amendment.

6 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
7 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized.

8 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you so  
9 much, Mr. Speaker.

10 Members, this amendment allows treatment to  
11 minors suffering from severe gender dysphoria.

12 That is the amendment.

13 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
14 Rayner-Goolsby, having explained her amendment to  
15 the amendment, are there any questions of the  
16 sponsor?

17 Questions of the sponsor?

18 Representative Fine, you're recognized for a  
19 question.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

21 What is the difference between severe gender  
22 dysphoria and not severe gender dysphoria?

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
24 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized.

25 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you so

1 much, Mr. Speaker.

2 I believe that Dr. Massullo, who is a  
3 doctor, could answer that question for you.

4 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Any further questions?

5 Representative Massullo, you have a  
6 question of the sponsor. You're recognized.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you. Thank  
8 you, Mr. Speaker.

9 I actually can't answer that question, so  
10 I'm going to ask you to try to describe the severe  
11 gender dysphoria.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
13 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized.

14 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Sorry,  
15 Mr. Speaker.

16 Thank you so much for that question,  
17 Representative Massullo. I believe that these are  
18 standards that have been set by the American Academy  
19 of Pediatrics, the AMA, the American Psychological  
20 Association as well. So I believe that if you  
21 research those, it will define what severe gender  
22 dysphoria is. But, as I'm sure you're aware, it is a  
23 diagnosis that a physician or medical doctor or a  
24 psychiatrist would make.

25 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo

1 for follow-up.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Well, thank you.

3 I wasn't aware.

4 Could you give me some characteristic signs  
5 or physical types of symptoms?

6 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo,  
7 are you saying that you don't know the answer to that  
8 question?

9 All right. You can do your best,  
10 Representative Rayner-Goolsby.

11 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you so  
12 much, Mr. Speaker.

13 And, Representative Massullo, I'm just going  
14 to read this definition to you. It says: *Gender*  
15 *dysphoria is a term that describes the sense of*  
16 *unease that a person may have because of a*  
17 *mismatch between their biological sex and their*  
18 *gender identity.*

19 So I'm assuming that if it's severe, those  
20 things are severe.

21 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo  
22 for a follow-up.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Speaker.

25 Representative, with all due respect, aren't

1 those subjective types of measures that you're  
2 basically enunciating?

3 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
4 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized.

5 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you so  
6 much, Mr. Speaker.

7 The definition I just read is a medical  
8 definition, so if you believe it's subjective, I  
9 think that you should probably talk to maybe one of  
10 your medical colleagues, and you can have a real,  
11 you know, debate about it.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine  
13 for a question.

14 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

15 We really don't know the question. I've  
16 never heard of severe gender dysphoria before. So  
17 you read a definition. I appreciate that. Did you  
18 leave off the word "severe" at the beginning of it,  
19 or did you just give us the definition of gender  
20 dysphoria? We were trying to understand the  
21 difference between, like, no-big-deal gender dysphoria  
22 and severe gender dysphoria.

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Are there any other  
24 members that have questions?

25 Any other members that have questions?

1 Representative Skidmore, you're recognized.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SKIDMORE: Thank you,

3 Mr. Speaker.

4 Representative Rayner-Goolsby, would you  
5 agree that in the severe case of gender dysphoria,  
6 a person's symptoms would interfere with their daily  
7 life?

8 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
9 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized for an answer.

10 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Speaker.

12 And thank you, Representative, for that very  
13 good question.

14 Actually, yes. And, in fact, the definition  
15 that I'm reading is that this unease or dissatisfaction  
16 can be so intense it can lead to depression, anxiety,  
17 and have harmful impacts on daily life, including  
18 suicide.

19 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Time having expired in  
20 this particular period, we will proceed to vote  
21 on Representative Rayner-Goolsby's amendment to the  
22 amendment.

23 Members, we are voting on barcode 389103.

24 All those in favor supporting the amendment  
25 to the amendment, say aye.

1 All those opposed, say nay.

2 Members, by your vote, seeing five hands,  
3 the clerk will unlock the machine, and members will  
4 proceed to vote.

5 Have all members voted?

6 Have all members voted?

7 The clerk will lock the machine and  
8 record the vote.

9 THE CLERK: 31 yeas, 82 nays, Mr. Speaker.

10 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Show the amendment  
11 fails.

12 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

13 THE CLERK: Representative Bartleman offered  
14 the following amendment to amendment, with title  
15 amendment, barcode 633677, remove lines 100 through  
16 106 and insert amendment.

17 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
18 Bartleman, you're recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BARTLEMAN: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Speaker.

21 This bill simply aligns the language of the  
22 Senate bill that was sent over that all of the  
23 Republicans in the Senate approved. It aligns with  
24 the recent Board of Medicine decision.

25 Thank you.

1 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Questions of the  
2 sponsor?

3 Anyone here have questions of the sponsor?  
4 Questions?

5 Seeing no questions, going once -- no  
6 questions?

7 We'll go into debate.

8 Representative Fine, you're recognized for  
9 debate.

10 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

11 And this is just another kind of public  
12 policy decision. So Representative Bartleman  
13 believes very strongly -- and I understand your view,  
14 I say respectfully -- that if you're on these things  
15 right now, you should be able to be grandfathered  
16 into them. And that's what her amendment would do.  
17 If you believe that, then you should vote for it.

18 Our bill would say that if you are a child  
19 on these, a child -- doesn't affect adults -- if  
20 you're a child, you can continue until the end of the  
21 year if you started before January 1.

22 So that is the public policy decision is  
23 should a 12-year-old who's on these now be able to  
24 take them for as long as they want, or should we say  
25 to children who are on these drugs that, Dr. Massullo



1 and I have explained some of the consequences of,  
2 be able -- should they be kind of, to use a bad  
3 word, transitioning off of them over the remainder  
4 of the year. That is the decision on this amendment.  
5 Obviously, we hope that you vote no.

6 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
7 Massullo, you're recognized.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Speaker.

10 Representative Bartleman, we're not denying  
11 therapy for these individuals. Actually, I would hope  
12 that they would be able to be enrolled in some sort of  
13 psychiatric or psychology type of counseling. I also  
14 think that, hopefully, while they're on the medicines,  
15 their physicians would give them full disclosure of  
16 the side effects and the various other issues  
17 that could be involved.

18 And let me tell you that the practice of  
19 medicine is not a perfect science. And anybody can  
20 just look at any physician and see that, and myself  
21 included.

22 Let me just give you a little story.  
23 Benjamin Spock, who I have a lot of problems with,  
24 was an influential pediatrician in the '50s. And  
25 he actually believed that babies in the prone

1 position while they were sleeping did much better  
2 than babies on their back.

3 But after 30 years -- 30 years -- we found  
4 that those individuals actually had SIDS, sudden infant  
5 death. So that particular procedure in those 30 years  
6 killed tens of thousands of infants. We don't want  
7 to be killing tens of thousands of our children by  
8 keeping them on those drugs.

9 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

10 Further debate?

11 No members wishing to debate, Representative  
12 Bartleman, you're recognized to close.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BARTLEMAN: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Speaker.

15 The Republicans across the hall agree with  
16 me. That's why this language is here. Look, in my  
17 opinion, this bill is unkind and it's inhumane. And  
18 I need to remind everybody as we go forward, we're  
19 talking about human beings. The word "evil," the  
20 word "demons," these are people that other people  
21 love. Why are we talking about this?

22 This amendment will allow the medical board  
23 to make the decisions as to when the right time is,  
24 and that's all I'm asking for. And I ask you to  
25 support this.

1           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
2 Bartleman, having closed on her amendment to the  
3 amendment, so the clerk will unlock the machines,  
4 and we will proceed to vote.

5           All those in favor -- yes. Have all  
6 members voted?

7           Have all members voted?

8           Have all members voted? Keep you on your  
9 toes.

10          The clerk will lock the machine and report  
11 the vote.

12          THE CLERK: 32 yeas, 82 nays, Mr. Speaker.

13          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Members by your vote  
14 show the amendment to the amendment fails.

15          Read the next amendment to the amendment.

16          THE CLERK: Representative Harris offered the  
17 following amendment to amendment, barcode 916215,  
18 between lines 106 and 107, insert amendment.

19          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
20 you're recognized.

21          REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23          So this amendment would allow for minors to  
24 receive gender-affirming care if a judge rules that it  
25 is in the best interests of the child to receive such

1 care. Because we are talking about medical decisions  
2 and medical procedures, and, you know, I think if a  
3 doctor is not enough, then if they go before a judge  
4 and a judge approves it, I think that should be enough.

5 And that's my amendment.

6 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Questions of the  
7 sponsor?

8 Representative Fine for a question, you're  
9 recognized.

10 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

11 And while Dr. Massullo and I reject the  
12 premise of gender-affirming care, to use your  
13 definition, what gender-affirming care do you believe  
14 the judge could allow?

15 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
16 you're recognized.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Yeah. They could  
18 prescribe puberty blockers, allow things of that  
19 nature that was discussed.

20 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
21 you're recognized for a follow-up.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

23 And this is really not a gotcha question  
24 here. I don't know the answer. So there's sort of  
25 three buckets of this. Right? There's psychological;

1 there's drugs; and there's surgery. And I'm just  
2 trying to understand, could the judge authorize a  
3 girl's healthy breasts to be cut off? Is that  
4 something the judge would be able to do under your  
5 amendment?

6 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
7 you're recognized.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: I am not a judge.

9 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Is there another  
10 question?

11 Other questions of the sponsor?

12 Representative Fine, you're recognized for a  
13 question.

14 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

15 Maybe you didn't hear my question. It was  
16 not what would a judge do. It was, under your  
17 amendment, would a judge be able to do that if they  
18 thought in their judgy judgment that -- it's been a  
19 long day -- that it was a good idea? I don't know  
20 the answer to this: What could a judge authorize?

21 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Harris,  
22 you're recognized.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Speaker.

25 That was asked and answered. I am not a

1 judge.

2 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: That wasn't asked or  
3 answered. Do your best to answer. If you don't know  
4 the answer, just say you don't know the answer. That  
5 would be fine.

6 You're recognized, Representative Harris.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Speaker.

9 I respect a judge's decision, so I cannot  
10 make that call. This would put it in the hands of  
11 the judge.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Let's change the line  
13 of questioning.

14 Representative Fine, you're recognized for a  
15 different question.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Yeah. I'll ask a  
17 different question. I don't know why that one is  
18 so hard to understand.

19 My next question is what would -- we've  
20 heard a lot, doctors, doctors, doctors. In your view,  
21 what judgment would a judge have in order to make the  
22 decision to -- I may be, if it's in your amendment --  
23 cut off the healthy body parts of a boy or a girl?  
24 What would qualify a judge to be able to make that  
25 decision?

1           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani  
2 through Representative Harris, you're recognized.

3           REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Speaker.

5           They would have the options that are  
6 available. So if somebody was suicidal, they could  
7 prescribe a puberty blocker. Well, they couldn't  
8 prescribe it, but they could allow for the medical  
9 treatment. They could allow a doctor to prescribe it.

10          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further questions?

11          Further questions?

12          Seeing no further -- Representative  
13 Massullo, one more question. Yes, sir, you're  
14 recognized.

15          You're in debate. All right. Let's debate.

16          REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Speaker.

18          You know, the role of a legislature is to  
19 make the laws. We don't want to complicate our  
20 judiciary in interpreting the laws by having them  
21 have to make them at the same time. I think this  
22 amendment falls on the premise that it just is  
23 inappropriate.

24          SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Members, last debate.

25          Representative Fine, you've got five seconds.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thanks.

2 If they don't know what the judge could  
3 do, you should vote no.

4 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Right. Time having  
5 expired in this particular segment, the amendment  
6 to the amendment proffered by Representative Harris,  
7 barcode 916215.

8 Members, all of those in favor of said  
9 amendment to the amendment, say yes.

10 All right. All those others, say no.

11 Members by your vote show the amendment to  
12 the amendment does not pass.

13 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

14 THE CLERK: Representative Eskamani offered  
15 the following amendment to amendment, barcode 088875,  
16 between lines 106 and 107 insert amendment.

17 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
18 you're recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Speaker.

21 This is a very simple amendment. It would  
22 just essentially allow an immediate family member of  
23 a person in any branch of the Armed Forces of the  
24 United States whose duty post is within this state may  
25 continue to have access to an insurance coverage of



1 sex reassignment prescriptions and procedures; i.e.,  
2 we're basically just carving out military family  
3 members and spouses.

4 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Questions of the  
5 sponsor?

6 Questions of the sponsor to the amendment to  
7 the amendment?

8 Seeing no questions, we'll move into debate.

9 Representative Massullo, you're recognized  
10 in debate.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Speaker.

13 I think the role of our military is to be  
14 active, healthy, and ready to defend us at any moment.  
15 I think this particular amendment would actually  
16 compromise that.

17 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Members, stop the  
18 clock for just a moment.

19 Representative Cross has an important timely  
20 introduction that she would like to make at this time.

21 Representative Cross, you're recognized for  
22 an introduction.

23 REPRESENTATIVE CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

24 And if you guys can run back in here, I would  
25 like to recognize the 2023 Leadership St. Pete class,

1 along with my colleagues Representative Rayner-Goolsby  
2 and Representative Chaney. This is a group of  
3 business and community leaders from the city of  
4 St. Petersburg.

5 I was a member of the class of 2015, and it  
6 was actually the first time I stepped on the grounds  
7 of the Florida State Capitol. So maybe we have one  
8 of our future representatives or senators here today.

9 Please welcome them to the Florida Statehouse.

10 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Welcome to the Florida  
11 House.

12 Representative Roach, you're recognized for  
13 an important announcement or introduction.

14 REPRESENTATIVE ROACH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

15 Members, we're having a lot of debate today  
16 about the medical profession. I would like for you  
17 to direct your attention to the West Gallery, and  
18 I would like to introduce a good friend of mine, a  
19 very prominent eye surgeon in Lee and Collier Counties  
20 and a very prominent member of our community in  
21 southwest Florida.

22 Dr. Frantz, welcome to the Florida House.

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Welcome to the Florida  
24 House.

25 We are on Representative Eskamani's

1 amendment to the amendment, 088875, and we are in  
2 questions of the sponsor.

3 Questions of Representative Eskamani?

4 We're on debate, 2 minutes, 41 seconds.

5 Representative Harris, you are recognized  
6 for debate.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Speaker.

9 I just want to thank the amendment sponsor  
10 for bringing this really good amendment.

11 I think it was said that our troops, they  
12 sacrifice so much for us, and they should have the  
13 opportunity to be healthy and thrive. And, you know,  
14 I know there's a lot of differences of opinion, but  
15 the fact of the matter is that over 20 world-  
16 recognized and respected organizations consider  
17 gender-affirming care to be medicine. And, therefore,  
18 our troops should have access to the care that they  
19 need and that they deserve for working so hard for our  
20 country.

21 So thank you, Representative Eskamani.

22 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

23 Further debate?

24 Representative Fine, you're recognized in  
25 debate.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you.

2 And while what we just heard is true, there  
3 are certain medical organizations that say this is  
4 good in an attempt to, much as we've seen in other  
5 issues, sort of to say science is definitive and if  
6 you challenge it, there's something wrong with you.

7 In this case there are many scientists who  
8 disagree. In fact, there's this group called WPATH  
9 which has pushed a lot of this stuff which many  
10 scientists have pulled away from. They say it's not  
11 even a scientific organization anymore; it's  
12 ideological. And we found 2,000 medical professionals  
13 who repudiated them.

14 So I would just point out that this science  
15 is unclear. We believe in protecting people. And,  
16 again, if they're an adult and they come to Florida,  
17 they can continue to do this for any reason. It's  
18 just for children.

19 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
20 you're recognized in debate.

21 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Am I closing,  
22 Mr. Speaker, or debating?

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: You can close.

24 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Okay. Thank you.

25 I just want to stress and explain that it's

1 not impacting the person in the military. It's their  
2 loved ones. And they have to have a duty post within  
3 the state, so I just wanted to clarify that.

4 But also add, again, these are families that  
5 serve our country. These are families that are also  
6 very transient. They don't always live in Florida  
7 full time. So I am concerned about disruption of  
8 services. Right? If their post is somewhere else,  
9 they move into Florida, maybe they have a trans kid  
10 or a trans partner, I'm just concerned about that  
11 type of transient family where they're going to come  
12 to a state where they'll lose their health coverage.  
13 And I hope that makes sense for members. Like, not  
14 all of us, you know, are that migrant, if you will.  
15 And so for a military family that moves a lot, it  
16 seems really disruptive for them to lose their private  
17 insurance coverage because we said you can't have it.

18 And so this is just streamlining it for a  
19 population of people who have not only served our  
20 country with valor and honor but might be in a  
21 situation where they are moving a lot, and I don't  
22 think their health care should be disrupted for  
23 that reason.

24 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

25 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,

1 having closed on her amendment to the amendment,  
2 barcode 088875, the question now recurs on said  
3 amendment.

4 All those in favor, say yes.

5 All those opposed, say no.

6 Members by your vote show the amendment  
7 to the amendment fails.

8 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

9 THE CLERK: Representative Driskell offered  
10 the following attempt to amendment, barcode 608559,  
11 remove lines 112 through 113 and insert the amendment.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Leader Driskell, you're  
13 recognized.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DRISKELL: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker.

16 This amendment to the amendment removes the  
17 language that the physician must be physically present  
18 in the same room and, therefore, allowing for  
19 telehealth.

20 That is the amendment.

21 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Questions of the  
22 sponsor?

23 Questions of the sponsor?

24 Anyone have questions of the sponsor?

25 Seeing no questions, we'll enter debate.

1 Anyone have debate on the amendment to the amendment?

2 Representative Fine, you're recognized in  
3 debate.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

5 So this is, again, another public policy  
6 dispute that people have to decide. The amendment  
7 would say, again, that you could do this perhaps  
8 over the phone. You could do it from -- on your  
9 cell phone. You could do it, again, using telehealth.  
10 It is our view that for something as serious as this  
11 that people should have to go and talk to a doctor  
12 to their face. It's a very serious thing which can  
13 have a lot of challenging consequences, as we're  
14 seeing.

15 Again, it doesn't stop an adult from doing  
16 it. They can do it. But we want to make sure that  
17 people have informed consent before they make this  
18 decision. Given the severity of it -- once you remove  
19 some of these things, you can't put them back --  
20 we believe going to talk to a doctor in person is the  
21 right thing to do. And that's why we want an  
22 in-person informed concept.

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
24 Bartleman, you're recognized in debate.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BARTLEMAN: Thank you,

1 Mr. Speaker.

2 In 2021, we passed CS for SB 590, school  
3 safety, which allows school behavioral health services  
4 to be provided by telehealth. I have a list of all  
5 of the telehealth services we provide. This is  
6 discriminatory in nature. If we're allowing children  
7 to be counseled for school safety regarding this,  
8 there's no reason they can't be counseled through  
9 telehealth for this.

10 So I urge your support on this amendment.

11 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

12 Further debate?

13 Further debate?

14 Leader -- I'm sorry -- Representative  
15 Massullo, you're recognized in debate.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Speaker.

18 This bill doesn't affect the ability to have  
19 counseling via telehealth. This bill basically is --  
20 well, this portion of the bill talks about those type  
21 of drugs and procedures that we're actually outlawing  
22 for children in the bill.

23 So for those reasons, I would be in  
24 agreement with what Chair Fine has said. I would say  
25 that it's important for an individual to be



1 counseled in person on the risks and benefits of  
2 these drugs and surgeries. And I consider them still  
3 pretty much experimental. And when you're doing  
4 clinical studies, those individuals also have to  
5 consent in person.

6 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

7 No debate.

8 Leader Driskell, you're recognized to close  
9 on your amendment to the amendment.

10 REPRESENTATIVE DRISKELL: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Speaker.

12 And simply, Members, the State shouldn't  
13 interfere with the medical decisions of adults. We  
14 heard one example of telehealth. We've seen the  
15 importance of telehealth, especially for our rural  
16 communities. This amendment removes the in-person  
17 requirement so there's no barrier to adults being  
18 able to access that.

19 And just to continue a little bit with that  
20 list, I mean, we're able to have telehealth with  
21 respect to emotional support animals that people  
22 may need, when you need to shop for health care  
23 services. We already talked about school behavioral  
24 health. For maternal health outcomes, there's a  
25 telehealth minority maternity care pilot program

1 where we allow that. We revised a prohibition on  
2 prescribing controlled substances through the use  
3 of telehealth. So you want to talk about a serious  
4 medical matter, certainly the prescription of  
5 controlled substances, which, you know, otherwise  
6 might register on a chart for scoring criminal  
7 charges -- I mean, these are serious medications --

8 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Leader, time has  
9 expired.

10 We will proceed to vote.

11 The clerk will unlock the machine.

12 The question now recurs on amendment to  
13 the amendment, barcode 608559.

14 All those members going to vote, make  
15 sure you're voting. Make sure you're voting.

16 All members voted?

17 All members voted?

18 The clerk will lock the machine and record  
19 the vote.

20 THE CLERK: 28 yeas, 82 nays, Mr. Speaker.

21 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Show the amendment to  
22 the amendment does not pass.

23 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

24 THE CLERK: Representative Rayner-Goolsby  
25 offered the following amendment to amendment, with

1 title amendment, barcode 386565, remove lines 138  
2 through 145 and insert amendment.

3 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
4 Rayner-Goolsby, you're recognized to explain your  
5 amendment to the amendment.

6 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you so  
7 much, Mr. Speaker.

8 Members, this removes the criminal penalties  
9 for health care providers that provide gender-affirming  
10 care.

11 That is the amendment.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Having explained the  
13 amendment to the amendment, are there questions that  
14 members have of the sponsor?

15 Questions of the sponsor?

16 Seeing no questions of the sponsor, we'll  
17 open the floor for debate. There's debate.

18 Representative Fine, you're recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Again, this amendment  
20 would gut the bill. It would say if you don't follow  
21 it, nothing could happen to you. So, again, if you  
22 support -- if you don't support the bill, I understand  
23 voting for it. If you do support the bill, please  
24 vote it down.

25 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

1 Further debate?

2 Representative Massullo, you're recognized  
3 in debate.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Speaker.

6 Members, this bill is basically trying to  
7 prevent child abuse, which we all would agree is  
8 illegal in our state.

9 So, for that reason, we need to vote down  
10 this amendment.

11 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

12 Further debate?

13 Representative Bartleman, you're standing in  
14 debate. You're recognized.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BARTLEMAN: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Speaker.

17 Again, these are human beings, and these  
18 are families. To tell my friend that she is  
19 abusing her children is not kind. Remember what  
20 we're doing here. This is about people. And you  
21 know what's unkind? Letting someone who's been on  
22 hormone blockers for four years living their best  
23 life and happy and taking that away from them.

24 So, please, human beings are watching  
25 this that are at home crying right now. Please.

1 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

2 Further debate?

3 Seeing no further debate -- I'm sorry.

4 Representative Black, you're recognized in debate.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

6 Prison is the right place for people who  
7 sexually mutilate minor children.

8 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

9 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Are there any other  
10 members wishing to debate?

11 Any other members wishing to debate?

12 Representative Rayner-Goolsby, you have the  
13 balance of the time to close on your amendment.

14 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker.

16 My God, on today, my Jesus.

17 Members, respectfully, none of us in this  
18 chamber are endocrinologists. We should not be  
19 standing in the way of folks' medical freedom when it  
20 comes to practices that are widely supported by  
21 medical -- major medical professional organizations  
22 in representing hundreds of thousands of professionals.

23 Inserting criminal penalties for child  
24 abuse -- which I would argue this is not child  
25 abuse, especially under Chapter 39. Chapter 39.01(f)

1 actually talks about medical neglect of a child.  
2 And if a doctor says that a child should have a type  
3 of care, which this care could fall under it, and  
4 a parent not allowing that child to have that  
5 care could be seen as medical neglect.

6 I just ask that you all vote up on this.  
7 Yeah, because -- my God, just vote up on it, please.

8 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
9 Rayner-Goolsby, having closed on her amendment to  
10 the amendment, we're looking at now voting on barcode  
11 386565.

12 All those in favor, say yea.

13 All those opposed, say no.

14 Members by your vote show the amendment fails.

15 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

16 THE CLERK: Representative Eskamani offered  
17 the following amendment to amendment, with title  
18 amendment, barcode 172969, between lines 145 and 146  
19 insert an amendment.

20 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
21 you're recognized.

22 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Speaker.

24 Members, this amendment essentially would  
25 add to the bill some clarity around cause of action.

1 So it reads: *This section does not prohibit a*  
2 *cause of action against a State for mental,*  
3 *physical, or emotional damages based upon delayed*  
4 *or missed gender clinical interventions.*

5 So I just want to add a little bit more  
6 about that if I can. I'm reading from the Cleveland  
7 Clinic some of their information when it comes to  
8 gender dysphoria. And they explicitly state that  
9 gender dysphoria isn't a mental illness, rather it  
10 describes the uneasiness stemming from the mismatch  
11 between the expressed gender and assigned sex at  
12 birth. However, unpleasant feelings that sometimes  
13 can accompany gender dysphoria can include anxiety,  
14 depression, eating disorders, PTSD, and substance  
15 abuse.

16 And so I am concerned that when we deny  
17 access to care for people, we take away that care  
18 for them, that there could be some very serious  
19 mental harm. And I want to ensure that there's a  
20 path of accountability for people to seek justice  
21 if that situation does occur.

22 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Question of the sponsor?

24 Representative Fine, you're recognized for a  
25 question.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

2 So under your amendment, if the State --  
3 would a cause of action be available if the State  
4 refused to pay for it? So let me say this  
5 differently. If we allowed these things to have  
6 to be done to minors but we weren't willing to  
7 pay for them, would they have a cause of action?  
8 Or is the only way we get out of it, under your  
9 amendment, is we not only allow it, but we say,  
10 Have at it on the taxpayers' dime?

11 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
12 you're recognized.

13 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Speaker.

15 Right now the amendment just reads based  
16 upon delayed or missed gender clinical intervention.  
17 So I think the family could interpret that, you know,  
18 how they wish. And I welcome an amendment if you  
19 want to clarify it. But the intention of providing  
20 that pathway is if they miss or have delayed, which  
21 can also include a financial insecurity.

22 So, for example, if someone can't afford the  
23 service because we took away their health insurance  
24 and they missed a clinical service because of that,  
25 they could also be on the path for a cause of action.



1 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
2 you're recognized.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

4 Again, I have a follow-up. So let's assume  
5 they don't have insurance today. We're not taking  
6 anything away. And we continue to allow these  
7 procedures to happen, but they thought they needed  
8 them, but the State doesn't pay for them, could they  
9 then sue the State because we're not -- you know,  
10 again, we're not going to proactively put this stuff  
11 on the State's dime under your amendment?

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani.

13 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Speaker.

15 That would not qualify. It has to be the  
16 State created the delay. So in your example, if  
17 they have always paid out of pocket and they can  
18 afford out of pocket, you know, a judge would have to  
19 look at all of the evidence to decide, did the  
20 State actually cause that delay. So you can't  
21 falsely say that the delay created was created by  
22 the State if you don't have evidence of that.

23 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Massullo  
24 for a question.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,

1 Mr. Speaker.

2 Rep. Eskamani, what exact procedures are  
3 you referring to?

4 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
5 you're recognized.

6 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Speaker.

8 My intent is something like a hormone  
9 replacement therapy or puberty blockers which those  
10 identified as transgender take pretty regularly and  
11 frequently. So they're unable to access that  
12 medication, causing this type of harm that's outlined  
13 in the language. That's at least my intent.

14 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Time has expired in  
15 this segment.

16 We will now proceed to vote. We are voting  
17 on Representative Eskamani's amendment to the  
18 amendment, barcode 172969.

19 All those in favor, say yea.

20 All those opposed, say no.

21 Members by your vote show the amendment fails.

22 Read the next amendment to the amendment.

23 THE CLERK: Representative Eskamani offered  
24 the following amendment to amendment, with title  
25 amendment, barcode 829593, remove lines 146 through

1 156 and insert amendment.

2 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
3 you're recognized.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that.

6 This is my last amendment, Members. It  
7 addresses lines 146 to 156, which we did talk about  
8 a lot. But for those curious, this is the language  
9 that prohibits private insurance coverage from  
10 providing access to gender clinical interventions.  
11 And so, again, my intention with this is the rest of  
12 the bill still stands, but I just don't think it's  
13 appropriate to get in between individuals and their  
14 private insurance coverage.

15 And that's the amendment, Members.

16 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Questions to the  
17 sponsor?

18 Questions to the sponsor?

19 Any member wishing to question Representative  
20 Eskamani?

21 No questions apparent.

22 Are there any debate on the amendment?

23 Any debate on the amendment to the amendment?

24 Representative Fine, in debate.

25 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1           Look, this gets down to, again, another  
2 public policy view, which is should you and your  
3 constituents be required to pay money in order to  
4 allow these procedures and medications to be given to  
5 other people. One of the things that we have not  
6 spoken about today is how expensive this stuff is.  
7 We had people testify that in general a lot of these  
8 medications cost up to a thousand dollars a month.  
9 This isn't like when you go and pick up a prescription  
10 for penicillin or something. This stuff is very  
11 expensive. These surgeries are very expensive.  
12 And I would argue, frankly, at the end of the day,  
13 a lot of what we are talking about is money.

14           So the question is should you and your  
15 constituents be forced by an insurance company that  
16 you may not have had any choice over whether to hire  
17 to pay for this? It is our view, as Dr. Massullo  
18 has said, that these are optional procedures. They're  
19 cosmetic procedures. If people -- if adults want them,  
20 great, they should pay for it themselves.

21           So we would ask you to vote no on this  
22 amendment.

23           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

24           Further debate?

25           Representative Eskamani, you're recognized.

1           REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Speaker.

3           One could argue that many of us cover  
4 treatments that we don't want to cover. Erectile  
5 dysfunction is carried by most private insurance, and  
6 I'm subsidizing that for maybe folks in the state of  
7 Florida. And so I think it's important not to pick  
8 and choose in that situation. When it's clinically  
9 diagnosed as necessary, then it's clearly diagnosed  
10 as necessary, and we should trust doctors to make  
11 that decision, just as I trust doctors who diagnose ED  
12 for someone, and they can access that medication  
13 through their private insurance.

14           I also want to push back against this  
15 continued point of that this is just a public policy  
16 decision, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about people's  
17 lives being impacted. This isn't just dry, arbitrary,  
18 mundane policy. This is policy impacting people's  
19 health and well-being.

20           And so our concern is that it's not just a  
21 policy decision. It has huge consequences for our  
22 constituents, for Floridians, and we just want to  
23 make sure that at least private insurance coverage is  
24 still something folks have access to.

25           Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Eskamani,  
2 having closed on her amendment to the amendment,  
3 barcode 829593, the clerk will unlock the machine,  
4 and we will vote.

5 All those members, cast your vote.

6 Have all members voted?

7 Have all members voted?

8 The clerk will lock the machine and  
9 announce the vote.

10 THE CLERK: 28 yeas, 82 nays, Mr. Speaker.

11 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: By your vote it shows  
12 the amendment fails.

13 Please read the next amendment to the  
14 amendment.

15 THE CLERK: Representative Arrington offered  
16 the following amendment to amendment, with title  
17 amendment, barcode 063349, between lines 191 and  
18 192, insert amendment.

19 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
20 Arrington, you're recognized.

21 REPRESENTATIVE ARRINGTON: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23 Since this is the last amendment, I'm  
24 crossing my fingers that we get a successful one  
25 today.

1           This amendment would sunset this law after  
2 three years, requiring the legislature to reauthorize  
3 the bill but only after a review of all new scientific  
4 and medical studies of the benefit of gender-affirming  
5 care to people with gender dysphoria is done from  
6 states where accessing gender-affirming care for  
7 minors is permitted.

8           That is the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

9           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Questions of the  
10 sponsor?

11           Questions of the sponsor?

12           Representative Gantt, do you have a  
13 question of the sponsor?

14           Other questions of the sponsor?

15           Seeing no questions, we'll have debate.

16           Any members wishing to debate?

17           Representative Gantt, you're quick on that.  
18 You're recognized.

19           REPRESENTATIVE GANTT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

20           Thank you for this amendment, Rep. Arrington.  
21 I keep hearing I believe, I believe, I believe. And  
22 a belief is not scientific evidence, and so this  
23 amendment allows this body, whether all of us are in  
24 here or not, to be able to gather data, see the  
25 impacts and evaluate whether or not this policy needs

1 to continue in the state of Florida. Because if we  
2 see this bill pass and people are dying, that means  
3 that will be my constituents and your constituents.  
4 We need to have the ability to come back, reevaluate,  
5 and make sure that we are enacting policy that  
6 has a positive long-term effect. And, if not, then  
7 we need to stop, reevaluate -- honestly, we don't  
8 need to pass this at all, in my opinion. But we would  
9 have the ability to make that determination.

10 And it's not based on feelings. It's based  
11 on facts and evidence gathered by the application of  
12 this bill and how it impacts Floridians and, even  
13 beyond just health care, how it impacts businesses  
14 and how it impacts medical facilities and doctors  
15 coming to the state or deciding not to come to the  
16 state because of the restrictive measures in this  
17 policy.

18 And this is a good amendment, so thank you,  
19 Rep. Arrington.

20 I encourage everyone to vote up on this  
21 amendment.

22 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Black  
23 in debate.

24 Anyone else want to debate?

25 Representative Massullo, you're recognized.



1           REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Speaker.

3           You know, there's nothing in any of our laws  
4 that says that this legislature can't change laws.  
5 But when we believe in something, why would we want  
6 to put a time frame on it? Today, today we're making  
7 this law. Today this legislature believes that these  
8 procedures are wrong and harmful. If -- and I don't  
9 think it will ever happen -- it would ever change,  
10 this legislature is welcome to change it. But for  
11 today we need to vote down on your amendment.

12           SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: You're recognized to  
13 close, Representative.

14           REPRESENTATIVE ARRINGTON: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker.

16           Members, I recommend that we follow the  
17 science. We can all agree that we want Floridians to  
18 receive the best possible care grounded in  
19 authoritative science and deep research. The bill  
20 sponsors have argued that gender-affirming care for  
21 minors is unproven and untested. While I disagree,  
22 this amendment helps resolve such concerns.

23           If this field of medicine does involve  
24 important developments and breakthroughs in care,  
25 this amendment would allow the legislature to

1 review new developments in three years.

2 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
4 Arrington, having closed on her amendment to the  
5 amendment, barcode 063349, all those members  
6 supporting the amendment, say yea.

7 All those opposed, say no.

8 Members by your vote show the amendment to  
9 the amendment fails.

10 Members, we have completed all of the  
11 amendments to the amendment. We are back on  
12 Representative Fine's amendment. Please pay  
13 attention. We are on now Representative Fine's  
14 amendment, barcode 256341. And I believe -- let's  
15 see -- we'll move into debate.

16 Any debate? We're in debate for  
17 Representative Fine's amendment, barcode 256341.

18 Representative Eskamani, you're recognized  
19 in debate.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you so much,  
21 Mr. Speaker.

22 Members had concerns with the Senate version  
23 that was sent to us, but Representative Fine's  
24 version goes even farther, and I just am very  
25 concerned about the potential ramifications,

1 especially for our transgender community members.  
2 I know the bill sponsor said that these are policy  
3 decisions, but, as I enumerated earlier, these are  
4 real-life consequences. And even if you don't think  
5 trans people are real or you have a disagreement with  
6 someone seeking gender-affirming care, please put  
7 yourself in their shoes.

8 And, unfortunately, so much of this process  
9 that gets us to where we are today has been heavily  
10 emphasized on one perspective and one side only.  
11 And for those members of the transgender community  
12 who came to testify in committee, they often were  
13 limited in their testimony and/or felt like they  
14 couldn't be heard.

15 And I'm very concerned about my constituents.  
16 I'm very concerned about the consequences of  
17 politicizing every part of our lives. And we should  
18 respect personal medical decisions, understand these  
19 are delicate, sensitive, private matters. And LGBTQ+  
20 kids in particular already experience higher rates  
21 of suicide. And these types of policies, they push  
22 people back into the closet.

23 This is 2023. We shouldn't have to be  
24 legislating on these issues. We should respect people  
25 to access the care they need, trust doctors to make

1 those informed decisions. And, again, if you want to  
2 establish some standards of care, I empathize with  
3 that, and we can look at standards of care. But an  
4 all-out ban goes way too far, Mr. Speaker. And so  
5 I really do encourage folks to reject this amendment.

6 And with that, thank you for the time.

7 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

8 Further debate on Representative Fine's  
9 amendment?

10 Representative Bartleman, she rises in debate.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BARTLEMAN: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Speaker.

13 In my opinion, as I discussed, there are  
14 changes to the Senate bill that actually were more  
15 kind and more compassionate for those people currently  
16 under care. I do not support the bill. I do not  
17 support these changes. There are individuals who are  
18 close to the age of 18 and have been using one of  
19 these therapies, are happy, are healthy. Their  
20 families are happy and healthy. And in December  
21 everything gets cut off, as opposed to aligning with  
22 the Senate bill or aligning with the decision made by  
23 the medical board.

24 Look, I'm going to leave you with this  
25 because I think this is honestly one of our ugliest

1 debates and everything that's gone on inside and  
2 outside. The Dalai Lama stated: *If you can, help*  
3 *others. If you cannot, then at least do no harm.*  
4 And the provision that I tried to amend does a  
5 lot of harm. So I urge you to vote this down.

6 Thank you.

7 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Further debate?

8 Representative Massullo, you're recognized  
9 in debate.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Speaker.

12 And we'll debate the bill tomorrow, but  
13 today we will basically debate the changes in our  
14 amendment as proposed to the Senate.

15 Do no harm. Do no harm. You know, that is  
16 such a commonly used phrase around here. We don't  
17 want to do any harm. That's why we have our  
18 amendment, because we believe keeping these children  
19 on these drugs that have irreversible, life-altering  
20 side effects -- and 50 studies -- 50 studies -- most  
21 of them done in Europe, have shown that these drugs  
22 are bad, and a good bit of the world is changing gears.

23 Tomorrow I want to talk about our culture,  
24 but today I'm going to talk about medicine. It makes  
25 no sense if we believe, and we're consistent in our

1 belief, that what these drugs do is harm children,  
2 how could we sit here and say, you know, the ones that  
3 we're already starting to harm, let's just continue  
4 harming them because we started it? It makes  
5 absolutely no sense.

6 So I'm asking you all to vote up on this  
7 amendment. We can debate the bill tomorrow, but  
8 today we're on the amendment, the amendment that  
9 saves children's lives.

10 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
11 Rayner-Goolsby in debate.

12 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Speaker.

14 And tomorrow I also, too, will argue about  
15 the culture and the culture that we are fostering,  
16 not only in the state but also in this chamber.

17 But I want to touch on something that  
18 Representative Massullo said, that the changes to  
19 the bill, the amendment saves lives. I would argue  
20 that is patently false. I believe in facts, and  
21 especially as a trial attorney when I'm making a  
22 case, everything that we do is evidence based.  
23 And so I want to say there's a fact nearly one in  
24 five transgender and nonbinary youth have attempted  
25 suicide and LGBTQ youth of color are reported --

1 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative  
2 Rayner-Goolsby, please bring it in.

3 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Oh, we're on  
4 time?

5 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Five more seconds.

6 REPRESENTATIVE RAYNER-GOOLSBY: Okay. Well,  
7 I would just say this amendment does not save lives.  
8 I would say this amendment actually puts lives in  
9 danger.

10 And, Members, I would ask that you vote down  
11 this bad amendment.

12 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Members' time having  
13 expired in this segment, we are now proceeding to  
14 vote on Representative Fine's amendment. This barcode  
15 is 256341.

16 All those in favor of Representative  
17 Fine's amendment, say yea.

18 Time was over. Time was over.

19 All right. Two minutes. The clerk said two  
20 minutes.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
22 And it's been a long day, so thank you for that.

23 But to try and wrap this up, there are some  
24 points that should be addressed. As I said at the  
25 beginning, there is evil in this world, and we face

1 it here today.

2 And I want folks to understand what we do in  
3 this amendment as it relates to children. We say  
4 that you cannot give children drugs that change their  
5 brain chemistry, that change their bone chemistry.  
6 And for those that say this saves lives, we can look  
7 at the new data, the new studies. The new studies  
8 show that there's a 19 times greater likelihood of  
9 someone who goes through this doing this to  
10 themselves as an adult than those who do not.  
11 Why? Because, as we will talk about tomorrow, the  
12 data shows that most of the people who go through  
13 this have comorbidities that were unaddressed. They  
14 have autism. They have other problems. And instead  
15 of doctors trying to figure out what is wrong and  
16 dealing with those things, they jump to this.

17 I have news for you. Drugs and surgeries,  
18 drugs and surgeries, cutting off the healthy body  
19 parts of children, if it ever should be done, it  
20 should be the last thing, not the first. And we have  
21 heard stories of parents being told, If you don't  
22 do this, your children will kill themselves. And  
23 so parents go and do it.

24 There are real-life consequences. That's  
25 absolutely true. And we see it over and over and over



1 again as these studies come out, and it shows that it  
2 hurts these children; it hurts their families, and it  
3 hurts this state. We do this bill, we do this  
4 amendment today to stand up for them, not only to  
5 not do no harm, but to save these children.

6 And with that, I ask for your favorable  
7 support on our amendment.

8 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Members, Representative  
9 Fine having closed on his amendment, barcode  
10 256341, all those in favor, say yea.

11 All those opposed, say nay.

12 Members show the amendment passes.

13 Before you read the next amendment, would  
14 you please join me in welcoming a former august  
15 member of this body, Representative Jennifer  
16 Sullivan.

17 Welcome back to the Florida House.

18 Before we read the next amendment, we have an  
19 announcement, please, from Representatives Valdez  
20 and Lopez, from Representative Valdez's desk.

21 You're recognized for an announcement.

22 REPRESENTATIVE VALDEZ: Thank you very much,  
23 Mr. Speaker.

24 As you all know, Representative Lopez and  
25 myself were previous school board members. And in

1 the East Gallery, we wanted to recognize Mi Familia  
2 Vota who has used their resources and their advocacy  
3 to help students understand the importance of civics  
4 and registering to vote and things of that nature.

5 So I wanted to just welcome them to their  
6 Florida House and thank them for all of their hard  
7 work. They have been able to register over 2,000  
8 students between the areas that they work in, which is  
9 Orlando, Hillsboro County, and others.

10 So thank you. [Spanish spoken.]

11 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Welcome to the Florida  
12 House.

13 Would the clerk read the next amendment.

14 THE CLERK: Representative Nixon offered the  
15 following amendment, with title amendment, barcode  
16 984929, between lines 286 and 287 insert amendment.

17 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Representative Fine,  
18 in what reference do you rise?

19 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Mr. Speaker, to make a  
20 point of order.

21 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: State your point.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Mr. Speaker, I believe  
23 the amendment substantially expands the scope of the  
24 bill and is not germane pursuant to rule 12.8.

25 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Chair Perez, are you

1 prepared to make a recommendation on the point of  
2 order?

3 REPRESENTATIVE PEREZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

4 Mr. Speaker, according to CS for SB 254, it  
5 specifically deals with sex reassignment treatment.  
6 The amendment addresses elective surgeries, which  
7 is a different subject than in the bill and outside  
8 the specific scope of the bill and requires a  
9 substantially broader title amendment.

10 In my judgment, the amendment would  
11 substantially expand the scope of the bill under  
12 rule 12.8, and I recommend that the point is well  
13 taken.

14 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Based upon the  
15 recommendation of the rules chair, the point of order  
16 is well taken, and the amendment is not germane.

17 Read the next amendment.

18 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

19 SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Show the bill rolled  
20 over for third reading.

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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 17th of August, 2023.

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