

**NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:
NO TAX DOLLARS FOR GENDER ALTERING PROCEDURES.**

BACKGROUND. Liberal and progressive groups nationwide are besieging state legislatures to fund gender-altering procedures (GAPs) for children and teens, even though reputable medical authorities categorically state that these procedures can cause serious medical and psychological traumas. Noted psychiatrists state that many young people undergoing such procedures later regret their choice and suffer from depression for the rest of their lives. Notwithstanding the huge amount of credible medical evidence showing that such procedures permanently harm individuals, NE liberal and progressive groups mobilized against conservative bill **LB 574**.

THE BILL. **LB 574**, sponsored by conservative State Sen. Kathleen Kauth and 22 other state senators, would prohibit state funds from being directly or indirectly used by or granted, paid, or distributed to an entity, organization, or individual that provides gender-altering procedures to an individual younger than 19.

OUR REASONING. NTF opposes this state funding for several reasons. GAPs are cosmetic or enhancement procedures, not necessary medical ones. It is not cost-effective, because the few receiving such treatment does not warrant taxpayer funding. Gender-changing surgeries cost up to an expensive \$50,000, not counting accompanying drugs and hormone treatments. If the state funds GAPs, taxpayers eventually will have to pay for similar procedures like elective cosmetic surgeries on any part of the body or race-alteration surgery. Furthermore, the Biden Regime is allowing federal dollars to pay for sex change surgeries, with accompanying chemicals that permanently damage bodies. The Regime endorses these procedures on minors, without parental consent. Biden has instructed his Dept. of Justice to prosecute medical providers who refuse to offer this service. **LB 574** would serve as a bulwark against this Biden scheme.



OTHER STATES. NE must join an increasing number of states that already have passed or are in the process of passing legislation barring taxpayer funding of GAPs. In 2021, Arkansas (Section 20-9-1503) passed a law banning GAPs for minors, a prohibition on the use of public funds, including through Medicaid, for such coverage. The bill specifically prohibits the use of federal funds for GAPs or health insurance coverage that includes such surgery. A Louisiana bill prohibits public funds used directly or indirectly by an organization or individual that offers GAPs to a minor. Texas bill HB 1029

reads, “No funds authorized or appropriated by State law shall be expended for any gender reassignment.” Its sponsor says that the state should not force objecting residents to pay for sex changes. The 2022 HB 454 in Ohio forbids the distribution of public monies to organizations or individuals that offer gender transition procedures to minors. This prohibition includes Medicaid coverage. Its application specifically prohibits such health care services provided by or in a state, county, or local facility or by a physician employed by the state or other state employee. In Mississippi (Senate Bill 2728), public funds forbidden for direct or indirect use by an organization or individual that provides gender transition services to anyone under 18. The state Medicaid program cannot reimburse or provide coverage for such procedures. The Arizona SB 1138 2022 law mirrors the Mississippi statute. No health care facility owned by the state, county, or local government subdivision, physician, or other health care professional employed by the state, county, or local government may engage in such surgery. The 2023 Oklahoma law, HB 1011, prohibits public funding to organizations offering GAPs to anyone under 21. This bill includes exceptions for medically-diagnosed genetic anomalies, mutations, or sexual development disorders. The legislation also includes Medicaid services for transgender and other youth under 21. Iowa recently enacted a law denying coverage for gender-transitioning surgeries. A proposed Virginia law would bar the state Dept. of Medical Assistance Services, which administers the state Medicaid program, from reimbursing or offering coverage for GAPs for those under 18. Florida now bans transgender health care treatments, including Medicaid coverage, for minors. The governor of Utah signed a bill to ban youth there from receiving tax-funded gender-transferring health care. 8 states, including Kentucky and North Carolina, broadly bar use of state monies to fund organizations or individuals offering GAPs, regardless of the proposed use of these funds. Bills in 4 states, including neighboring Missouri, exclude GAPs as a tax-deductible health care expense.

TAKE ACTION. Objecting NE taxpayers never should have to fund puberty blockers and sex change surgeries for minor children or teens. If parents want to violate the laws of nature and change their children’s sexual identity, they should find their own private insurance and not burden taxpayers. There exist a number of insurance choices available to pay for sex change surgery and its accompanying drugs and hormones. If your state senator is on the Health & Human

Services Comm., lobby him/her on **LB 574** after its Feb. 8 public hearing to advance the bill from committee, then lobby your senator to pass the bill. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for state senator contact information and join our NTF *Legislature Watch Project*.

Research, documentation, and analysis for this issue paper done by **Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom**. This material copyrighted by Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom, with express prior permission granted for its use by other groups in the *NE Conservative Coalition Network*. 2-23. C

Source materials:

THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION. Sex Reassignment Doesn't Work. Here Is the Evidence.
March 9, 2018

Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D.

Former Visiting Fellow, DeVos Center

Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D., researches and writes about marriage, bioethics, religious liberty, and political philosophy.

=====

PUBLIC DISCOURSE. THE JOURNAL OF THE WITHERSPOON INSTITUTE.

Regret Isn't Rare: The Dangerous Lie of Sex Change Surgery's Success

JUNE 17, 2016. by WALT HEYER.

