

AN EDUCATIONAL UPDATE FROM
THE SOUTHEAST LAW INSTITUTE™, INC.

To: Interested Persons
Date: March 2020
From: A. Eric Johnston
Re: The Alabama Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act (VCAP)

SLI has been working with the Eagle Forum of Alabama and other pro-family groups on legislation that was recently filed in the Alabama Legislature that will prohibit sex change treatments and surgeries on minor children. There is a growing concern that some healthcare providers are encouraging parents to permit the administration of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for the purpose of ultimately having radical sex-change surgeries. In essence, these procedures are to change the biological sex with which a child is born. The biological sex is determined by the child's chromosomes and external physical characteristics. It is extremely rare that a child is born with questionable biological sex. That is not the issue and those children are treated medically appropriate.

The issue are the advocates who encourage parents whose children have alleged gender dysphoria to commence changing of their sex or otherwise the child is likely to commit suicide or have other horrible problems. Most of us rely on healthcare professionals to provide us information which we do not normally have or understand. The sex change healthcare providers do an injustice in the name of promoting the sexual agenda being advocated in many ways in our culture today.

The VCAP bill has been introduced to prohibit these experimental and horrendous procedures. These procedures will create people who ultimately are neither male nor female and for whom many of the procedures cannot be reversed. If the child later becomes adult and regrets his or her earlier decisions, the damage has been done. The bill does not attempt to regulate adult decisions. It applies only to children. We provided legislators with the following summary:

I. PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION: VCAP prohibits anyone from prescribing or administering puberty blocking drugs or cross-sex hormones, or from performing surgical procedures on an otherwise normal healthy child for the purposes of treating gender-dysphoria. It requires parents to be notified by school officials if they learn that a child has gender-dysphoria.

II. SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS:

Section 2. Legislative findings are that puberty blocking medications and cross-sex hormones have not been rigorously studied and the long-term health effects are not known, and this constitutes dangerous and uncontrolled human medical experimentation. Most prepubescent children who claim sexual identity different from their biological sex ultimately abandon that belief. Experimental medications foreclose the possibility of natural recovery from this condition. There are no rigorous studies that these procedures have long-term beneficial effect or reduce suicide risk, but on the contrary result in elevated risks of sterility, mental illness, and other problems. These procedures constitute a public health risk and it is within the police power of the state to reasonably regulate the public health.

Section 3. A minor is defined as someone younger than 19 years. Sex is the biological state of being male or female based on sex organs, chromosomes and endogenous hormone profiles. A person is any individual or government agency or official.

Section 4. No person shall engage in, counsel or refer for the purpose of affirming a minor's perception of his gender which is inconsistent with the minor's biological sex and includes puberty blocking medication, testosterone or other androgens to females, estrogen to males, castration, vasectomy, hysterectomy, *etcetera*, surgery to artificially construct genitalia or the removal of otherwise healthy body parts. Exceptions are provided for procedures to treat a minor born with a medically verifiable disorder of sex development as determined by external biological sex characteristics and chromosomes. Violation is a Class C felony.

Section 5. Persons may not encourage minors to withhold sex identity information from the minor's parents, no person shall withhold information relevant to the physical and mental health of a minor related to the minor's perception of his or her sex, and certain public or private school employees shall notify a parent of a minor who has a sexual perception problem. Violation is a Class A misdemeanor.

Section 6. The Act would not change existing medical liability statutes.

Section 7. Severability clause.

Section 8. The bill excludes from the requirements of Am. 621 expenditure of local funds.

Section 9. Effective date thirty days from approval by Governor.

III. WHY LEGISLATION IS NEEDED: Sexual experimentation on children being encouraged by the transsex/transgender lobby must be stopped. There is no rational basis for allowing these gruesome life disrupting procedures to take place.

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