



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNE WEIR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 10:18 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BEV EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-608-0168	
REPRESENTING: LIBERTY LINK MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 312			
CITY: WARRENTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63383
EMAIL: bevehlen@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 8:36 AM	

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There is so much information regarding those individuals who are de-transitioning - that transitioning to the opposite sex was not the answer to those troubles from which the individual was suffering. What one needs is time and counseling to get to the root cause of a minor's desire to identify as the opposite sex.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEV EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 2:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN J STONE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:09 PM

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Please, please do not allow any gender transition drugs or procedures for children. Children are still developing in all ways and any confusion regarding their sexual identity should be addressed with counseling, not with life altering procedures or drugs the effects of which cannot be reversed.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CINDY DEGGENDORF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 5:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLIF EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 2:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONNIE LARSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 7:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I support HB 1864			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. GUILLERMO VILLA-TRUEBA		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE: HISPANIC OUTREACH MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: villatruebag@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 10:55 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Catholic Conference supports HB 1608, HB 1672, HB 1854, and HB 2033, as they would ensure that minors continue to be protected from life-altering cross-sex hormones and puberty blocking drugs that, based on a false understanding of human nature, attempt to change their sex. Medical and surgical treatment for gender dysphoria denies the fundamental truth about the human person being created male and female in the image and likeness of God. Furthermore, we are concerned that minors are not capable of giving truly informed consent to dangerous treatment that could lead to irreversible consequences, such as infertility and lifelong dependence on costly hormone therapies with significant side effects. Young people struggling with gender dysphoria are loved by God and possess the same inherent dignity that all persons do. They deserve help that heals rather than harms; using cross-sex hormones or puberty blocking drugs for the purpose of a so-called “gender transition” can, and will, only inflict harm and cause suffering.

The Missouri Catholic Conference urges the committee to vote “DO PASS” on HB 1608, HB 1672, HB 1854, and HB 2033.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EDON SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:01 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUIE THORSTENSEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 10:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: DO NO HARM ACTION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 74			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: james@thejharrisco.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:38 AM

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Do No Harm Action is supportive of eliminating the sunset in the SAFE Act to ensure Missouri children remain protected.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANET L DABBS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 9:57 AM
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAYDREAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 6:51 PM
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Trans rights are human rights.			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOANNE SCHRADER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 4:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors to live as the opposite sex is potentially harmful and with irreversible consequences according to the emerging evidence. The initial science on gender dysphoria was based on weak studies. Therefore, I support these prescriptions being prohibited indefinitely.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDY SOFKA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 1:20 AM
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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LES J LARSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 7:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I support HB 1854			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY K GREGORY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 9:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA E HUEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 1:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I strongly support HB 1854.

Children are too young to be making decisions to permantly modify their bodies. The science shows that the great majority of children outgrow gender dysphoria. The side effects are horrendous: lowered IQ, osteoporosis, damage to internal organs, infertility. What honest doctor would cut off healthy body parts from a 15 year old? There are rising numbers of cases of detransitions whose lives and health have been ruined by these "treatments".

I don't live in your state; I come from the state where much of this poison comes from. I am working to help end it by reaching out to states where these sensible laws are being proposed.

See Democrats for an Informed Approach to Gender (<https://www.di-ag.org/>). Even if you are not a Democrat, you will find this website most useful because it is full of information that any legislator should be aware of.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RANDALL STONE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:30 PM
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Please support all bills to restrict or deny gender transition procedures and drugs for persons requesting the change of gender. Prevent any identified transgender persons to participate in any sports or other events other than their biological sex.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERLYN NAIL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 3:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE RITTGERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support fewer affirming care for trans individuals-it's is well documented that this improves the mental health and decreases suicide of trans individuals. Furthermore, Insupport athletes participating in sports that align with their trans gender.



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TESTIFYING: ☒ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 8:30 PM
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According to science, there are only two sexes, male and female. These are biological terms referring to whether a person has XX chromosomes, or XY chromosomes. Every cell in our body carries DNA, and that DNA determines whether a person is male or female. That cannot be changed. If an archeologist digs up human remains, they can easily determine whether that individual was a male or a female by the DNA.

And because of this, those who take puberty blockers and have surgery in an attempt to change sex are fighting a battle they can never win. And that battle is with their own body. Transgender surgeries, and puberty blockers create permanent conflict within their body that far exceeds whatever conflict a person may have with their gender orientation. The science is clear, transgender surgeries cause a plethora of other health issues that cause more harm than good.

According to the American College of Pediatricians, "Temporary use of puberty blocker Lupron has also been associated with and may be the cause of many serious permanent side effects including osteoporosis, mood disorders, seizures, cognitive impairment and, when combined with cross-sex hormones, sterility.

In addition to the harm from Lupron, cross-sex hormones put youth at an increased risk of heart attacks, stroke, diabetes, blood clots, and cancers across their lifespan. Physically healthy transgender-believing girls are being given double mastectomies at 13 and hysterectomies at 16, while their male counterparts are referred for surgical castration and penectomies at 16 and 17, respectively, and it becomes clear that affirming transition in children is about mutilating and sterilizing emotionally troubled youth."

Thus, all the promises of transgender surgery solving the gender dysphoria a person is experiencing, are deceptive false promises that can never fulfill all they profess. Other nations have recognized this and have begun instituting bans on transgender surgeries and the use of puberty blockers for those under the age of 18.

In December of 2024 the British government banned puberty blockers as a treatment for minors with gender dysphoria. After embracing gender transition procedures for minors before the U.S., European countries like the U.K. are now reversing course as evidence of the harm they could cause has mounted.

Along with the U.K., Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and France have all pumped the brakes on providing puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones to minors as a treatment for gender dysphoria. These are all progressive democracies with nationalized health care systems that retreated from gender transition procedures for minors not out of ideological opposition to transgenderism, but out of safety concerns, based on extensive evidence.

Some may counter all of this by claiming that these surgeries are necessary to prevent transgender youth from committing suicide. While the rate of suicide and suicidal attempts among transgender

youth is indeed higher than among straight youth, it would take way more time than we have today to demonstrate why that is the case. Suffice it to say that transgender youth have a much higher rate of drug and alcohol abuse, are struggling with the known mental effects of cross-hormone therapy mentioned earlier. Additionally, 84% of transgender youth wanted mental healthcare – indicating other mental health issues – and less than half of those were able to access it.

So referring again to the American College of Pediatricians: Although parents are often told that their children will commit suicide if their false sexual identity is not supported, there is no long-term evidence that transgender interventions prevent suicidal ideation or behaviors.

Still, Washington University in St. Louis, and many others, speak openly about “gender affirming” treatment. No one in this industry speaks of treating the child in an objective manner or trying to find what is best for the patient. It is automatically assumed that “affirming their transition” is what is best. It is evident that our medical community has been overtaken by a particular ideology; and the pursuit of acceptance within that community requires acquiescence to that ideology. A similar situation occurred nearly one hundred years ago in Germany. In that day physicians conducted experiments on persons who were not afforded the opportunity for informed consent. As prison inmates were subjected to these medical experiments, the results were painful, and often fatal. But the culture of that day, and even the government, provided additional funding for the research, and opportunities for career advancement, to those who would subscribe to that popular ideology.

It wasn’t until the war was over that standards were developed to safeguard the subjects of medical experimentation and treatment. The ten standards, known as the Nuremburg Code, are now accepted worldwide, and violations of those standards are considered crimes against humanity. The first tenant of the Nuremburg Code states:

The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential. This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision. This latter element requires that before the acceptance of an affirmative decision by the experimental subject there should be made known to him the nature, duration, and purpose of the experiment; the method and means by which it is to be conducted; all inconveniences and hazards reasonably to be expected; and the effects upon his health or person which may possibly come from his participation in the experiment.

But the so-called “treatment” being given to adolescents who are struggling with gender identity does not meet the criteria of this first tenant of the Nuremburg Code. The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential. This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; The rest of that tenant expounds on this idea of consent by clarifying that such consent must be both voluntary and informed.

In January of last year, President Trump signed Executive order 2025-1 which gives a scathing assessment of gender affirming care for minors. The heart of this executive order states: “It is the policy of the United States that it will not fund, sponsor, promote, assist, or support the so-called “transition” of a child from one sex to another, and it will rigorously enforce all laws that prohibit or limit these destructive and life-altering procedures.”

Current Missouri law prevents the use of puberty blockers and transgender surgeries for minors. Several other states have done the same. Each of these bills – HB1608, HB1672, HB1854, and HB2033 – would all allow current law to continue protecting our children, being consistent with the Nuremburg Code and current national polity.

I encourage you to vote “do pass” on each of these bills, or a committee substitute accomplishing the same.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ABBY ELLISON LAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 1:17 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. ASRM. <https://www.asrm.org/advocacy-and-policy/fact-sheets-and-one-pagers/just-the-facts-biological-sex/>



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ADAM STREETER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 11:57 AM
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We all want to protect our children. I appreciate the intent of those that seek to do this.

However, this bill, which permanently and indefinitely bans effective medical interventions for youth that are transgender, is not the way to protect our children.

When I refer to effective medical interventions, I am speaking primarily of hormonal interventions, which are part of the standard of care. Physical surgeries are not part of the standard of care for anyone under 18.

First, I acknowledge that this can be a complicated and confusing subject. It can be scary to think about "what if we make the wrong choice for our children?" That is exactly why government should stay out of it. Doctors, parents, and the youths themselves are in far better positions to evaluate evolving evidence and the nuance of their own unique situations than a sweeping bureaucratic generalization.

I imagine many of the legislators in favor of this bill would also support the greatness of America as a country. I also believe that America is a great country, and I ask those same honorable legislators whether America was made great by government legislating the personal medical lives of its citizens, or was it made great by our commitment to individual freedom?

Second, I have seen the impacts first hand with my own child and offer my testimony of this personal experience. I have seen the mental health and spirits of my child improve, with each step she took that affirmed her identity, including hormonal treatments. We have gone through the discussions with therapist and doctors, done our research, and at every point, I believe the risks and current state of the evidence were clearly explained and understood.

I have also seen the detrimental effects on my daughter's mental health -- the stress and anxiety -- that come from the parade of bills, along with the surrounding rhetoric, that seem to be designed to make her life more difficult. From that perspective, I know that this bill harms children.

In closing, I hope that you will reject this bill. But, regardless, I hope you will go forward in kindness in your speech and deeds, towards each other, towards people that are transgender, and towards everyone just trying to make their way through a complicated world.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLISON HILLMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 4:53 PM

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I oppose restrictions on gender affirming care.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALYSSA PATEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 2:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
As a therapist I oppose all of these.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA EHLL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 10:47 PM
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I urge the committee to oppose this bill. Stop scapegoating young transgender people to avoid dealing with real issues Missourians face. The facts are that kids under 18 don't participate in transition surgeries. Those that want to be considered for puberty blockers, have to go through an assessment process with mental health professionals and specialists, explore social/psychological factors, understand risk/benefits, and provide informed consent. Below are the possible benefits of puberty blockers from Mayo Clinic:

- Improve mental well-being.
- Ease depression and anxiety.
- Improve social interactions with others.
- Lower the need for future surgeries.
- Ease thoughts or actions of self-harm.

ALSO, GnRH analogues don't cause permanent physical changes. Instead, they pause puberty. Please move on to something that will help your constituents!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA MICHEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 12:48 PM
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Please stop passing laws that harm the already vulnerable LGBTQ youth in our state. Leave them alone. All US medical associations support gender affirming care for minors after careful consideration from all relevant parties. You have no medical knowledge and no justification for becoming involved in family decisions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY EASTERLING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:48 AM
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I would like to strongly encourage our legislatures to leave transgender children and their families alone. For a party who claims to value parental rights, you seem to have no problem interfering in the rights of these family to make private healthcare decisions for their children.

In the time that the ban on Gender Affirming Care for minors has been in place, families have been driven away from Missouri and children have suffered. I would urge you to let this cruel policy expire and to focus on the real issues impacting Missourians - our infrastructure, our schools, and affordable living.

Regarding the sports bans on transgender kids, I would also urge you to let those bills expire. As we all know, that ban was performative theater when there were LESS THAN FIVE transgender kids in Missouri participating in sports at all levels.

PLEASE - focus your attention on real issues and leave these families in peace.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY HAMMERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS		TITLE: STATE POLICY ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: 311 N. LINDBERGH BLVD.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: akuo.hammerman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 3:29 PM

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My name is Amy Kuo Hammerman and I am the Missouri State Policy Advocate for National Council of Jewish Women, based in St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for women, children and families while supporting individual and civil rights, and have been doing so since 1895. This bill would eliminate the August 2027 sunset provision on a bill that already encroaches on Missouri parents' right to make decisions concerning their children's healthcare. There has been no change in the research or new data concerning gender-affirming care for trans children in this state. This body agreed on the sunset provision because of the complexities and concerns about trans healthcare and wisely decided not to make a bad decision permanent. This bill demonstrates government overreach that is not only dangerous, but also cruel. We urge you to vote no.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY PIERDEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 2:45 PM
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According to the Mayo Clinic (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/gender-dysphoria/in-depth/pubertal-blockers/art-20459075>), so long as bone density and growth is monitored, there seem to be few lasting effects of puberty blockers. On the other hand, the benefits are huge, giving children the mental space necessary to process their gender before making permanent decisions, and even reduces rates of suicidal ideation (American Academy of Pediatrics, <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/145/2/e20191725/68259/Pubertal-Suppression-for-Transgender-Youth-and?redirectedFrom=fulltext>). With such low risks, and such high rewards, we are compelled to provide this protection to our children.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNE OGIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:34 PM
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These bills are hateful and ignore all the studies that keep coming out showing the benefits of gender-affirming care. Legislation should never be based on politicians ignorance, especially when they refuse to try to understand or speak to the community their bills will affect. Just because you don't understand something, doesn't mean it's wrong. Trans kids and their parents know better than these legislators ever could. I hope you all feel shame every time you talk about parents rights.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANTHONY DAO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 2:20 PM
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My name is Anthony Dao, and I am a hospitalist practicing in Missouri. I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB?1672, HB?1608, HB?1854, and HB?2033, which would repeal the sunset on the current restrictions against gender affirming care for minors and make these prohibitions permanent.

As a physician, my primary commitment is to serve the health needs of my patients. I have dedicated my career to caring for individuals from all backgrounds and identities, regardless of political affiliation, religion, or upbringing. Politicians legislating the specifics of medical care interferes with the trusted relationship between clinicians, patients, and families, which is the foundation of effective healthcare. Marginalized communities, like LGBTQIA+ youth, are particularly vulnerable when trust in the healthcare system is undermined.

1. The sunset provision was intentionally included to allow for further study and evaluation. Continued research and clinical observation should inform policy over time.

2. Leading healthcare organizations have continued to recognize gender-affirming care as appropriate and evidence-based.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, and the Endocrine Society all provide guidelines and recommendations for the individualized use of puberty blockers.

3. Decisions about medical care should be made by clinicians and families.

Healthcare professionals have wide latitude in how we practice; however, our behavior is dictated by the pillars of ethics – beneficence, do no harm, justice, and autonomy. Beneficence and autonomy include shared decision-making with patients and families. To do no harm means practicing within the guidelines, and to include patients when we are deviating from them.

For the vast majority of healthcare, including hypertension, diabetes, thyroid disease, cancer, heart failure, kidney disease, and liver disease, there are no explicit laws dictating how physicians must practice. We rely on professional guidance developed by national societies through a rigorous and evidence-based process. Gender-affirming care should be treated no differently.

4. There have been no new high-quality studies that demonstrate that puberty blockers and/or gender affirming hormonal care are harmful to trans youth.

Recent reviews and state-commissioned evaluations have failed to provide evidence of harm that would justify a permanent ban. Notably, this was in the news for Utah last year.

Beyond patient care, there is a critical impact on our Missouri healthcare workforce. LGBTQIA+ healthcare professionals are increasingly hesitant to practice in Missouri due to the hostile laws. LGBTQIA+ physicians are hesitant to come here, or they plan to leave St Louis. As an LGBTQIA+ physician, I serve EVERYONE. In a state experiencing a healthcare workforce shortage (<https://abc17news.com/news/2025/06/03/missouri-is-among-states-with-the-worst-health-care->

professional-shortages/?utm_source=chatgpt.com), and these policies are driving talented healthcare professionals away which harms ALL Missourians.

For these reasons, I urge you to allow the sunset to stand. Letting the existing expiration date take effect preserves the ability of policymakers to consider evolving evidence, allows clinicians to continue providing individualized, evidence-based care, and protects both patient health and the trust in our medical system.

Thank you for your consideration.

As a post script, please remember that gender affirming surgical care for people under 18 is NOT recommended by any current healthcare guidelines and should not be misconstrued as part of the evidence against hormonal affirming care.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY ARNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 1:33 PM
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY JAWORSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 6:02 PM

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Missourians deserve to make healthcare decisions in private. You are interfering with Missourians rights. We want our legislators to focus on real issues facing Missourians. Gender affirming care should be left up to citizens and their medical team.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY KUYKENDALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 1:52 PM
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Gender and social transition are deeply personal decisions that should be left to families and their support systems, including medical providers. The government should not be involved. Stop trying to legislative trans lives and let these kids learn and grow exactly as they should. As a Missourian and a social worker, I do not support any legislative agenda that seeks to restrict the ways gender diverse kids can move through the world on the basis of their gender identity or expression. That is discrimination, plain and simple.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BECKY CUMLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 10:25 PM
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I oppose.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRITTANY KIEFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 7:29 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Brittany Kiefer. I am a resident of St Louis City and I do not support anti-trans laws banning access to healthcare for trans youth and laws that restrict the ability for trans kids to play sports.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CAMMIE STORM		PHONE NUMBER: 417-280-6473	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JUST ANOTHER HUMAN		TITLE: FOUNDER	
ADDRESS: 2707 COUNTY ROAD 4000			
CITY: WEST PLAINS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65775
EMAIL: camlnichols75@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 12:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 1854

Gender Transition Procedures

To the Committee:

My name is Cammie Storm. I am a resident of the state of Missouri, a transgender woman, and a community advocate with Just Another Human. I submit this written testimony in opposition to HB 1854.

HB 1854 is not a medical safeguard. It is a political intervention into healthcare that disregards science, professional expertise, and patient wellbeing.

This bill is built on the false premise that gender-affirming care is reckless, experimental, or routinely misapplied. That claim has been rejected by pediatricians, endocrinologists, psychiatrists, and every major medical association in the United States.

Gender-affirming care follows established standards of practice. It involves careful assessment, ongoing monitoring, parental involvement, and professional accountability. HB 1854 ignores this reality and replaces it with legislative mandates that treat lawmakers as medical authorities.

This is not how healthcare works.

HB 1854 also singles out transgender patients for restrictions not applied to any other group.

Comparable medical treatments remain legal, ethical, and protected—except when the patient is transgender. That is not neutrality. That is discrimination by statute.

The consequences of this bill are not theoretical. Similar laws have already resulted in doctors leaving the state, families relocating for care, and transgender youth experiencing increased psychological distress. These outcomes were predicted by medical professionals and are now being observed in real time.

If HB 1854 were truly about protecting patients, it would listen to doctors.

If it were truly about evidence, it would reflect medical consensus.

If it were truly about ethics, it would respect individualized care.

It does none of these things.

HB 1854 replaces medicine with ideology and fear with law. In doing so, it causes harm to real people who deserve care, dignity, and honesty from their government.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to reject HB 1854.

Respectfully submitted,

Cammie Storm

Just Another Human



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE KOPP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:50 PM

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Stopping access to prescriptions relating to a young person's transition is cruel. Studies have shown that these prescriptions are life-saving for trans youth. By stopping them and eliminating the sunset dates, these young people are at greater risk for suicide. Please consider that when making your decision.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINA CAPSTICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 9:16 PM
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My name is Christina Capstick and I live in St. Louis County, 63146. I am the proud mother of a trans teen. Our family has been in MO for over 150 years. My child is bright, funny, a loyal friend, and animal-lover. They volunteer at their school and community, donate blood, and foster kittens for the Humane Society. They are beloved by teachers, friends, and family. And they likely will not stay in MO due to oppressive laws such as these. I ask lawmakers to respect the privacy, dignity, and autonomy of all Missourians by voting against anti-trans legislation.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER LEHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:31 PM
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The "experimentation(s)" or "experimenting" of that's specified as an amendment is falsely labeled, titled & termed.

This entire bill's existence is not needed & further "muddies" an already over-reaching piece of legislation that attacks, limits & impedes onto & into family care, pediatric medical care, pediatric mental health care, decisions between parents & their own children.

This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Save
2 Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act"

There is no "saving" that's needed that you ever so claim to need & bring into light.

Subsection provision elimination will only drive families away as contributing, tax paying, higher education seeking & consumers within Missouri's borders. In an economic time where tax based revenue is at an all-time desire, the creation of bills like this one won't help your cause.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY GLAUBER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 3:01 PM
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYDNEY MCKINNIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 6:53 AM

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I do not support this bill. It will harm transgender individuals. Please do not vote for this bill.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA HERRICK, MD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 9:04 PM
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I am an endocrinologist who provides gender affirming hormone therapy for adults, and over the past decade, I have had the privilege of caring for hundreds of transgender people. I strongly urge Missouri legislators to vote no on HB 2033, HB1608, HB 1672, and HB 1854 because these bills are dangerous for transgender youth in our state and set problematic precedents for the intrusion of government on medical care, private medical decision making, and parental rights.

Gender affirming care for youth, including pubertal delay and hormone therapy where appropriate as determined within a multidisciplinary care team, remains the standard of care endorsed by the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Psychological Association, American College of Physicians, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Endocrine Society. Additionally, a systematic review commissioned by Utah's state legislature, reported out in May 2025, found that existing evidence supports the use of puberty blockers and hormone therapy for gender diverse adolescents.

The law in our state, passed as SB 49, currently denies transgender youth in Missouri access to standard medical care. Parents cannot access appropriate healthcare in our state for their adolescent children. Adults on Missouri Medicaid are also denied coverage for evidence based hormone therapy and surgery. The house bills under consideration would remove the sunset clause introduced in SB 49 and permanently deny Missourians access to the standard of care.

Transgender people are not confused about who they are. Our gender is determined by specialized areas within our brains, and just as we do not choose to be right or left-handed, we do not choose our gender. The vast majority of transgender adults that I see have spent years and often decades coming to terms with the fact that their gender does not match their sex. The decision to pursue medical care is not made hastily, and in our hostile world, it takes extraordinary courage and resilience to live as one's authentic gender in a body that doesn't "match."

When I prescribe hormone therapy for transgender adults, it is clear that this is one of the few things I do that can dramatically improve someone's quality of life in a relatively short period of time. When transgender people start on hormone therapy, it is not uncommon for them to express a sense of joy and relief at their first follow-up visit, often before dramatic physical changes are present. People report that they "feel like a weight or fog has been lifted", they "feel more comfortable" in their body, and like "this is the way it is supposed to be." Many report that their mental health is better than they can remember it being in a long time. People who spent decades suppressing their identity report being able to focus better and accomplish more now that their mental resources are freed from the burden of hiding. In my practice, when I see young adults who were able to begin their transition before age 18, they are often thriving and confident, proceeding with their goals in life, thankful for care that was available to them in adolescence. Numerous patients have told me that this care saved their life.

As with any medical intervention, there are justifiable concerns about unexpected outcomes and treatment regret. Understanding these outcomes and supporting individuals who detransition is important. However, in the most recent survey of > 90,000 transgender people in the US, the vast majority of transgender individuals receiving hormone therapy (98%), reported improved life satisfaction. This care has immense benefit, and I see the despair that results when essential medical care is denied. Please vote no on HB 2033, HB1608, HB 1672, and HB 1854 to avoid enshrining policies in law indefinitely that strip basic healthcare from Missouri youth.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MCDANNOLD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 3:53 PM

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Elected officials and state government should not make medical decisions for children. That should be up to medical professionals, in consultation with parents.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAKOTA D JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 10:04 PM
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HB 1854 takes this state intrusion into the most personal of medical decisions a step further by removing flexibility and retroactively invalidating care that was lawfully prescribed under previous standards. Conservatives have long supported limited government, deference to parental judgment, and caution when lawmakers are asked to override families and physicians who are working through the toughest of circumstances. The creation of permanent restrictions-and undoing past decisions- leads to disruption in care, creates uncertainty, and allows rigid policy to be placed above the needs of the individual. Missouri should continue to lead with restraint and prudence, allowing space for families and medical professionals to respond thoughtfully as knowledge and circumstances evolve rather than locking sensitive issues into inflexible statute.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANI JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 3:38 PM
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Gender-affirming care is evidence-based and medically necessary. It improves mental health, reduces rates of suicide attempts, and supports equality. How can you target blocking care for transgender youth while allowing identical treatments for cisgender youth—puberty blockers for precocious puberty, for example?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL JAMES MCKINNIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 1:08 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE MEERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 6:54 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANY LACIO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 10:16 PM
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My name is Dan Lacio and I live in Springfield, Missouri.

I'm here in opposition to removing the sunset provision from SB 49.

This law is not abstract to me. It affects people I love, people in my community, and families who are already carrying fear and uncertainty every single day.

When SB 49 passed, the sunset clause mattered. It was presented as a safeguard — an acknowledgment that this policy might cause harm, that evidence could change, and that future lawmakers should be allowed to reassess.

But ever since the bill passed, legislators have repeatedly tried to remove that sunset.

That tells me something important.

It tells me this was never really about “waiting for more information.”

It was never about humility or caution.

It was about making this permanent from the start.

And that matters, because you cannot claim a policy is about protecting children while simultaneously rushing to lock it in before its impacts can even be fully measured.

I've sat with parents who are trying to decide whether they need to leave Missouri to keep their child safe. I've talked with young people who already feel like their government sees them as a problem to solve instead of people to protect. These are kids trying to survive school, friendships, and growing up — not political debates.

For families who were grandfathered in, these continued efforts reopen the same wound over and over again. They were promised stability, and instead they are forced to live with the knowledge that it could be taken away at any time.

And I also need to say this plainly:

When lawmakers repeatedly justify this ban using religious language, religious doctrine, or personal beliefs about gender and identity, that raises serious questions about the separation of church and state.

We do not all share the same faith.

We do not all interpret scripture the same way.

And no one family's religious beliefs should become binding medical law for every family in Missouri. Sunsets exist for a reason. They allow policy to be evaluated. They allow lawmakers to learn. They allow correction when harm becomes clear.

Removing the sunset says: we are comfortable making this harm permanent.

Keeping it says: we are willing to be accountable.

I'm asking you to leave the sunset in place — not because everyone has to agree today, but because future families, future lawmakers, and future trans kids deserve the chance to be treated with evidence, dignity, and humanity instead of fear.

Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE: PAL TEAM LEAD	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 5:40 PM

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MOEEP still steadfastly opposes any bill targeting any marginalized communities and populations in Missouri, and this bill does just that. We believe that healthcare decisions should be made by patients, and parents in the case of minors, in consultation with medical professionals. On these grounds, we opposed the initial ban put into place, but it passed with the sunset that was negotiated in good faith. To remove it now undermines the integrity of members of the legislature to stand by their collective word. This was to give elected leaders who admittedly do not know or understand what such care means to transgender youth, or what it means to their parents to be stripped of the rights to help guide healthcare in the best interests of their children, to learn. What education along these lines has been done?

Parents either have rights or they don't.

Our charge at MOEEP is to be a voice for Missouri youth and their families who might not be able to speak for themselves in trying to have a safe, inclusive, welcoming environment in their home state. For all of these reasons, we oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 8:55 PM
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I am opposed to ending the sunset. I am opposed to the bill itself to be fair. By trying to remove the sunset, it tells me the Missouri legislature cannot be trusted. How can we believe anything you say? You will put something in to make it less evil or more palatable to get it passed then as soon as you can, you say, "Just kidding!" and try to remove it. This is another shard in the broken trust of Missourians. You overturn initiative petitions, you waste money fighting what voters have TOLD you we want--since at least 2018. So what is a little bit more duplicitousness in getting things passed. As a parent, I cannot imagine knowing a treatment could literally save my child, protect my child's mental health and well being and being told by a roomful of politicians that they know more than doctors, endocrinologists, and psychologists. I am my child's best advocate, and I was nearly booted from Cardinal Glennon's ER when the doctor refused to get a surgical consult or do any testing for appendicitis because he saw my son eating a sandwich. He sent us home. I was planning on complaining on Monday to the ER chief, but didn't have to wait that long because my 10yo deteriorated over 12 hrs and we were back. The chief of surgery took care of him AND the doctor., So do you think if he'd needed gender affirming care, I wouldn't have moved heaven and earth to get age appropriate healthcare for him? Not for a nanosecond. It's sadly hypocritical that you support parents' rights against giving their children life saving vaccinations but strip parents of their rights to get life saving gender care. The only physician in the body votes against these bills for a reason. Please stand by your word while it still means a little something.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH REINHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 4:27 PM
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Well, here we are again. Missouri's Republican legislators are hell bent on continuing their gross overreach into the private lives of Missouri families, and we have HB1854 as a result. Despite hearing hours of testimony from accredited doctors and the emotional stories from parents and trans youth for the last three years, this committee, once again, is discussing legislation to make essential healthcare for trans youth inaccessible for good in this state. Your unfortunate and unpopular crusade against trans youth and families wastes my tax money that pays your salaries. Put your time into real issues that can make the lives of Missourians better (education, cost of living, healthcare, jobs) and allow families with their medical teams to decide without any help from you what is best for their children. Vote NO on HB1854.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEREK W THOMAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 3:12 PM
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I do not understand why our legislators feel it is so important to regulate people as to their idea of themselves, their ideal selves, who they love, etc. This makes as much sense as legislating that everyone must paint every room in their house white. Some people have gray rooms and purple rooms and red rooms and whatever color they want rooms. And yet our legislators think it's a great idea to force everyone to have white rooms. If you don't like red or purple or yellow rooms, don't go there. If brown rooms drive you crazy, just don't go in them. Please stop pandering to your so-called "values" - Christian or otherwise - and to your "white paint for all" voters. Please DO start legislating things we really need. May I suggest healthcare? Or education? Or the abysmal state of our highways and bridges. Just to name a few. You claim to want an America where freedom reigns. As long as it's freedom YOU want, not for anyone else. Please. Just stop. It is none of your business who I love, or who the person next to you loves. Or how they choose to live. Or choose the color of their rainbow. Just stop.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANE MEEKER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-234-0342	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN--MISSOURI; NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN--COLUMBIA AREA		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 203 BREWER DRIVE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: columbiamonow@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 10:15 PM	
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The Missouri state chapter and the Columbia Area local chapter of the National Organization for Women stand opposed to any and all attempts to discriminate against trans folk and non-binary individuals in the name of gender conformity, when scientific research indicates that biological sex in humans is more complex than a strict binary division. Additionally, anti-trans legislation contributes to the harassment of cisgender girls and women whenever their outward appearance does not conform to random strangers' definition of "feminine." We urge the committee to OPPOSE this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DON CROZIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 8:53 PM

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Gender affirming care is needed for some people and can improve their lives. These types of bills are harmful and the ban should be allowed to expire.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUG MANN		PHONE NUMBER: 716-785-3396	
REPRESENTING: PLANNED PARENTHOOD GREAT RIVERS ACTION		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 4251 FOREST PARK AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: doug.mann@ppgr.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 8:18 PM
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Chair and members of the committee,

Everyone deserves the freedom to access the health care they need, including the freedom to make decisions for themselves with their doctors, based on medical expertise and individual needs, and without interference from politicians. At its core, HB 1608, 1672, 1854, and 2033 are not about protecting young people or supporting families. They are about government control, substituting political ideology for evidence-based medical care.

Gender-affirming care is evidence-based health care that is supported by every major medical association in the United States, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, organizations representing more than 1.3 million physicians. Research consistently shows that access to age-appropriate gender-affirming care significantly lowers rates of depression and suicidality. A landmark 2022 study published in JAMA found that transgender and nonbinary youth who had access to hormone therapy had 60% lower odds of depression and 73% lower odds of suicidality compared to those who did not.

HB 1608, 1672, 1854, and 2033 would deny this care outright, even when parents, patients, and highly trained medical providers agree it is medically necessary and even life saving. No parent should be forced to choose between following their doctor's recommendations and complying with a law that puts their child's health and wellbeing at risk.

These bills would also punish doctors for doing their jobs. Under HB 1608, 1672, 1854, and 2033, health care providers who follow established standards of care could lose their professional licenses and face devastating civil liability for simply honoring their ethical obligation to care for their patients. This would not make health care safer, but make care harder to access for everyone.

Transgender people already face significant barriers to care, particularly those who are low-income, live in rural communities, or lack stable housing. Missourians deserve more access to health care, not less. Planned Parenthood Great Rivers Action urges you to oppose HB 1608, 1672, 1854, and 2033, allow the sunset provision to remain in place, and reject government interference in personal medical decisions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH KRAMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 6:41 AM
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Why are you wasting time trying to pass these bills, when we have serious issues in Missouri about how children are treated, cared for, and supported? These bills do not support the health and wellbeing of children in Missouri, and are against the wishes of parents, and the realities of children, who may experience gender in very different ways than you. Your fear should define the next generation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELLIE BLEDSOE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 9:43 PM
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I oppose House Bills 1973, 2431, 1879, 2730, 1853, 2401, and 3633, which collectively seek to make permanent the state's restrictions on transgender youth by removing critical sunset provisions that were deliberately included in 2023 legislation. These bills represent a dangerous legislative intrusion into the practice of medicine and directly contradict established medical consensus.

The Sunset Provisions Exist for Good Reason

When the legislature passed SB 49 in 2023, it included both a grandfather clause and a sunset provision set for August 28, 2027. These provisions were not accidental—they were legislatively agreed upon to ensure that care for minors already in treatment was not disrupted and to provide the legislature additional time to analyze the efficacy of these restrictions. Rather than allowing this deliberate review period to occur, these bills would prematurely eliminate that safeguard and make these restrictions permanent without the careful analysis that was promised.

Medical Consensus Opposes These Restrictions

Gender-affirming care for patients under age 18 is considered best medical practice by major medical organizations—including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Medical Association (AMA), and American Psychiatric Association. There is consensus in the medical community that gender-affirming care is medically necessary, safe, effective, and lifesaving.

The American Medical Association has called this type of legislation "dangerous legislative intrusion into the practice of medicine," emphasizing that it is "imperative that transgender minors be given the opportunity to explore their gender identity under the safe and supportive care of a physician." The American Psychiatric Association "opposes all legislative and other governmental attempts to limit access to [mental health support and gender-affirming care services] for trans and gender diverse youth, or to sanction or criminalize the actions of physicians and other clinicians who provide them."

Gender-Affirming Care Saves Lives

For youth under the age of 18, gender-affirming care consists mostly of access to mental health care, as well as puberty blockers and hormone treatments—both of which are reversible. The AAP has found evidence that denying gender-affirming care may rise to the level of medical neglect and emotional abuse, as denial of gender-affirming care has the potential to lead to physical and psychological harm and undermines a child's self-worth and psychological development.

Denial of gender-affirming care has been shown to contribute to depression, social isolation, self-hatred, risk of self-harm, and suicidal ideation and behavior. Transgender youth are more likely to feel depressed and anxious, harm themselves, or attempt suicide. Transgender and nonbinary youth are 2-2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide than their cisgender LGBTQ+ peers.

Conversely, access to gender-affirming care—particularly puberty blockers—has been shown to decrease the likelihood of suicide and depression among transgender and nonbinary youth.

Individuals who are accepted and supported in their gender identity show better mental health and quality of life outcomes.

These Bills Will Worsen Missouri's Physician Shortage Crisis

Missouri already faces a severe physician shortage. In Missouri, physician supply lags behind patient demand, ranking in the bottom half of states for primary care and physician availability. In fact, 111 of Missouri's 114 counties are health professional deserts, which have 3,500 or more patients for every one provider. By 2030, Missouri is projected to be short 3,102 doctors.

Legislation that restricts physicians' ability to provide evidence-based care only exacerbates this crisis. An Association of American Medical Colleges survey showed that OB-GYN residencies dropped by 10% in states with abortion bans and 6% in states with abortion restrictions, with an overall drop of 1% in all specialties in states with abortion bans. A separate survey conducted by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of third and fourth year medical students found that three quarters said that restrictive healthcare laws would influence where they would apply for residency and half said such laws would influence which specialty they would apply to.

The same pattern applies to restrictions on gender-affirming care. Current and would-be physicians recognize that these are necessary, potentially lifesaving procedures, and are not interested in practicing in states that restrict their abilities to provide necessary medical care. These bills will further deter people from learning how to be physicians and practicing medicine in Missouri.

The Documented Harm to LGBTQ+ Youth

Anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-trans legislation has been shown to have detrimental impacts to the mental health of these communities. According to a recent study by the Trevor Project, nine out of ten (90%) LGBTQ+ young people reported that recent politics negatively impacted their well-being, with transgender and nonbinary young people reporting an even greater degree of negative impacts (94%), and nearly two out of five LGBTQ+ youth and their families reported considering moving to a different state.

These bills—which would make these restrictions permanent rather than allowing for the promised review period—will only intensify the harm to Missouri's transgender youth and their families.

Sports Participation Bills Solve a Non-Existent Problem

The sports ban bills (HB 1973, HB 2431, HB 1879) purport to protect fairness in athletics, yet they target an extraordinarily small population of students and create barriers based on fear rather than evidence. These bills force schools and institutions to police students' bodies and birth certificates, creating an invasive and discriminatory environment for all students.

Notably, major athletic organizations including the NCAA, Olympics, and various state athletic associations have developed inclusive policies that balance fairness and inclusion. These bills override local decision-making and force a one-size-fits-all approach that disregards the individual circumstances of student athletes.

Conclusion

The 2023 legislation included sunset provisions for a reason: to allow time for careful review and analysis. These bills would eliminate that promised review period and make permanent restrictions that contradict medical consensus, worsen Missouri's physician shortage, harm LGBTQ+ youth mental health, and intrude on the patient-provider relationship.

For these reasons, I firmly urge the committee to oppose House Bills 1973, 2431, 1879, 2730, 1853, 2401, and 3633.

Citations

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Emily Georges, MD, Prohibition of Gender-Affirming Care as a Form of Child Maltreatment: Reframing the Discussion, American Academy of Pediatrics Publications (Dec. 20, 2023), <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/153/1/e2023064292/196236/Prohibition-of-GenderAffirming-Care-as-a-Form-of>

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELYSE SCHAEFFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 9:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Trans rights are human rights. Vote no.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILIA STAUFFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:43 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Esteemed members of the Emerging Issues Committee,

My name is Emilia Stauffer. I am a resident of Springfield, MO. I am testifying in opposition to HB 1854. The Transgender community has been under constant attack by the Republican party for several years now. Despite repeated efforts to convince this party to let up on these attacks, here we are again.

Trans people exist. The only debate that exists is how and when the Republican party will limit or eliminate the medical interventions and resources that support the trans community. The actions of this committee and the party who is sponsoring these bills are harming real people. I speak with these people every day.

If you have any conscience, stop harming us by continually targeting the medical interventions and resources we need. Vote no on this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY ELHOFFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 2:52 PM
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To the Members of the Committee:

My name is Emily Elhoffer, and I am writing in opposition to HB 1672, HB 1608, HB 1854, HB 2033, HB 1663, HB 1607, and HB 1973.

These bills target transgender and gender-diverse Missourians by restricting access to medically necessary healthcare and by excluding students from full participation in school athletics. I oppose these bills because they will cause real harm to children and families, undermine the integrity of medical decision-making, and erode the fundamental principle that all people deserve dignity, safety, and equal treatment under the law.

Gender-Affirming Healthcare Bills (HB 1672, HB 1608, HB 1854, HB 2033)

These bills interfere in private medical decisions that should remain between patients, families, and licensed healthcare providers. Gender-affirming care is supported by major medical organizations, including pediatric and mental health associations, and is widely recognized as evidence-based, individualized, and often life-saving care.

By criminalizing or restricting this care, the state would be substituting political ideology for medical expertise. This sets a dangerous precedent that affects not only transgender youth, but any patient whose care becomes politically controversial. Families deserve the freedom to make informed decisions in consultation with professionals—not lawmakers.

The consequences of denying gender-affirming care are well-documented: increased rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide risk among transgender youth. These bills do not protect children; they place them in harm's way.

Athletics Participation Bills (HB 1663, HB 1607, HB 1973)

These bills exclude transgender students from participating in school sports, denying them the social, physical, and emotional benefits of athletic participation. School athletics are not only about competition—they are about teamwork, belonging, confidence, and connection.

There is no credible evidence that blanket bans improve fairness or safety. Instead, these bills single out a small, vulnerable group of students and subject them to surveillance, stigma, and exclusion.

Policies that force schools to police students' bodies or identities are invasive and damaging, particularly for young people who are simply trying to learn and belong.

Broader Harm to Schools, Families, and Communities

Taken together, these bills send a message that transgender people are problems to be controlled rather than members of our communities to be supported. They will drive families and healthcare providers out of the state, place schools in impossible enforcement roles, and expose the state to costly legal challenges.

Most importantly, they tell transgender children that they are not welcome as they are.

Conclusion

I urge you to oppose these bills and instead focus on policies that support the health, safety, and well-being of all children. Our state should be guided by compassion, evidence, and respect for personal freedom—not fear or misinformation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Respectfully,
Emily Elhoffer**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY MILNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:23 PM

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Our state's government should not interfere with any family's healthcare decisions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY SEIPLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN CRAMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 3:38 PM
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Gender affirming care for trans youth is life saving care. My own trans child has told me on multiple occasions that their gender-affirming care saves their life. Pretending like children are having their bodies altered is an absurd lie. Gender-affirming care for people under 18 involves respecting them socially, possibly administering medication to prevent puberty which is reversible, and hopefully counseling if all the funding hasn't been stripped from our mental healthcare system. Please stop with the lies and fear-mongering, pretending trans people are a danger. Allow these moratoriums to expire.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN HILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 6:54 PM
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I oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GABBY EISSNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 10:57 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GERALYN MADIGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 10:07 AM
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I oppose all bills limiting the rights of transgender persons. Doctors and patients, and parents if that patient is a minor, should be involved in making medical decisions, not the government. Transgender persons have as much right to participate in sports as any other person. These proposed laws only serve to marginalize & discriminate against transgender youth.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HANNAH CAPPONI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 8:26 AM
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The quote is "Liberty and justice for all." For All. No exceptions. Allow individuals to make their own decisions about their own lives. Small government, right?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HANNAH LENON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 4:28 PM

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These procedures are recognized healthcare issues and should not be submitted to judicial oversight



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER HUGHES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 8:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The state has no place in making health care decisions for families. The state has no place in deciding who can and cannot play sports. Schools and sporting organizations for the most part have procedures and policies in place to make things safe and fair for all kids. Similarly hospitals, Dr's, and medical organizations have their own best practices in place.

Please stop fighting culture wars and tackle actual problems like affordable housing and healthcare!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HOWARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 8:13 PM
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I personally know many many Trans adults and children.

I have personally been a part of some and have read nearly all the research on this subject.

The Trans transition regret rate is the lowest of any medical procedure.

It is very likely that the very few detrans high paid grifters of today will retransition just like all the Xgay guys regayed after they had ruined decades of people's lives.

There is very little about very methodical medical transition that isn't pause-able, stoppable, and reversible. I mean that's the whole idea of transition in the first place. Change.

What is overwhelmingly irreversible is being forced through the wrong puberty. It's deadly and when isn't suicidal it is often a bearable to the point of self medication to dull the pain.

Let Trans children have their healthcare.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HOWARD FENSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 2:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose any effort to make permanent restrictions on the administration of hormones or puberty blockers for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minor patients. The choice to treat for gender transition is one that is carefully weighed by doctors and certainly not taken lightly by parents. Treatment for gender transition is a sensitive, private and individualized matter. There should be legal latitude to account for the best interest of each child. The potentially affected patients are a fraction of a percent of the young population. Already, shamed and marginalized, these children should be shielded from politically motivated scapegoated and approbation for swathes of the population who do not understand or sympathize with them. Thank you for your attention, here.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: IVAN CALDERON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 1:33 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I want to ensure that all children receive gender affirming care to any degree. Further this would alleviate pressures of people's sexual orientation, gender identities, and alleviate the strict binary that limits people's abilities to feel truly human.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELINE WALDEMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 4:49 PM
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I am in opposition to repealing the expiration date on this ban. The ban should not have been put in place in the first place. This entire subject should be decided between the child, their parent, and their practitioner. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based and proven to be an effective treatment for gender dysphoria. The WPATH standards of care are already strict enough to ensure that the only people receiving treatment for gender dysphoria are those that have gender dysphoria. Developmentally, children from a young age are consistent, persistent, and insistent about their gender identity. More often than not, the vast majority of children's gender identity match their sex assigned at birth. But that is not always the case. In such cases, children go through many steps with therapists and practitioners over months, if not years, before a diagnosis of gender dysphoria is confirmed and treatment begins. I knew from an early age of six years old that my gender identity did not match my sex assigned at birth. Due to limited visibility and acceptance of transgender people in the 1990s, I didn't possess the ability to properly describe why I didn't identify with my sex assigned at birth, I just knew that I wasn't a boy, no matter how hard I tried to be one. If I had known there was treatment available, I would have started the WPATH standards of care, discussed with mental health professionals as well as doctors and my parents, and may have been able to save myself years of depression and anxiety due to feeling like I was so different from those around me. My point is that children from a young age are figuring out who they are, and should be able to access care that continues to help them explore their identities along with their parents and their practitioners. They should be able to have the option and opportunity to pursue treatment. Banning treatment doesn't make people not transgender. It just endangers transgender children.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELYN BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 4:28 PM
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I am extremely disappointed and upset that we are wasting time and money on nonsense culture war issues that distract from the real problems Missourians face. The government ought to stay out of the private lives of citizens. Vote against this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAKE HECKENBACH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 4:41 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES THUROW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
Government overreach and republican hypocrisy			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE KALEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 8:54 AM
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It has been shown time and time again, with surveys from multiple countries, that denying youth access to hormones or puberty blockers puts them at a much higher risk for mental health issues or even death. People under the age of 18 should be allowed access with the cooperation of their guardian, the way all medical procedures are done for minors. This should be a choice between well-educated healthcare providers and parents, not a flat mandate to ban all access.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 6:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose all of the bills being heard in the House Emerging Issues Committee on January 20, 2026. People far more knowledgeable than I am will be in the room to help you understand what is wrong with these bills from a medical, psychological, and moral standpoint. I am writing in solidarity with those experts and with the courageous transgender persons, especially young people, who will come to speak to you directly (as well as their parents and other family members).

There is much that I did not know about gender when I was young. The assumption for all babies is that they were obviously “a boy” or “a girl” and that this label would determine a lot about what they could and could not do. As an adult, I have discovered gender is much more complicated than that. I have friends whose children were born with “ambiguous genitalia.” It’s far more common than you’d think. I also learned that many of the things that I was taught I could not do based on the way my body is structured were just sexist oppression.

I am blessed to have a pediatric endocrinologist as my nephew, a brilliant young man. He has helped me understand quite a bit about his young transgender patients. He is trying to follow the evidence of medical research in how he cares for them, and what science shows should not be trampled by “culture wars.”

It is always a mistake for elected bodies to get between individuals and families and their medical care providers. I ask this committee to vote no on all these bills and to show compassion and kindness to your transgender neighbors, their families, and their friends.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF DEWALD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:09 PM

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Bans are not the answer - leave the door open for people who need these procedures and develop guardrails if you are worried about it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF STACK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-449-4585	
REPRESENTING: MID-MISSOURI FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 268			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL: jstack@formissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

These are both enlightened and mean-spirited times.

In recent years, our society has witnessed an encouraging openness where individuals are allowed to be their authentic selves, able to transform from the gender of their birth if that is more consistent with who they feel they are.

However, Missouri lawmakers decided two years ago, they knew best and feel compelled to insert themselves between young people, their parents and health-care providers. The sponsors of these four bills may truly believe they are serving the best interests of children but they and bill supporters are imposing their ideology, often religiously-based, upon others. Blocking gender-affirming health care can, however, have devastating impacts.

Studies indicate that transgender and nonbinary youth who receive gender-affirming care, including puberty blockers, experience lower rates of depression and suicidality compared to those who don't. Pushing their political agendas, the bill sponsors are cruelly inviting the prospect of having more Missouri youth experience gender dysphoria, harm or even kill themselves.

The sunset provisions, put in place by legislation a few years ago should be allowed to lapse. I urge the committee members to vote that these bills Do Not Pass.

Personally, I've been comfortable being of the male gender all of my life. It is a bit perplexing to me that many people do not feel the gender of their birth fits who they truly are, but that is just my reality. Each person should have a right to determine their own future and gender as well, including people younger than 18.

Gender transitions are not done flippantly. A child and their parents meet with health care providers and go through extensive counseling to determine what is best for that child.

Major U.S. medical organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Psychological Association (APA), and the Endocrine Society, support puberty blockers and gender-affirming care for transgender youth, viewing them as essential, evidence-based treatments. These bodies advocate for care within the patient-physician relationship, emphasizing autonomy and balancing risks and benefits, while opposing state bans-- like the one currently in place in Missouri-- that restrict access to these treatments.

Please vote against, recommend “Do Not Pass” any of the four bills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER HARPER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 8:53 PM
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I find it very disingenuous that you were able to pass the original bills because of the sunset but now without waiting for further research you are wanting to remove the sunset. These anti-trans bills are very damaging to LGBTQIA+ youth, but apparently you don't care because parents tell you that every year yet you never listen.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER HARRIS DAULT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 6:11 PM
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Rep Fuchs mentioned all those who have left the state to the tune of 1 billion dollars. I write as one who left in 2023, after you passed this hateful legislation. My family of four, who planned to remain in Missouri for the rest of our lives, left because of this body's actions. My community is now spread across the world. Stop this. You continue to peddle lies about healthcare, lies about us, lies about our children. You have heard the truth, but you continue -- even in this very hearing -- to repeat nonsense that you KNOW are lies (suggesting 5 year olds are receiving surgeries? The only medical gender-affirming care 5-year-old trans kids are receiving is therapy).
Stop.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER MAIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 7:26 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA CUNDIFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 4:46 PM
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I am a PhD-level social scientist with expertise in the psychology of gender. Transgender youth have high risk of depression and suicide, largely due to societal stigma, discrimination, and lack of access to healthcare. Research evidence consistently demonstrates that access to gender-affirming care, including gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT), is associated with lower rates of depression, suicidal thoughts, and suicide attempts among trans youth, as well as improved mental health and quality of life. In other words, GAHT can save lives.

Gender-affirming care is used by people of all ages and gender identities: Reconstructive breast surgery, medical and surgical management of disorders of sexual development, hormone therapy for menopause, and prostaglandin antagonists for erectile dysfunction. Lawmakers allow cisgender patients or their guardians to choose these treatments despite inherent risks. Trans youth deserve the same rights.

I understand that some lawmakers are concerned about the safety of GAHTs, fertility preservation, and feelings of regret. However, research evidence consistently demonstrates that these concerns are misplaced and misinformed. Hormone therapies are safe and frequently used in cisgender populations. A commonly used therapy in gender-affirming care is gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogues (GnRHAs) (aka Blockers), which suppress undesired physical changes associated with puberty. GnRHAs are reversible and do not impact fertility on their own. Additionally, research shows very low rates of regret (1-4%), and very high rates of satisfaction and improvements to quality of life and mental health. Further, decisions about using hormone therapy in gender-affirming care are not rushed decisions. Authoritative clinical guidelines prescribe an individualized, longitudinal process requiring informed patient consent and involving an interdisciplinary team, including a mental health professional, and after months to years of persisting symptoms, and consideration of multiple types of treatment options.

This bill requires health care workers to act against current evidence-based guidelines for providing treatment, and denies trans youth basic rights that are afforded to cisgender youth.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA SISCO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:06 PM
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I am a Missouri native and resident of West Plains. I stand against all bills that limit gender-affirming care for children or adults. The decision should be between the physician, the child, and the parents. I hope you listened to the doctor. Gender-affirming care saves lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOAN GENTRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 2:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Members of the House Emerging Issues Committees,
I am opposed the HB 1854.
This bill prevents necessary care and treatment for children.
Joan Gentry
Springfield



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 11:15 AM

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This bill could kill trans kids. Trans kids are far more likely to commit suicide than cis kids even without the pressure of their government being against them. Please, listen to the kids who need this.



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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHNDA BOYCE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 6:24 PM

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Not needed in Missouri. These harm trans kids, and are against the evidence for both sports and healthcare. Stop attacking trans kids and attack Missouri's real problems.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSH PARSHALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 9:29 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Choices about healthcare should be made by families, patients, and medical professionals. Missouri does not need a ban on gender affirming care for minors, and the current law should be repealed or allowed to expire. Please focus on quality of life issues that affect us all: access to medical care, affordable housing, and the availability of high quality childcare.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA STINSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 9:43 PM
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The "gender transition procedures" referred to in this bill are lifesaving for both transgender and intersex youth. As a Missouri citizen, I am deeply concerned that my state seems hell bent on ignoring international standards of care supported by every reputable professional medical and mental health organization in the country.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE M HESS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 11:21 AM

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I choose to defend the expiration dates (sunsets) on the anti-trans laws banning access to healthcare for trans young people and the ability for trans kids to play sports.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KARA WALDEMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 11:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

It is my opinion that the physical and mental health of a minor is the concern of that minors legal guardian(s) and their treating healthcare provider(s). The role of our government should not be to legislate such things as they are not the experts in this. The minor, their guardian(s), and the licensed professionals treating them have more knowledge and expertise in the individual scenarios where treatment like this is being explored or administered and as such the determination of the care the minor in question receives should be left to their discretion. There are existing requirements, best practices, and standards of care in place to help ensure that treatment which is not necessary or in the best interests of the patient is not performed. Any additions, alterations, or removals from these should be reviewed and made by the relevant organizations and authorities who are experts in their field, not elected officials without the necessary knowledge/experience.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN STOKES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 9:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Your bill to ban so-called “cross-sex” hormones and puberty blockers will not protect children under 18. It will harm them, their families, and their communities.

I am a parent of an adult transgender child. My child began transitioning at 14, with the full involvement of our family, a therapist, and medical professionals. My child is now a healthier and happier adult because of that care. Our family is thrilled and loves the person our child has grown to be.

Not one person in my child’s high school, college, or workplace has ever responded with anything but support. Hundreds of people have known my child since their transition. In fact, no one even thinks about it any longer. There has been only love and support for a young person living fully and authentically. No harm or chaos or trauma. Just genuine love.

If the real-world experiences of families like mine show that transitioning through careful, collaborative decision-making among parents, licensed therapists, and doctors results in positive outcomes, why does this legislation target us?

These treatments are not given lightly or casually. Your bill has no place in these deeply personal, medically guided relationships. It targets a label, not the real people affected.

If lawmakers truly listened to transgender children, their families, friends, and colleagues, this bill would not exist. There is no need for it.

Please do not pass this harmful and unnecessary legislation. Speak directly with families who have lived this experience. We will tell you clearly: these medications save lives and help our children reach their fullest potential.

Do not pass this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATE BROOKS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 3:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Banning gender-affirming care does nothing to protect the health and well being of Missouri's youth. Everybody's health care needs are different, and health care decisions should be left between young patients, their families, and their physicians, without interference from politicians. Missourians deserve more access to health care, not less, and these bills stand in the way of essential, life saving health care.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHARINE STARNES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 3:04 PM
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE FEINER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 9:13 PM
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I am a Missouri citizen, born, raised, and educated here. One thing I was raised to believe was the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: "Let your yes be yes, and your no, no." I understand the representatives sponsoring this bill and its sibling bills also value their Christian faith. Repealing the sunset on youth transition care early would be going back on the legislature's word when this law was initially passed. I urge the committee to value their word as a legislative body and allow the bill's permanence to be debated at its proper, promised time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHIE ALLISON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 9:30 AM
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I support access to gender-affirming care, viewing it as essential healthcare and a matter of social justice and human rights, opposing bans and restrictions as attacks on the transgender community, and advocating for affordable, quality care for all, including trans, nonbinary, and gender-diverse individuals, under principles of equality and bodily autonomy

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE HEIDEN-ROOTES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 10:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Katie Heiden-Rootes, and I am a licensed marital and family therapist with over 11 years of experience working with adolescents and families in Missouri, including transgender and gender-diverse youth. I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB 1854.

HB 1854 would prohibit needed and new prescriptions for puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones for minors, allow legal action against providers, and restrict public funding for gender-affirming care. These measures threaten the health, safety, and well-being of vulnerable youth.

Evidence-Based and Ethical Standards

Leading medical and mental health organizations—including the American Psychological Association, American Association of Marital and Family Therapy, Endocrine Society, and American Academy of Pediatrics—support gender-affirming care for minors when clinically appropriate. Research shows that puberty blockers and hormone therapy improve mental health and reduce suicide risk. HB 1854 replaces individualized clinical judgment with a blanket prohibition, contrary to best-practice guidelines.

The law infringes on clinical judgment and parental decision-making while creating legal liability for providers following evidence-based care. Ethical principles in medicine emphasize “first, do no harm,” yet HB 1854 prioritizes ideology over patient well-being.

Impact on Youth and Families

Restricting care causes harm, including increased anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. It disrupts therapeutic relationships and forces families to seek care out-of-state, often at great cost, or leave the state entirely. We have already seen and documented hundreds of families already leaving the state of Missouri. This is a loss to our state at an economic and social level for all of us. In addition, the threats of licensure action in this bill place clinicians in impossible ethical dilemmas, undermining trust and access to care. We stand to lose healthcare providers due to anti-LGBTQ legislation like this in Missouri as well. This is documented in the last 3 years of research by me and colleagues at Saint Louis University. You can find the reports of the Missouri LGBTQ Political Climate Survey here: <https://www.slu.edu/doisy/clinics-and-community/transgender-health-collaborative.php>

Conclusion

Transgender and gender-diverse youth are among the most vulnerable populations in Missouri. HB 1854 endangers their mental and physical health, interferes with evidence-based clinical care, and

violates ethical standards. I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,
Dr. Katie Heiden-Rootes, PhD, LMFT



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KEITH L. BROWN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-228-0133	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TRANS LIBERATION COLUMBIA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1201 PAQUIN DR			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM	

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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLY BUCKLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a Missouri resident, I respectfully urge you to oppose legislation that bans or restricts access to gender-affirming care.

Healthcare decisions should be made by patients, families, and qualified medical professionals—not by broad laws that remove individualized care and medical judgment. Major medical organizations recognize gender-affirming care as evidence-based and, for many, medically necessary.

Policies that limit access to care risk harming the physical and mental well-being of Missourians, especially young people and their families. I ask you to protect the dignity, health, and rights of all residents and to support policies that strengthen, rather than divide, our communities.

Thank you



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY HERNANDEZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 4:04 PM
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge you to vote NO on this and any similar bills that remove the few exceptions from the so-called "SAFE Act", which banned life-saving, medically necessary, gender-affirming health care for transgender youth and incarcerated individuals. The SAFE Act included a sunset clause so it would expire in 2027 and also included an exemption for individuals who began treatment prior to August 28, 2023. These bills aim to remove the sunset clause, making the act permanent and remove the protections for those who have already begun treatment and force them to dangerously detransition. These bills are extreme attacks on health care access. These bills not only display a fundamental lack of understanding of who transgender children are, but also undermine medical care best practices for transgender youth backed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and other leading medical authorities. All children deserve access to health care, and deserve the best chances at opportunities to thrive. That includes transgender youth. Decisions about health care should be made by doctors with patients and their families, not with our government.

It's been well documented that when we do not give transgender youth access to gender affirming health care, it contributes to feelings of depression, social isolation, internalized transphobia or self hatred, and risk of self harm and suicidal behaviors. Missourians deserve the chance at health care that will allow them to thrive, living as their most authentic selves! Please oppose these bills.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTIN REHG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 8:04 PM
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTINE FIELDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:51 AM
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Children under 18 do not receive gender reassignment surgery. All medical interventions are hormonal and reversible. These medical decisions are best left to children and their parents. Anything less than that is government overreach and encroaches upon the freedom of these children.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KY BOURGEOIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 4:53 PM
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I'm sure you've all heard about the overwhelming research and statistics showing that gender-affirming care for minors is both safe and beneficial. I'm sure you've heard the testimonies from families of transgender kids who may be forced to flee the state if any of these bills are passed. I'm sure you've heard from parents, teachers, medical professionals, faith leaders, and everyday Missourians about how bad of an idea these bills are.

So what will it take for you to listen? How many facts and figures do you need to hear? The evidence against transition bans for minors is overwhelming, and it is your responsibility as representatives to be willing to change your mind in response to new evidence. I beg you to make the right decision.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 9:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Stop legislating children's healthcare. Doctors and parents are qualified to make healthcare decisions for their children, not politicians. It's not normal for politicians to focus so heavily on children's genitalia. Do something productive for Missouri. Stay out of the exam room.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA CROWLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 5:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Gender transition procedures are essential for the safety and health of trans people, and they do not harm anyone. My students and my friends need access to this care. These procedures are evidenced based and decisions should be made in consultation with the doctor and legislators should not be involved. Why are you spending so much time actively trying to hurt and attack trans people instead of doing your job to make a government that works for all of us, with affordable housing, groceries and health care?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LEAR ROSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LESLIE HEBERLIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 6:38 PM

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Medical professionals consistently indicate that giving affirming care to transgender adults and children is the appropriate course of action and should not be limited by the state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LESLIE ORTBALS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:19 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LILIANA TASLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 2:44 PM
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This bill is based on fear and control rather than medical expertise. Families and their doctors can decide what care is best for their children.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA KRAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2026 8:29 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA JELLINEK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 8:36 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA SPAHR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 4:22 PM
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As the parent of a trans teen, I ask that you respect our right to make decisions for them with their certified medical professionals. Traversing these issues is a long journey filled with stress and fear. Your legislation makes that more difficult. People discussing our children openly on a ballot or in public makes that worse. We need parental rights restored. We need legislation to take hands off bodies and allow medical decisions to be made outside of state houses. We should not have to leave our state, where we pay taxes, work and live, to get medical care that is best practice and supported by all of the major medical associations. Your legislation harms families like ours and our community at large.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LLANA DAMON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 1:35 AM
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There is already a process in place for transgender youth. No doctor is prescribing HRT without having had the child talk with multiple doctors and psychiatric doctors, and gotten the ok from the parents if they're under 18. Stop governing private decisions that should be made between the child, the parent, and the medical team!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGGIE EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: ABORTION ACTION MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: maggie@abortionactionmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 6:12 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA REED		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 12:25 PM
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Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong opposition to HB 1854.

I am the grandparent of a transgender grandson who was able to access gender-affirming care before Missouri's ban went into effect. Because he received that care, he is today a happy, healthy young person who feels at peace in his own body. I see the difference every day—in his confidence, his mental health, and his ability to live without constant distress.

It is heartbreaking to imagine what he might be experiencing if that care had been denied. For many transgender young people, being forced to live in a body that does not align with who they are can cause profound emotional suffering. Families across Missouri have seen how lack of appropriate care can contribute to depression, anxiety, and an increased risk of self-harm. These are not abstract policy debates to us—they are real children, real families, and real lives.

Decisions about medical care belong with the individual, their family, and their physician—not with politicians. Lawmakers should not override parents and qualified healthcare professionals or inject politics into deeply personal healthcare decisions.

HB 1854 would continue a pattern of legislative overreach that harms vulnerable young people and their families.

I urge you to vote no on HB 1854.

Respectfully,
Marcia Reed



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIA LINDBERGH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 12:44 PM

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I oppose this bill because my fellow Missourians need access to gender affirming care. This legislation interferes with their healthcare.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARIA MORRISSEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PLANNED PARENTHOOD GREAT PLAINS VOTES		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND ORGANIZING	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64133
EMAIL: Maria.Morrissey@ppgreatplains.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 1:18 PM
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Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes (PPGPV) opposes bills HB 1672, HB 1608, HB 1854, and HB 2033, as ending access to gender-affirming care to people under 18 (minors) would disrupt necessary care and cause irreparable harm to minors' health. Additionally, the proposal of these bills shows that the legislature has failed to analyze evidence from leading experts and national medical societies regarding best practice of gender-affirming care and the damage done by political intervention in the health care decisions parents make for their children.

In 2023, the state codified egregious and unnecessary anti-trans legislation through Senate Bill 49, which banned gender-affirming surgery for minors and access to hormone therapy and puberty blockers for minors not already receiving this care. At the time, the legislature also acknowledged that it lacked understanding of appropriate medical standards for minors. As a result, SB 49 included both an exemption and a sunset provision. Current law allows minors who were receiving hormone therapy or puberty blockers prior to August 28, 2023, to continue their prescribed care, and places a sunset on the ban of hormone therapy and puberty blockers for minors on August 28, 2027.

These new bills prematurely eliminate this legislatively agreed-upon exemption and sunset provision by forcing transgender minors who were receiving care prior to August 28, 2023, to discontinue treatment and permanently ban minors from accessing gender-affirming care. This ban of medically indicated gender-affirming care will have serious and lasting consequences for the mental and physical health of these already vulnerable minors.

There is broad consensus in the medical community that the range of gender-affirming care is medically necessary, safe, effective, and lifesaving. For patients under 18, providing gender-affirming care is considered best medical practice by major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, and American Psychiatric Association. Specifically, care for minors primarily includes mental health support, as well as puberty blockers and hormone treatments—both of which are reversible and carefully monitored. Access to gender affirming care, particularly puberty blockers, has been shown to decrease the likelihood of suicide and depression among transgender and nonbinary youth. Furthermore, individuals who are affirmed and supported in their gender identity experience better mental health and overall quality of life.

When gender-affirming care is denied, the American Academy of Pediatrics has found that it may constitute medical neglect and emotional abuse, potentially causing physical and psychological harm

while also undermining a child's self-worth and psychological development. This compounds with findings that transgender and nonbinary youth are 2-2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide than their cisgender LGBTQ+ peers.

Continued legislative efforts to restrict or ban gender-affirming care have demonstrable negative effects on LGBTQ+ youth. A recent study by the Trevor Project found that nine out of ten (90%) LGBTQ+ young people reported that current political events negatively impacted their well-being, with transgender and nonbinary young people reporting an even greater degree of negative impacts (94%). In the study, nearly two out of five LGBTQ+ youth and their families reported considering moving to a different state.

Leading medical institutions consistently oppose legislation that restricts access to this lifesaving health care. The American Medical Association calls these types of bills "dangerous legislative intrusion into the practice of medicine," and emphasizes that it is "imperative that transgender minors be given the opportunity to explore their gender identity under the safe and supportive care of a physician." Similarly, the American Psychiatric Association "opposes all legislative and other governmental attempts to limit access to [mental health support and gender-affirming care services] for trans and gender diverse youth, or to sanction or criminalize the actions of physicians and other clinicians who provide them."

As this testimony demonstrates, guidance from major medical organizations directly contradicts legislative interference in care. Repealing current law and imposing stricter legislation is both medically inappropriate and dangerous. The best course of action is to halt actions on these bills and repeal SB 49 and any other legislation prohibiting access to gender-affirming care for all minors who need it.

If, however, the legislature insists on interfering in the provider-patient relationship, it is incumbent upon members to carefully review the extensive body of medical research and clinical guidance before making permanent policy changes. This includes peer-reviewed studies on the efficacy and safety of hormone therapy and puberty blockers for minors. Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes is prepared to share this collected evidence, which demonstrate that prohibition or discontinuation of medically necessary care would cause serious and lasting harm to minors.

For these reasons, we firmly urge the Emerging Issues Committee holds bills HB 1672, HB 1608, HB 1854, and HB 2033, so the Legislature may do its due diligence and use the time it has allotted to itself to holistically review the use of hormonal therapy and puberty blockers for trans minors of Missouri.

1. American Medical Association, AMA to states: Stop interfering in health care of transgender children, (April 26, 2021); <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-states-stop-interfering-health-care-transgender-children#:~:text=Transgender%20children%2C%20like%20all%20children,potential%20to%20cause%20adverse%20events>

2. Id.

3. Cherie Moody, "Without This, I Would for Sure Already Be Dead": A Qualitative Inquiry Regarding Suicide Protective Factors Among Trans Adults, American Psychologic Association, Special Issue: Resilience in Minority Stress of Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexuals and Transgender People (2015); <https://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/2015-39781-006.html>

4. Emily Georges, MD, Prohibition of Gender-Affirming Care as a Form of Child Maltreatment: Reframing the Discussion, American Academy of Pediatrics Publications (Dec. 20, 2023); <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/153/1/e2023064292/196236/Prohibition-of-Gender-Affirming-Care-as-a-Form-of?autologincheck=redirected>

5. Myeshia Price-Feeney, PH.D., Understanding the Mental Health of Transgender and Nonbinary Youth, Journal of Adolescent Health, Volume 66, Issue 6, P684-690, (June 2020); [https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(19\)30922-X/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(19)30922-X/fulltext)

6. The Trevor Project, How State Policy Affects the Well-Being and Relocation of LGBTQ+ Young People, (Jan. 22, 2025); <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/how-state-policy-affects-the-well-being-and-relocation-of-lgbtq-young-people/>

7. American Medical Association, March 26, 2021: State Advocacy Update, (March 26, 2021); <https://www.ama-assn.org/health-care-advocacy/advocacy-update/march-26-2021-state-advocacy-update>

8. Approved by Board of Trustees, Position Statement on Treatment of Transgender (Trans) and Gender Diverse Youth, American Psychiatric Association (July 2020); <https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/About-APA/Organization-Documents-Policies/Policies/Position-Transgender-Gender-Diverse->

Youth.pdf



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK HAIM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 8:29 PM
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Live and Let Live

Transphobia is something we need to grow out of. Let's stop vilifying people who are "different" in one way or another. Let's respect folks making their own choices and, if their choices are different than ours, it's no big deal, just live and let live.

I am particularly troubled that politicians are scapegoating the trans population of our state in order to garner political and electoral support. My suggestion is to start placing the welfare of constituents ahead of political ambitious and fundraising.

We all likely can recall when same sex marriage was a hot-button issue. Opponents predicted catastrophe should this be allowed. Then, in 2015, the decision in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges led to universal legalization and, surprisingly to some, life went on. Although anticipated by some, the fall of Western Civilization just failed to occur. People kept going to work, planting their gardens, putting food on the table, going to the library, watching TV, complaining about the heat in the summer and the cold in the winter, etc.

It seems to me that allowing people to make their own choices regarding gender assignment should be a right that all are guaranteed to all. Just as the right to share intimacy consensually is now accepted, so too, in the future, we will learn to accept the choices of others. Just as with same-sex marriage, controversy over trans choices will be looked back upon as a tempest in a teapot. We do not need our state legislature or other elected officials telling citizens what they can or can't do with their own bodies. Please reject these bills.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY REED		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 2:11 PM

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I oppose ALL of these bills and shame on all of you if they are passed! Do something better with your time and actually give your constituents what they want! WE THE PEOPLE



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAY HALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELANIE HESSLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:08 PM
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELINA CONSTANTINE MISEO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 3:44 PM

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This is discriminatory and goes against medical best practices according to all major medical, specifically pediatric, institutions.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:31 PM
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I urge you to vote NO on this and any similar bills that remove the few exceptions from the so-called "SAFE Act", which banned life-saving, medically necessary, gender-affirming health care for transgender youth and incarcerated individuals. The SAFE Act included a sunset clause so it would expire in 2027 and also included an exemption for individuals who began treatment prior to August 28, 2023. These bills aim to remove the sunset clause, making the act permanent and remove the protections for those who have already begun treatment and force them to dangerously detransition. These bills are extreme attacks on health care access. These bills not only display a fundamental lack of understanding of who transgender children are, but also undermine medical care best practices for transgender youth backed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and other leading medical authorities. All children deserve access to health care, and deserve the best chances at opportunities to thrive. That includes transgender youth. Decisions about health care should be made by doctors with patients and their families, not with our government.

It's been well documented that when we do not give transgender youth access to gender affirming health care, it contributes to feelings of depression, social isolation, internalized transphobia or self hatred, and risk of self harm and suicidal behaviors. Missourians deserve the chance at health care that will allow them to thrive, living as their most authentic selves! Please oppose these bills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELE SILER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 1:49 PM
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Many of Missouri's legislators disparage against "nanny states" but think they also have the right to dictate health care choices to parents and doctors of transgender kids, while misrepresenting what that care actually is. Please allow the families and physicians of transgender kids access to the care they feel is necessary for these kids.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MILLIE WRIGHT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:12 PM
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MONICA SHEETS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 6:20 PM

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These bills are motivated by hate and fear, not science. Removing the sunset provision ties Missouri into an indefensible position that causes real harm to children and families.



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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY SACCONI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 7:47 PM
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I oppose this bill, which is yet another anti-trans effort that aims to weaken human rights in Missouri. This bill would continue a current prohibition against healthcare that some children and their families need and consent to; that prohibition instead should expire.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY SLUSARSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 2:56 PM
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I Oppose HB 11854. Absolutely no to removing the sunset clause from previous bills. HONOR YOUR WORD!

Gender affirming care is essential for transgender people of all ages including minors. Parents not legislators should be the ones making informed medical decisions for their kids. I know many families with transgender kids and I'm a mom of a transgender daughter. In every case I have seen these children thrive with gender affirming care. If you do due diligence you will find that guidelines don't recommend major surgical interventions until a child reaches legal majority. From a New York Times 2020 study. 203 gender-affirming surgeries were performed on minors in the year. In contrast 3,200 girls age 18-19 received cosmetic breast implants! But no one is talking about the long term effects for these young women or questioning if they are old enough to realize the long term consequences. Ironc is it not?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICHOLAS TATUM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:31 AM
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My name is Nicholas Tatum but you may call me Verity. I am in opposition to HB1672, HB1608, HB1854, and HB2033. Gender transition procedures save lives. In my time as a volunteer and advocate within the trans community, I have witnessed trans adults become more aligned with their gender, and their suicidal ideation fade away as a direct result of their medical transition. I have personally held space for individuals in their thirties and forties, too scared to come out of the closet for fear of what society, their family, or their friends might think or do to them. Some that warned they would end their lives if they went another day in the wrong body. The last thing that trans kids need is to grow up with a body that continues to cause them distress, another thing that I have witnessed first hand because that happened to me. As I said last year at a hearing discussing this very issue, refusing the right of parents to provide quality of life aligned medical care for their children is disastrously wrong. The irony of this statement is that Republicans have a bill in pre-filing now, HB2426, by Representative Keathley, this year that creates a parental bill of rights that allows parents to choose medical care on behalf of their children, as long as that medical choice is not prohibited by law. The science shows that kids have less suicidal ideation when their medical needs are being met. Gender affirming care is a serious medical need. It helps alleviate trauma and prevent the suicidal ideation common with experiencing the dysphoria of entering puberty. Preventing parents from being able to make this choice on behalf of their child would be a direct violation of their rights, but if this bill is not allowed to sunset, none of that will matter. If I'm reading the language of these bills correctly, instead, trans children will die? Children will die? I have a strong sense of faith and I've read the bible many times. In that book only one kind of person condemns a child to death because of that child's existence, and they're always the evil one.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 7:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I believe science that when young people with gender dysphoria are given access to puberty blockers and hormone treatment that the suicidality of those youth is lowered. I disagree with not allowing youth, their parents and doctors to figure out what is best for these young people. The government should not be determining healthcare.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE JINES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 9:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose removing the sunset provision on HB 1854. Maintaining a sunset clause is essential for accountability, allowing for a data-driven review to determine if a ban is even necessary. A permanent ban strips parents of their right to work with healthcare providers to provide evidence-based care for their children. Gender-affirming care is often non-medical; when medications are used, they have long-standing safety records in pediatric medicine. Given the existing stigma these families face, making this ban permanent—rather than implementing rigorous oversight and high standards of care—only causes further harm.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAIGE DALRYMPLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 3:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I've been a licensed nurse in Missouri since 2018. If I were to go against a doctor's order then I'd lose my license; therefore, I find it incredibly infuriating and confusing that a panel of politicians with zero medical background feel like they know more than licensed physicians.

American citizens already have a deficiency in receiving medical care, so I am adamantly against ANY bill that makes it harder for our citizens to receive healthcare. This bill is bigotry disguised as "saving the children." If you truly want to "save the children," then you should listen to the millions of licensed healthcare providers who all agree that gender-affirming care saves lives.

The only entities that should be involved in a child's healthcare decisions are the child, their guardians, and their physicians; and because of that fact, I adamantly oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA DANIEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 6:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am against HB 1854 because it interferes with the medical decisions made by parents, their children and medical professionals, repeals a previously agreed expiration date, permanently prohibiting, these treatments, prevents medically necessary care established by professional medical organizations, based on false claims of health outcomes for those with gender dysphoria* (*The American Academy of Pediatrics, The American Psychiatric Assoc., The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry).

Please stay out of healthcare decisions and let medical professionals and families decide what is best for their children.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULA BOLLINGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 11:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I am a Missouri voter who values fairness, basic dignity, and access to healthcare for all Missourians.

I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 1672, HB 1608, HB 1854, and HB 2033 because these bills target gender transition related healthcare.

Missouri needs to stop meddling in people's private medical decisions and start working on a sustainable budget that helps normal families not just the wealthy. Missouri needs to address fair maps, protect direct democracy and work to support the people instead of politicians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Bollinger



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: QUINN JINES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 10:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a person of faith appalled by HB 1854 and calling on the legislature of Missouri to oppose this bill. HB 1854 aims to end early the rule that lets minors who began gender-affirming care before August 28, 2023 continue receiving it until March 1, 2027, when the provision expires.

HB 1854 was introduced in the same spirit in which other anti-trans bills have been introduced around the country. Transgender people, and transgender children in particular, have become a political punching bag, when instead, they should be treated as God's beloved and holy children.

As a trans Christian woman in the United Methodist Church, I am called to treat everyone with dignity, particularly those marginalized by religion and society. Having faced exclusion myself, I understand the barriers transgender youth endure. Today, trans children are denied equal opportunities in sports, healthcare, and safety. We must ensure all children, including transgender youth, are treated with fairness and compassion.

I transitioned later in life, but with today's information and opportunities, it would have been much easier. Looking back, I realize that access to resources, supportive communities, and greater societal understanding now provide a far more welcoming environment for those embarking on this journey. When I made my decision, guidance was limited and finding information required significant effort. Now, there are countless stories, medical advice, and support networks available online, empowering individuals to make informed choices at any age.

It is heartbreaking to witness the pain and fear that such legislation inflicts on families simply seeking acceptance and safety for their children. These laws do not protect anyone; instead, they further alienate and endanger young people who are already vulnerable. We must remember that every child deserves to feel loved, valued, and safe in their communities.

Our charge as Christians is simple, as told by Jesus according to the Gospel of Mark: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'. There is no commandment greater than these." I suggest that those of us who are Christians get to work doing just that.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RAINE BERTOLDIE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 9:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Gender Affirming Care, Procedures, and Transition Resources are life saving medical care, and the right of any individual under the United States Constitution. Violation of the rights and access to these is criminal, punitive, and evil, propagated only to continue control of "lesser" persons and to maintain control over the general population according to individual creed. Autonomy is unilateral - if you take away a trans individuals right to the medical, social, or physical tools, resources or procedures, you are advocating for the path of the government taking away your right to own your body, the improvement of it through outside materials or means, and your individual right to choose - who you are, how you live, what you can do for yourself. Do not pass this legislature. It is not just. It is not fair. It should not be law. It is exploitation and cruelty, and you would not wish that be enacted on you, so do not do so to children seeking the pursuit of personal life, liberty, and happiness with themselves and their identities. Trans people do not kill or harm. Trans people ARE KILLED AND HARMED. By bills like this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA KROLL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 9:18 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I am a Missouri voter who values fairness, basic dignity, and access to healthcare for all Missourians.

I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 1672, HB 1608, HB 1607, HB 1854, and HB 2033 because these bills target gender transition related healthcare and create unnecessary barriers for people who are already vulnerable.

These decisions should be made by patients, families, and licensed medical professionals. When lawmakers insert themselves into private medical care, it does not improve outcomes. It creates fear, confusion, and harm. It also discourages providers from offering medically guided care, even when it is appropriate and necessary.

The job of legislators is to protect the people that they represent. By vilifying a group, you are failing in this process. No one is asking you to accept a person that you do not agree with, only to not make it your life's mission to make their lives harder or make them disappear. Diversity and the melting pot of the United States is actually part of our foundation. Please stop being intentionally cruel to people.

Missouri has real problems to solve. We need to improve healthcare access, protect rural hospitals, support working families, and keep communities safe. Bills like these do not move us forward. They divide us and put real people in the crosshairs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 1672, HB 1608, HB 1607, HB 1854, and HB 2033.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REV. DR. KIM LEON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 8:30 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 1854. This and other bills like it represent a dangerous government intrusion into the provision of healthcare. The American Medical Association supports gender affirming care as medically necessary. Restricting acces to gender affirming care is likely to have detrimental consequences for the health of transgender youth. This is a decision that should be made by medical professionals and families, not by the state legislature.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 10:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROSIE O'BRIEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 5:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Let these provisions expire. Stop meddling in pediatric healthcare decisions. Stop pretending you know a single trans person who regrets puberty blockers. Puberty blockers literally save the lives of transgender children. By preventing them from getting care, you are endangering the lives of your constituents. This is a well-documented healthcare phenomenon. Please let this restriction expire. Or better yet, end it early so doctors can help their patients with the hormone therapy that they desperately need.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SABRINA BONNETTE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 9:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

2026 January 20

Testimony Opposed to the Injection of Unqualified, Unlicensed, and Religion-Based Legislation into our Missouri Laws regarding Transgender Individuals and their freedom to live their lives uninterrupted by cruel and unnecessary infringement on their human rights.

References:
<https://ictnews.org/archive/two-spirits-one-heart-five-genders/>

For the committee:

As a retired military person whose job it was to defend our freedoms and uphold the U.S. Constitution, I continue to be appalled at the sickening obsession which, quite honestly, appears to be somewhat perverted, the Missouri GOP legislators have with what is in other people's panties! The fixation on who is what and where they started as opposed to genetics, reality, and actual situations of human beings being born one sex but having chromosomes and biological differences from the every day male/female experiences is not a new thing. As far back as the Native Americans in the land that we have stolen, there were tribes who considered those with two sexes and up to five as indicated in Ref (a) to be an honored and revered human being. The sick fixation the GOP has on transgender matters really could be diagnosed as a mental health affliction. Because someone does not match your biblical or limited upbringing does not mean they do not have the same freedoms as any American Citizen to exercise their right to life being lived authentically, whether that involves bodily autonomy or participating in sports as an athlete amongst their peers.

The number of transgender individuals in the country, let alone the state of Missouri, is less than 1% of the population. Yet you continue to preface these laws as if it affects every person in your constituency? This is where the sickness observation made earlier comes into play. Just think of the ACTUAL good you could be doing instead of wasting time on a NON ISSUE with regard to such a small populace! You could be addressing needs of Senior Citizens, Homeless Veterans and Constituents, Foster Children which number 13,000 as of 2023, Domestic Violence, Child Support Enforcement, Child Abuse Services, or any number of topics which clearly NEED your attention. Instead, you and your religious zealots choose to focus on an issue which does not even affect your every day constituents lives, livelihoods, or ability to pursue their own endeavors. Focusing on a select few whose lifestyles and biology you fail to grasp or even embrace, just because it is different from what you grew up with.

Shameful.

Because the current occupant of the now trashed White House uses this as a tactic to engage and inflame people does not give you license to do the same. The behavior being exhibited by these proposed laws says one thing, "We do not trust parents to know what their own child needs." That is a very disturbing and actually blatantly UN AMERICAN viewpoint, You are not in charge of every family, as is obvious by the reprehensible statistics on domestic violence in our state, the 'misplaced foster children', and the recurring violence against women which goes unchecked in many cases. Please disengage from invading constituents private family decisions on healthcare they choose to obtain. Last I checked, the majority of the GOP in Jefferson City who claim on their bio's to be full or part time pastors of some church or another. That is fine. But the minute you embark to inflict your own private religious beliefs into law is where you are violating my rights and those of my brothers and sisters who identify as non binary or transgender.

Please understand that your presence in the doctors office IS NOT NEEDED nor WELCOME. If you want to pursue a MEDICAL DEGREE in the field of genetics or psychology, have at it. But as merely an elected official, chosen to REPRESENT the people in your district, you are not authorized to inject yourselves into this space.

The idea of embracing those who are different is NOT a CRIME. Supporting those who wish to pursue their authentic selves should be a cause for accolades, not for this severe oppression you are attempting to inflict.

I served my country for 23 ½ years to DEFEND OUR FREEDOMS, NOT TO OPPRESS THEM. What you are proposing is the opposite of good Americanism and will cause harm to countless families and individuals. So many have already fled this state due to the ongoing oppression, do you really want no workforce whatsoever in Missouri because you have intimidated young people to the point of exodus? Please use your entire head to realize the economic, social, and safety factors of this heinous legislation you propose.

Ref (a) Ancient History (5000 BCE – 1000 CE)

Evidence of gender-diverse identities appears in the earliest human societies:

Sumerian Culture (c. 5000–3000 BCE): Records describe the *Gala*, androgynous or trans priests of the goddess *Inanna* who took feminine names and spoke their own dialect.

Neolithic Burials (c. 2900–2500 BCE): Archaeologists in the Czech Republic discovered a biologically male skeleton buried with female grave goods and attire, suggesting a lived gender different from their sex.

Ancient Scythia (c. 400 BCE): Historians like Herodotus described the *Enaree*, a class of androgynous priests who lived as women.

Roman Empire (c. 200 BCE – 300 CE): Roman Emperor *Elagabalus* (r. 218–222 CE) reportedly preferred to be called a "lady," wore makeup and wigs, and offered large sums of money to any physician who could provide her with a vagina.

Historical Global Identities

Many cultures have long recognized "third gender" roles that fall under the modern transgender umbrella:

Hijra (South Asia): A community of third-gender individuals in the Indian subcontinent with spiritual and cultural significance documented for thousands of years.

Two-Spirit (Indigenous North America): A modern pan-Indigenous term for historical roles in many tribes that recognized individuals possessing both masculine and feminine spirits.

Muxe (Mexico): Among the Zapotec people of Oaxaca, muxe individuals have occupied a third gender role predating Spanish colonization.

Modern Medical and Linguistic History

While the people have always existed, the specific terminology and medical procedures are more recent:

1910s: German physician *Magnus Hirschfeld* coined the term "transvestite" and founded the *Institut für Sexualwissenschaft* in 1919, which provided some of the first affirming medical services before being destroyed by Nazis in 1933.

1931: *Dora Richter* became the first known transgender woman to undergo a complete surgical transition.

1940s: *Michael Dillon* became the first trans man to undergo phalloplasty (genital reconstruction).

1952: *Christine Jorgensen* became the first widely publicized person to undergo "sex reassignment surgery," bringing transgender awareness into the global mainstream.

1965: The term "transgender" was first coined by psychiatrist *John F. Oliven*; it became a popular umbrella term by the 1990s.

Ref (b) <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Adults-US-Aug-2016.pdf>

With absolute sincerity,

Ms. Sabrina Bonnette



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAGE CORAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: scoram@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, I would like to express our strong opposition to HBs 2033, 1608, 1672, and 1854.

The ACLU of Missouri stands in strong opposition to each of these bills, which are identical apart from their number and sponsor. Each of these bills propose to remove the “legacy” and “sunset” clauses contained in §197.1720, RSMo., formerly known as SB 49 or the “SAFE Act.”

This legislation must be opposed because it removes key exemptions built into SB 49, signed into law in 2023. SB 49 created a series of bans on gender affirming care that have impacted people and families across the state of Missouri. In its passage, the General Assembly allowed for both an exception for transgender youth currently receiving prescribed gender affirming care and established an expiration for restricting health care access for minors in 2027. Each of these bills seek to remove these provisions. These revisions create the risk of causing irreparable harm to transgender youth by denying them essential medical care.

Medical professionals, not politicians, should decide what care is in the best interests of a patient and their family in accordance with the current best medical practices. These bills are also an impermissible government intrusion upon family life and autonomous parental decision making.

All children, including transgender children, have the best chance to thrive when they are supported and receive the health care they need. Transgender youth who are affirmed in their gender by their families do better in school, feel safer in their communities, establish healthy relationships with their parents and peers, and are better equipped to plan for their future. Removing these provisions threatens the wellbeing and future of transgender youth in Missouri.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Missouri and its membership urge you to vote no on HBs 2033, 1608, 1672, and 1854.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMANTHA JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:43 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am opposed to HB 1608, HB 1672, HB 1854, and HB 2033. Medical care should not be impeded by the government. Medical care to minors should be a discussion between the child, their parents, and their providers. Preventing the ability to access needed medical care such as puberty blockers causes damage mentally and physically. No person regardless of age should be prevented from accessing life saving care. They should also have the ability of self-determination for their own bodies. Parents should be allowed to provide for the quality of life and decide the best healthcare methods with doctors. When this medical care is denied as a possibility the ability to provide the needed care is denied and children will die unnecessarily as gender dysphoria often results in trauma, anxiety, and depression which have symptoms of suicidal ideation that can and do lead to suicide. If we believe that parents should have the right to determine the upbringing and medical care for their children without interference of the state, then it is wrong of the state to remove options that are lifesaving. These bills ignore the medical research of professionals such as psychiatrists, psychologists, and other providers that say gender affirming care is the best way to help Trans people. Trans children, if we are lucky, become Trans Adults. Self-determination and bodily autonomy and the ability to have a quality life are what is at stake with these bills. Choosing to allow this type of medical care to be denied is denying the rights of children and these families to make informed decisions and is an overreach of the government. I ask that the representatives choose to represent all of their constituents and protect their constituent's ability to choose the medical care that is best for their own health needs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA L BARTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 1:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Gender transition is not a spur of the moment decision. Transgendered people know from an early age that their body doesn't line up with who they are. Which causes dysphoria, depression, and suicidal tendencies. As a transgender person goes through puberty, those feeling become much worse. To make laws that deny a transgendered person the medical help and medicine they need just to survive is inhumane. It takes several years of counseling with medical doctors, psychologist, and social counselors to determine if gender transition is necessary, and what that means for that person. If and or when they under go transition surgery their body then lines up with who they are. The dysphoria, depression, and suicidal tendencies start to fade with counseling as they go through their transition to become the person they were always meant to be. I say NO to HB1854.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 7:48 PM
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Protecting children is a moral obligation shared by families, physicians, and the state, but HB 1854 exceeds constitutional guardrails by replacing individualized medical judgment and parental authority with sweeping mandates enforced through punitive civil liability and automatic license revocation. By stripping courts and medical professionals of discretion and imposing extraordinary damages untethered from traditional due-process standards, the bill risks state overreach into private family decisions and chills lawful medical care through fear rather than evidence.

Missouri can uphold the dignity and safety of children while still honoring constitutional limits, separation of powers, and the careful balance between state authority, parental rights, and professional judgment.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH FELTS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:16 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH MINKOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 7:07 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH SHEPARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2026 5:07 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT ALLEN HAMMACK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 9:19 PM

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**These bills concerning gender transition ignore medical best practices in treating gender dysphoria.
Everyone deserves access to the appropriate medical treatment no matter what their condition is**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SETH HURWITZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 10:56 AM
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My name is Seth Hurwitz, and I have been a resident of Missouri for all but two of the past 40 years. My wife and I, both teachers, raised our family in St. Louis, and our two grown children now live out-of-state; one of the major reasons they chose not to settle here is its attitude towards LGBTQ rights-- which are, we believe, human rights.

My younger child is trans and nonbinary. They came out to us at the beginning of high school, and, since then, we have learned a great deal about the care and professionalism of those in the medical field who helped them transition. It is not an easy process nor a quickly determined one. Without their support, our child would not be the loving, mature, caring twenty-something they are today. (They are considering teaching as a profession.)

I urge you to support gender-affirming care for those under 18, and, at the very least, to not overturn the 2023 negotiated sunsets to the care ban.

Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHELLEY NELSON PROPST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 2:07 PM
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am writing to encourage you to limit the harm caused by these bills to transgender persons and their families and friends. On the issue healthcare for trans people I am strongly opposed to our legislators controlling our health care. Healthcare is extremely private and personal having healthcare decisions controlled by legislators instead of my health care professionals is a dangerous precedent. At the very least try to allow a time period for persons who have begun treatments to be weaned off gradually to avoid terrible outcomes. Please have compassion for these families and individuals who have face such terrible treatment.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVIE MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2026 9:26 PM

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Hateful and uninformed.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1854		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUZANNE MCGINNIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 5:39 PM
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Out of the over 1,000 bills filed, I cannot believe this is your priority. A bill removing a sunset for a thing you already made illegal. The sunset was only added to help get the bills passed, yet here we are wasting taxpayer time & \$\$\$ once again on the obsession with children's genitals. The show me state rather it's become the show me how to leave state.

Let kids be kids. Let them play with their friends. Let parents make medical decisions with doctors instead of you playing doctor.

After 5 years- I have learned you aren't going to listen to us. You will vote as your party tells you so you can keep party support no matter the REAL consequences of the constituents. Sadly we are the ones that suffer from this. Not you. So please VOTE NO. Let these bills die here in this committee. Do not let them go further wasting your time and taxpayer \$\$\$.

Thank you



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TARA REUTER JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 10:11 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☒ IN OPPOSITION TO ☐ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TORI SACCO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 3:49 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ☐ IN OPPOSITION TO ☒ FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNE CARR WIEDENKELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 1:38 PM

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I am against making gender transitioning illegal and I am a registered voter in Missouri.