

From: Peter Osberg pemdosberg@gmail.com
Subject: p#3
Date: December 5, 2020 at 11:12 AM
To: peter Osberg pemdosberg@gmail.com

PO

Dear Committee Members,
Re Conversion Therapy Bill C-6

Speaking as a retired plastic and reconstructive surgeon, it pains me to see affirmation of gender altering surgery and chemical castration promoted under bill C-6 in children and youth. It is being promoted because supportive, non surgical, non intervention, counselling is being criminalized. The human brain development is a gradual process, with cognitive skills acquired gradually in childhood (Piaget's work chronicles this well). Aesthetic surgery is not a good policy prior to puberty as the ability to deal with issues of alteration of appearance is not well developed until post puberty, it is a maturation issue, a cognitive development issue, an ability to understand the concept of long term consequences. It is why the age of consent existed. The surgery for gender alteration is at best marginal, normally deforming with chronic physical and psychological sequelae, and always surgical results are below expectations. In consenting adults who can make the choices and accept the irreversible life long consequences, it can have a place in management, but not in children. The recent high court decision in England (Keira Bell) highlights this.

Bill C-6 should not include gender identity and expression and use language and terms that are poorly defined.

Peter Osberg MD FRCS(c)