

Good afternoon. I am Dr Kaaren Olesen a board-certified OB/Gyn in Des Moines where I have practiced for 21 years.

I am here to express my concern for SSB 1197 / HSB 214 which I urge you to vote against.

We once again need to speak up to keep 3rd party decision-makers out of our exam rooms in our clinics and hospitals across our state and to keep the treatment discussions and decisions between a patient and their healthcare provider.

Every medical association supports gender-affirming care – ACOG, AAP, AAFP, AMA, AOA to name a few.

As an OB/Gyn, specifically my governing college supports the use of evidence-based resources, care, and information for individuals, including adolescents, accessing gender-affirming care and transition therapy, free from political interference.

We also support ensuring individuals, including adolescents, can live openly and consistent with their gender identity and participate in school and community activities without discrimination.

Clinical studies have shown

That in follow-up of adolescents with childhood gender dysphoria who received puberty suppression, gender-affirming hormones, or both, found that none of the youth in adulthood regretted the decision they had taken in adolescence.

Another study demonstrated the resolution of gender dysphoria is associated with improved psychological functioning and body image satisfaction.

Conversely we also know that denying gender-affirming services is detrimental to the health and well-being of children. Here's how

LGBTQ youth are not inherently prone to suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity but rather placed at higher risk because of how they are mistreated and stigmatized in society.

LGBTQ youth are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers

Data indicate that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth

I do not understand the need to limit health care to a group of people, when, obviously, in doing so, they are further harmed, perhaps, to the extreme point of death.

Please follow the evidence and the recommendations of medical professionals and vote NO on this bill.

WPATH is the World Professional Association for Transgender Health sets standards of health care for transgender individuals with the goal to provide clinical guidance to healthcare providers