



Bill C6 Parliamentary Brief to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

November 16, 2020

Brief on [Bill C6](#)

Introduction

We The Females is a non-partisan, non-religious group that asserts the Charter sex-based rights of women and girls. We have more than 400 subscribers to our newsletter who are actively involved in [political actions](#),¹ and we have over 2000 followers on Twitter. We organized in 2019 as a response to the increasing [loss of rights and protections for women](#)² in Canada, and our members have been visiting and writing letters to their MP's. We are also collaborating with other women's groups across the country who are also very concerned about the explosive growth of gender dysphoric children, particularly girls. We are appalled that greedy pharmaceutical companies are creating lifelong consumers of cross-sex hormones, and a macabre new [industry](#)³ is advertising to remove the healthy breasts of teenagers.

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Are Very Different

Bill C6 contains very concerning wording that inappropriately combines Gender Identity with Sexual Orientation. **Gender identity has very little in common with sexual orientation, and should not be covered under the same legislation.** A ban on Conversion Therapy for sexual orientation communicates that young people should accept their natural sexual feelings. A ban on Conversion Therapy for Gender Identity communicates that it is a crime to help youth to accept their natural bodies. Bill C6 references the experience of being gay and assumes this experience is the same as being gender dysphoric. **This grave error of overgeneralization puts children's welfare at risk.**

Bill C6 Promotes Medical Conversion Therapy For Gender Non-Conforming Minors

Conversion therapy is a harmful historical practice. We affirm that the type of conversion therapy experienced by gay people in the past has no place in contemporary Canadian society. Ironically, **Bill C6 will actively promote conversion therapy** for gender dysphoric children and youth, because it criminalizes any therapy other than converting a healthy body into a body that

¹ wethefemales.com/actions/

² wethefemales.com/

³ genderreport.ca/college-of-physicians-rules-against-mclean-clinic/

will be dependent on the medical industry. Converting the body to match the mind *is* conversion therapy. As well, many people are now noting that children, who will later identify as gay, can wrongly think that they are the opposite sex in childhood, especially in the current environment of “affirmation therapy”. This is another aspect of how gender transition is actually [a form of gay conversion therapy](#)⁴.

Serious Health Risks

There are some very serious human rights implications resulting from the current practice of sending children on this medical conversion pathway. Puberty blockers and cross sex hormones have a negative impact on health, which young people cannot possibly consent to or properly comprehend. The NHS UK lists [alarming side effects](#)⁵ of these drugs, including sterility, and this personal story of Scott Newgent’s [medical nightmare](#)⁶ highlights serious health problems females experience when they convert to a male appearance. We are now hearing from women who are attempting to [detransition](#)⁷ and recover what they can of their health.

It is hard to comprehend a government that sends children along a grim pathway to a medically dependent future, and then celebrates this policy as a human rights success. Rather, we assert that children have a human right to reach adulthood with their bodies and reproduction function intact. They will be more able to make adult decisions when they are adults.

Bill C6 Limits Helpful Therapeutic Options

Children have the right to receive in-depth counselling that treats their core issues. If Bill C6 passes as it is currently written, counsellors who treat underlying conditions, such as, anxiety, autism or past sexual abuse will now risk up to five years in jail. Sharing information about the long-term effects of puberty blockers, hormone therapy and surgery could all be criminal acts. The *only* recourse for therapists would be to affirm a child’s trans identity claim.

Changing Models of Care

Many young adults who transitioned as youth are now [detransitioning](#)⁸ back to their biological sex, and questioning the professionals who encouraged their transition. The growing number of young women detransitioning raises questions about whether or not they received proper therapeutic care in the first place. When thirty-five clinicians [resigned from the leading Gender Clinic in UK](#),⁹ it signalled that there is a problem. As [lawsuits](#)¹⁰ from detransitioners increase, the current Affirmation Model of care will likely be replaced by a more therapeutic model. If Bill C6 is

⁴ <http://archive.fo/FYWSN>

⁵ www.nhs.uk/conditions/gender-dysphoria/treatment/

⁶ www.trevoices.com/post/canadabill-il-c-6

⁷ news.sky.com/story/hundreds-of-young-trans-people-seeking-help-to-return-to-original-sex-11827740

⁸ genderreport.ca/detransitioners-what-can-we-learn/

⁹ telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/12/12/childrens-transgender-clinic-hit-35-resignations-three-years/

¹⁰ thepostmillennial.com/case-of-detransitioner-suing-gender-clinic-reaches-londons-royal-courts-of-justice

passed, the new model of care will be illegal. The government should not be in the business of criminalizing best practices for clinics. Let the counsellors and professional organizations do their jobs.

Puberty Is Not Optional

Nervous parents have been told by gender clinics that puberty blockers are fully reversible. The NHS quietly changed the information about blockers on [their website](#)¹¹, omitting the word *reversible*. In fact, these medications are not fully reversible, and children on blockers have been negatively affected by the improper development of their bones. [Endocrinologists](#)¹² are now speaking out about the negative impact of these medical conversions. Society For Evidence Based Gender Medicine ([SEGM](#))¹³ is an association of 100 international specialists opposing Affirmation Therapy as a best practice. They are highlighting the lack of evidence for the use of hormonal and surgical interventions as a first-line treatment for young people with gender dysphoria.

Summary

The nature of childhood is to test reality through imagination and experimentation, and this is how children build a conceptual framework of the world. Ironically, gender stereotypes have never been more oppressive than they are today, because Gender Ideology promotes the idea that if a boy likes dresses, he could actually be a girl. If a girl likes short hair and trucks, she could actually be a boy. Gender ideology promotes the false and dangerous idea that children can change their bodies to align with their imaginations.

If given time and support to experience puberty, approximately [85% of children](#)¹⁴ who experience discomfort with their biological sex grow to accept their biology as long as adults do *not* affirm their gender identity wishes. Bill C-6 will criminalize this sensible Watchful Waiting approach, and the number of children physically and mentally harmed will continue to skyrocket until more lawsuits temper this trend. Thousands of Canadians who are concerned about the explosion of gender dysphoric youth. Bill C6, though well-intentioned, puts youth on a path to government mandated “Affirmation Therapy”, a choice that many already regret. Canadian youth deserve better from decision makers. They deserve the opportunity to work through their issues in counselling and to learn to accept and appreciate their natural bodies.

Recommendations

We recommend that language referring to gender identity be removed, and Bill C6 focus solely on sexual orientation.

¹¹ www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-nhs-has-quietly-changed-its-trans-guidance-to-reflect-reality

¹² www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2020/01/59422/

¹³ https://segm.org/about_us

¹⁴ genderreport.ca/gender-affirming-care-is-changing-the-pathways-to-desistance/

OR

We recommend that language criminalizing the use of puberty blockers, cross sex hormones and body mutilating surgeries for gender dysphoric minors be included in Bill C6 as part of the definition of Conversion Therapy.

Conclusion

Our culture is in the midst of a tumultuous time. The quick and fierce judgments resulting from the toxic combination of social media and social justice theory is creating an environment where politicians are pressured to make poorly considered decisions for political reasons. Do the right thing and remove gender identity from Bill C6. Children's health is at stake.

Sincerely,

Madeline Riversong

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