

## Written Testimony

Written testimony is a public record under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) and is provided to individuals upon request. Individuals submitting written testimony must use this sheet, but do not need to complete the optional portions. Attachments to this sheet are permitted. Please see a staff person for any questions regarding written testimony.

Bill: HB20 -1114 Sterilization + Mutilation

Date: 2/13/2020

Name Elizabeth Clair		
Address (optional) 11224 Jansen		
City (optional) Parker	Zip (optional) 80134	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional) Kivi2375@ad.com		
Representing		
Position on Bill:	For	Against
	Neutral	

My NAME is ELIZABETH

AND I AM A BLACK TRANSWOMAN.

I AM AN ACTIVIST AND ADVOCATE

FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLES.

Mostly I DEAL WITH TRYING TO

IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF TRANSGENDER ADULTS,

Black transwomen are some of the most oppressed

and vulnerable having higher rates of homelessness, unemployment

and lack of healthcare. One of THE THINGS THE community

has to DEAL with is illegal silicone injections. Many girls

seek underground procedures to enhance their femininity

many are in a rush and had they access to proper

healthcare and supervision they would develop natural

bodies. Many times the people performing illegal silicone

injections don't always use silicone, people have been

known to use fix a flat and baby oil as substitute

for silicone its unsafe. NOW MORE THAN EVER ACCESS

TO CARE + TRANSITION IS EASIER ~~FOR~~ AND MORE ACCESSIBLE

IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN community MANY TRANS YOUTH

ARE KICKED OUT OF their home and loose the

stability of having healthcare, graduating high school

being able to go to college. Barriers don't need

~~How many life late~~ ~~Al~~  
~~Will this be a~~  
~~Fix~~  
~~In my life~~ ~~standards~~  
~~of care and to~~  
~~be raised in~~

To be placed in their life to transition.  
They can have a fulfilling life, career, and stability  
if they are supported and loved in youth.  
The outcomes of their life are better the more  
normal they get to have in youth and they don't  
have to resort to survival tactics



HB20-1114 → Opposition

Thank you for allowing me to speak today in opposition to HB20-1114, proposed legislation that I take as a personal attack against my family. As the parent of a trans-gender child I can speak unequivocally to remarkable change in my child's mental health once her gender identity was affirmed by both her supportive parents and hormonal treatment. It's no understatement to say that the compassionate medical care that my child has received has saved her life and given her a bright future. Prior to her coming out and being allowed to transition she was listless and depressed and her mother and I were very concerned for her well-being. After much family discussion, family therapy and medical consultation my wife and I agreed to support her beginning hormonal treatment. Upon receiving her first prescription of spironolactone she cried and thanked me for supporting her and that she didn't believe the day would come that she could be the person she knew she was. Since then she's gone on to become a top student in her school with a ranking in the highest 5%, was named a commended student in the national merit scholarship program, was a Boetcher nominee, has been accepted into the Colorado School of Mines and will shortly begin an internship for a major aerospace corporation. Her mother and I believe that all of these accomplishments are a direct result of her being allowed to transition as a child, something this legislation would deny. My fear has never been for whether my child has made the correct decision about living her life as the person she knows she is, but rather the bigotry that she would face once out from under the protection of her mother and me, bigotry on full display with this legislation. My child will shortly turn eighteen, so her decision to continue treatment will not impose criminal risk on the dedicated medical professionals that will treat her, but I sit here today so that other parents of trans-gendered children will have the same opportunity to watch their children flourish. I'm concerned that this is the kind of hate legislation that will return year after year, as we're already seeing it appear in other states, so if there's truth to that belief then get used to seeing my face, because I will be here every session to stand in opposition to it.

DAVID A. PELLEGRINO



2/13/2020

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Bill: 1114 - "Vote Yes"

Date: 2/13/20

Let me get to the point.

This is a children's rights & protection bill. It is NOT

Anti-LGBTQ. It is possible to be empathetic & supportive

of adolescents struggling with their gender identity & still support this bill. Here's why:

Adolescence is a time of upheaval & growth.

According to Erickson's Stages of psycho-social dypmt, the teen years can be turbulent as adolescents navigate this stage of "Identity vs. Role Confusion."

As a Society, we have a responsibility to wisely walk with our adolescents, esp. those wrestling w/ their gender identity. We can be empathetic & supportive but we must also recognize the limitations of adolescents' maturity at this stage of their development. Adolescents have limitations in their ability to think through the long term implications for their decisions. That is one reason teens engage in risky/dangerous behaviors. As their guardians, mentors & parents, we must protect them.

Here are some important questions:

Can you show us the science that shows ~~that~~ what

Name	Jami Q.	
Address (optional)		
City (optional)	Zip (optional)	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional)		
Representing		
Position on Bill:	For	Against
	Neutral	

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Bill: 1114 "YES"

Date: 2/13/20

Name <u>Jami Q</u>		
Address <i>(optional)</i>		
City <i>(optional)</i>	Zip <i>(optional)</i>	
Telephone: <i>(optional)</i>		
Email: <i>(optional)</i>		
Representing		
Position on Bill:	For	Against
	Neutral	

... the strong possibility that during the normal stage of experimentation, identity confusion & formation..

adolescents may be more likely to identify as transgender... But that identity doesn't always last. If this is possible, it lends credence to taking a CAUTIOUS view on this very serious matter.

Nothing is lost by protecting minors from making radical, permanent physical medical decisions... while they are still minors. Gender reassignment, including hormone therapy is a RADICAL step.

Transgender adolescents can make their own medical decisions once they are adults. This is common sense & this is protective.

Please vote "YES," on HB 20-1114 & say No to turning our children into <sup>medical</sup> guinea pigs.

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Bill: HB 20 1114

Date: February 18th 2020

As the parent of a transgender child I am against this Bill. Being a parent is the most important job I will ever have.

Name <i>Rebecca Reynolds</i>		
Address (optional)		
City (optional) <i>Littleton</i>	Zip (optional) <i>80127</i>	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional)		
Representing		
Position on Bill:	For	Against <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Neutral	

My child is alive today as a direct result of the unconditional love acceptance and support she has received from her family, friends and the clinically + culturally competent and affirming care she has received from her medical team.

High School

As soon as she graduated, we flew our family to Philadelphia, <sup>for and with her</sup> to have her gender confirmation surgery, something that was denied by her insurance and that we had to cover completely out of pocket.

The day after her surgery she posted this message on Facebook.

"24 hours ago I was being put under anesthesia for the most wonderful and life changing surgery I'll ever have. Since then the pain's been

getting slightly better but my excitement is growing exponentially. I have yet to see the results of gender confirmation surgery but I already feel more like the person I've always been. My heart is surging and I've already cried out of happiness and excitement more times than I'm proud of. I want to give a huge shoutout to my parents Dany and Rebecca Reynolds for making this possible, I'm overwhelmingly grateful to you both and I'll never forget this incredible gift you've given me. I want to urge any of my friends who are against gender confirmation surgery ~~are~~ to strongly reconsider your feelings and think about the joy and opportunities this surgery can give people. Without this surgery, I don't know how much longer I would have been able to cope and once yesterday I feel like I've been given a second chance at life. For the first time in my life, I can say that I truly feel beautiful and proud of this body I'm in and that is something that everyone deserves to feel at least once in their life.

Without gender affirming care, as a minor, I know my child would no longer be alive. I respectfully ask that you consider our family's story in your decision making.

Heather Thompson  
Testimony opposing HB 20-1114

Hello. My name is Heather Thompson and I am Deputy Director of Elephant Circle, a birth justice organization. I have a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology, am queer and non-binary, and have worked with LGBTQAI+ youth in varying capacities since the 1990s. I am a born and <sup>have</sup> <sup>gender</sup> raised Coloradan.

I am testifying today in strong opposition to HB 1114.

This bill does not reflect Colorado's journey from "hate state" in 1992 to a national leader in LGBTQ rights, as Mike Bloom stated in his 2019 story for NPR's Morning Edition. If passed, this bill would have extremely harmful effects on our transgender youth in Colorado.

We have several objections to this bill.

First, the title of the bill, "Protect Minors From Mutilation And Sterilization", demonstrates the shortsightedness that permeates this bill. Gender affirming medical decisions are not sterilization or mutilation. The vitrol evident in the title of this bill makes it clear that there is a deep lack of understanding about how access to gender affirming medical decisions saves the lives of Colorado youth. These decisions and actions are not just gender affirming, but life affirming for gender nonconforming youth.

Second, this bill is completely tone deaf to the needs of transgender youth. We have known for years that nearly 70% of gender non-conforming youth have suicide ideation and 40% of transgender youth attempt suicide. Recent data, literally published last month, shows clearly, once again, that access to gender affirming hormonal support significantly reduces the risk of suicide in transgender youth. Creating barriers to gender affirming medical support will harm some of Colorado's most vulnerable youth. In my view, this is would be a tragedy.

Third, the scientific literature shows clearly that 93% of youth who access some form of gender affirming therapy or surgery feel that this was positive for them, even years later. And the remaining 7% do not regret their decision, rather they simply feel ambivalent about it. There are very few documented cases of transgender youth who regret their decision to access gender affirming medical care.

Are there stories of individuals who regret previous gender affirming hormones or surgery? Of course. But it is very clear that these are exceptions, not the rule. Eliminating access to these life-affirming medical decisions is not data-based and will certainly create harm. These sorts of decisions should be between an individual and their doctor, without governmental input or control.

HB 1114 does not protect Colorado's young people. On the contrary – it increases harm and risk of suicide to Colorado's gender non-conforming youth. I remember the 1990s, when Colorado was called the hate state. We have come so far since then. This bill is a step backwards. It will undermine years of work supporting LGBTQ folks in Colorado, and I, for one, don't want to go back to the days where Colorado sanctioned hate and discrimination.

I urge a no vote on HB 1114. Thank you. I am open to questions.