

To: The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Dec 5, 2020

From: Patricia Herdman, Toronto, Ontario

Re: Conversion Therapy – criminalizing

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### **Summary**

By putting forward a bill that makes it a crime for any parent, doctor, teacher, or friend of a child to encourage the child to slow down and reconsider whether they were born into the “right” or “wrong” body is an abhorrent overstep of federal law and I opposed this part of the bill.

Surely parents have a responsibility, not just a right, to guide their children through discussions that may not align to the trans ideology. It is our country’s duty to support parents in their important role to help their children make sense of the world and not the government’s job to criminalize parental care.

### **Where I support the bill**

Protecting gays and lesbians from conversion therapy, no matter what the age, is an important step in the right direction and I support this move. It harms no one and does not damage the individual’s bodily integrity.

When it comes to adults who believe they were born into the “wrong body” and should have been born in the opposite sex, again, I agree that encouraging or forcing conversion therapy is wrong.

### **Protecting Children’s Physical Integrity**

When it comes to children, however, we must be very careful about who and how and what influences very important decisions that could physically harm them for life. Currently, children are exposed to youtube influencers, tweets, societal messages, and pro-trans media coverage that can undermine their confidence, especially if they behave in non-traditional ways for their sex. For example, “feminine” boys and “tomboy” girls have been swayed to believe that

they were the opposite sex when, in fact, there are many ways to be a man and many ways to be a woman.

The recent [court case in Britain](#), led by Keira Bell, highlights this sort of tragedy. And there [are other cases](#) that have been brought to light (and many more that remain a secret).

Hormone blockers given to children to interrupt puberty and hormones from the opposite sex given to growing children can cause many health issues, as I am sure the committee knows. With the important developmental stage of pubescence interrupted and interfered with, it is no wonder that very young adults then make life-altering decisions that they cannot recover from, as Keira Bell did when she had a double mastectomy at the age of 20. "There was nothing wrong with my body," she lamented only three years later. But it was too late.

As you also know, [a mother in British Columbia](#) recently had to fight in court to prevent doctors from removing her minor child's healthy breasts. It is just a temporary ban at this stage and I do not know the outcome.

Would the bill you are currently considering criminalize this mother's action? It seems so.

### **Trans Activists Oppose Ban on FGM**

I am very suspect about activists that claim they are concerned about children when from the same ideological foundation, these activists [pushed hard to prevent Wyoming from banning FGM](#) (female genital mutilation). Hibo Wardere, an anti-FGM campaigner and survivor, was troubled that trans activists had conflated FGM with so-called gender reassignment surgery. Ms Wardere said to transactivists that they were "disrespecting our trauma, taking over our trauma, which you shouldn't be."

After all, the [World Health Organization](#) states that "FGM is recognized internationally as a **violation of the human rights of girls and women**. It reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an

extreme form of discrimination against women and considers FGM a violation of the human rights of women and girls.” [emphasis added]

### **In Closing**

There is no science to support the notion that a child can be born into the right or wrong body. It is true, however, that adults have every right to behave as they wish, dress as they wish, love whom they wish. But children deserve protection from very real physical harms that can result from medically supporting trans ideology.

It particularly concerns me that trans ideologists urge that parents “support” children to conform to the opposite sex’s gender stereotypes at younger and younger ages.

Surely parents have a responsibility, not just a right, to guide their children through discussions that may not align to the trans ideology. It is our country’s duty to support parents in their important role to help their children make sense of the world and not the government’s job to criminalize parental care.