

Hello,

My name Marianka Pille. I am a pediatrician in Des Moines and president of the Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I have 23 years of experience caring for children and their families.

Pediatricians and pediatric specialists are experts in children's health. The proposed legislation seeks to tightly control what are ultimately medical decisions to be made with a patient and their parents. This represents an invasion of the doctor patient relationship and ignores the fact that gender affirming care is standard healthcare, lifesaving healthcare, that is nuanced and individualized to meet the specific needs of a patient. There are detailed discussions of goals, risks, and benefits, as there would be for any other healthcare decision. These conversations and their content are best left to patients and their physicians. As a physician I am trained and qualified to have those conversations with my patients. As an Iowan, I want my physician to be able to discuss all available health care options with me.

This legislation singles out a vulnerable group of patients. My job, my calling, is supporting all patients and their families. It involves having tough conversations about sensitive matters and meeting patients' needs with compassion. The proposed legislation will create barriers between patients and their physicians and create a situation where Iowa's kids do not have access to the very best care.