

February 6, 2023, Renee McGuinness, Vermont Family Alliance

**Questions and Corrections on the Intent of my Testimony in Response to February 3, 2023, 1:00 PM Jessa Barnard Testimony**

**Questions for the Judiciary Committee and Legislative Counsel**

1. If the issue of parental consent and minor protections are outside the scope of H.89, as Jessa Barnard, Executive Director of the Vermont Medical Society, claimed during her testimony, why is there express language on page 4, lines 18-19 that “health care services does not include conversion therapy as defined by 18.VSA.8351”, of which 18.VSA.8351 pertains specifically to minors?
2. Does legislative counsel believe practitioners licensed in Vermont, assistants, and adults seeking care in Vermont could be sued by another state if an adult from another state comes to Vermont for gender-affirming care, when there are no states in the U.S. that are attempting to ban gender-affirming care for adults?
3. If there are no states banning gender-affirming care for adults, doesn't that, by default, make sections of H.89 about gender-affirming care for minors?

**Response to incorrect assertions and understandings about my testimony on Feb 1, 1:30 pm**

@ 29:50, Representative Rachelson stated to Jessa Barnard:, "We heard from a witness that cared a great deal whether standards were international or not."

**This is an erroneous assessment and understanding of my testimony.**

The statement, *“Evidence on the appropriate management of children and young people with gender incongruence and dysphoria is inconclusive both nationally and internationally,”* is an assessment and quote from Dr. Cass, not me, as presented in my initial testimony on Feb 1.

I spent most of the thirty minutes of my scheduled time reviewing key points of the Summary portion of the Cass Review Interim Report out of the UK released in February of 2022.

I did not ask you to determine whether you should rely on the authority of U.S. health organizations or international organizations regarding Standards of Care.

***For clarity, I am asking, for the third time, for Judiciary Committee members to read and consider the findings of the Cass Review Interim Report, released February 2023, before you advance a bill that exclusively shields gender-affirming care.***

The UK NHS commissioned Dr. Cass, a pediatrician and former President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in the UK from 2012-2015.

4. Do you disregard the credibility of Dr. Cass and the findings of the Cass Review Interim Report because it was commissioned by the UK NHS, and not an agency in the United States?

@31:10 Representative Rachelson and Jessa Barnard engage in a conversation that conflates abortion with gender-affirming care, and conflates legal standards with standard medical

procedures: it is unclear whether Barnard is answering regarding gender care or abortion, or both: Jessa Barnard states, "I think the clinical guidelines are probably fairly - clinical best practices are probably fairly consistent, just in most of these instances I think that the clinical - people are looking at the same studies - the primary science in forming best practice guidelines is international in some ways. These studies can be happening all around the world, so the clinical best practice guidelines are probably quite consistent whether there is actually an international body to kind of make that officially one guideline, I think again is the exception rather than the rule."

5. How does Barnard know this to be true regarding gender dysphoria treatment protocols? Is she speaking nationally or internationally? Has she read the Cass Review Interim Report? Is Barnard familiar with the Dutch approach to gender care, and treatment protocols and age limits in Sweden, Italy, Poland, etc.? **Barnard is making erroneous, uninformed assumptions.**

@ 32:50, Jessa Barnard stated, "the science doesn't change, the politics do." That is **NOT** true relating to the on-going findings of the outcomes of gender identity treatments.

Developmental stages of humans are the same in every country. If you truly want to act in the best interest of children and youth, please consider the findings of the Cass Review Interim Report. It is **NOT** a political report.

It is egregious that the vote on H.89 in the House Judiciary Committee is set for Tuesday, February 7, 2023. This does not allow enough time to contemplate all the testimony, review updated and amended testimony, and review the Cass Report; along with all the other bills for which you are taking testimony and run-throughs.

A few hours to deliberate on February 7 is not enough. Why the rush? For the sake of children, youth, and families, please take your time researching and deliberating H.89 before you vote.

Best regards,

Renee McGuinness

Vermont Family Alliance