

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2024

National Governors Association
444 N. Capitol Street Ste. 267
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Governors.

We write today to express profound concern at the reports of a 14-year-old girl from Glasgow, Montana being transferred by Montana’s Child and Family Services (Child Protective Services/CPS) to Wyoming against her parents’ wishes for medical treatment, including “gender-affirming care.” Less than two weeks ago, on January 19, 2024, a judge fully revoked Todd and Krista Kolstad’s custody for refusing to “transition” their 14-year-old daughter.¹ At the federal level, we have supported and will continue to push legislation that would make it illegal to “medically transition” minors or transfer them to another state for this purpose. Now, it is time for States to step in. As Governors, we implore you to do everything in your power to protect children and parental rights.

According to the American College of Pediatricians and other researchers, as many as 80-95% of children who have gender dysphoria accept their biological sex by late puberty.² Despite this, the Left and pharmaceutical companies increasingly push physicians to provide “gender affirming care” before or during puberty. In the case of the Kolstad’s daughter, after she was taken away from her parents by CPS, she was given a chest binder and told about “top surgery”—elective double mastectomy. Chest binders can restrict breathing and fracture ribs with potentially long-term consequences and elective double mastectomy is irreversible. There is no reason for these procedures to be done to children—it is always wrong to transition a child from their biological sex before they have even had a chance to grow up.

We are horrified that Montana CPS and hospitals, and potentially other states, would facilitate, let alone allow, this type of child abuse. Many children struggle during puberty and are certainly not helped by pressure from social media and predatory pharmaceutical companies. As legislators and governors, we must do everything we can to stop these evil practices: children deserve a chance to grow up and parents have a right to raise their children.

While we work to pass legislation to end these horrific practices at the federal level, we urge you to reform CPS and remove their ability to transfer children for unessential medical care. Last year, the Montana legislature passed House Bill 37 that would have required CPS to obtain a warrant to remove a child from a home unless necessary to prevent the child from being abused

¹ <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/montana-couple-lose-custody-of-teen-daughter-after-opposing-her-transitioning/>

² <https://acpeds.org/position-statements/gender-dysphoria-in-children>

or neglected. Unfortunately, that law was vetoed. We hope that the case of the Kolstad makes it clear why such CPS reforms and other laws are necessary.

We look forward to your response and urge you to act as quickly and decisively as possible. Innocent children who are being targeted, abused, and medically harmed are at stake.

Sincerely,



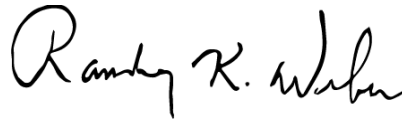
Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.
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