

From: Carol Kauffman

Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 10:46 AM

Subject: Amendment to VFA Carol Kauffman 2/2/2023 testimony

I would like to add to my testimony and respond in writing to the full judiciary committee regarding the question if Vermont Family Alliance is in favor of conversion therapy and should not be illegal in Vermont. Other member statements were, "If we're doing gender-affirming care, it seems unfair that conversion therapy wasn't aloud"

"Organizations like the American Psychological Association and numerous others have called conversion therapy pseudoscience" and "Conversion therapy is extremely mentally damaging for children who are forced to go through this"

Vermont Family Alliance does not support any therapy that is extremely mentally damaging for children, including gender-affirming therapy. Please do not move forward as though children are not experiencing extreme mental damage and irreversible physical damage as claimed in The Tavistock gender clinic, a class action lawsuit of over 1,000 plus families presented in Renee McGuinness' testimony.

My testimony included, "I also submitted Chloe Cole v. Kaiser Permanente Medical Group lawsuit. Chloe alleges that Kaiser Permanente coerced her into transgender medical treatment, describing her experience as grossly negligent and resulting in permanent mutilation and damage to her body, "I made an adult decision as a child." Chloe's lawsuit will give you insight into the Prohibition of Conversion Therapy/gender-affirming care gone wrong. Chole's experience is not isolated." Chloe's lawsuit was with your handouts. She was part of the narrow gender-affirming care that appears to be the bias of this committee and Vermont law. Her experience deserves your attention if you are determined to codify a narrow gender-affirming care for minors in H89.

Each judiciary member was given a copy of 18VSA8351. This definition alone was the relevant “conversion therapy” in my testimony. 18VSA8351 definition is “Conversion therapy means any practice by a mental health care provider that seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to change sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex or gender.” If mental health care providers step outside of this definition, they are charged with conversion therapy and recklessly accused of traumatizing children.

I offered an example in my testimony. Dr. Kenneth Zucker believes that gender-dysphoric pre-pubertal children are best served by helping them align their gender identity with their anatomic sex. This would be the conversion therapy of today, prohibited by 18 VSA 8351(2015), not the conversion therapy of yesterday because this view ultimately cost him his 30-year directorship of the Child Youth and Family Gender Identity Clinic at the Center for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, December 15, 2015. At what point in Dr. Zucker’s 30-plus-year career did his standard of care become pseudoscience?

Vermont laws nor children can diagnosis gender dysphoria. Government should never mandate terms of care. Because of this overstep of Government, children are being harmed, parental rights and responsibilities are being usurped, and gender dysphoria mental health providers are leaving the field. Feminist Dr. Debra Soh, PhD, offers detailed insight.

My assertion in my testimony was that H89 violates parental rights and responsibilities and leaves minors without protections, under the influence of unknown “persons” and

“adult”. I agree that H89 does not have anything to do with parental rights pertaining to statute change.

I look forward to hearing what specific Vermont Laws protect Vermont parental rights and responsibilities.

Again, thank you for your time

Carol Kauffman

Vermont Family Alliance