



Written Testimony

Before the California Senate Health Committee

S.B. 923

OPPOSE

April 5, 2022

Thank you, members of the Senate Health Committee, for allowing us the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to S.B. 923. The undersigned are signatories to the [Declaration](#) on Women's Sex-Based Rights (the Declaration) and residents of California.

Women's Declaration International (WDI) is a global, nonpartisan group of volunteer women dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights; [WDI USA](#) is its U.S. chapter. The Declaration was created by the founders of WDI to lobby nations to maintain language protecting women and girls on the basis of sex rather than "gender" or "gender identity." The Declaration re-affirms women and girls' sex-based rights and challenges the discrimination we experience from the replacement of the category of sex with that of "gender identity." The Declaration has over 30,000 signatures globally, from 157 countries.

It has long been understood in the area of human rights that the stereotyped sex roles of men and women are a fundamental aspect of women's inequality and must be eliminated. Saying that some boys and men are actually girls and women because they adopt the stereotypes that are typically associated with the female sex is, therefore, a human rights violation.

Our interest in SB 923 stems primarily from Article 1 of the Declaration, which reaffirms that the rights of women are based on the category of sex. It asserts that governments should maintain the centrality of the category of sex, not "gender identity," in relation to women's and girls' right to be free from discrimination. The inclusion of "gender identity" in a legal definition of sex necessarily replaces sex with "gender identity", a subjective, unproveable feeling based on stereotypes that harm women and girls. The conflict is unavoidable: Either sex is immutable and

biologically based, or it is changeable based on a claim, or a lie. If a man can be a woman, the sex category of “woman” can not be protected in law from historic and ongoing discrimination.

Our interest in S.B. 923 is also based on Article 9 of the Declaration, “Reaffirming the need for the protection of the rights of the child.” This is in keeping with Article 3 (1) of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children](#), which states: “In all actions concerning children . . . the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.” The Declaration reads: “States should recognize that medical interventions aimed at the ‘gender reassignment’ of children by the use of puberty suppressing drugs, cross-sex hormones and surgery do not serve the best interest of children. Children are not developmentally competent to give full, free and informed consent to such medical interventions, which carry a high risk of long-term adverse consequences . . . States should recognize that medical interventions aimed at the ‘gender reassignment’ of children . . . are emerging harmful practices as defined by Part V of the Joint General Recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/General Comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices.”

S.B. 923 is part of a so-called “Transgender Wellness” program in California that supports and promotes the administration of medically unnecessary pharmaceutical and surgical procedures that inhibit puberty or alter secondary sex characteristics on a minor for the purpose of causing him or her to appear more like the opposite sex. Because of the high risk of both long-term and permanent adverse consequences of these procedures, and the developmental inability of children and adolescents to give full, free, and informed consent to such interventions, we oppose this bill and its associated program and policies.

The vast majority of children are likely to outgrow discomfort with their sexed bodies if they are allowed to go through puberty. The majority of these children tend to become gay or lesbian adults. A [study](#) from 2021 showed an 88% desistance rate for boys, and there are other studies showing similar results.

California’s “Transgender Wellness” policies are not only unjust to women and girls, but physically harmful. They deprive women of physical integrity, safety, privacy, and dignity, as well as equal opportunity to participate in public life. As described here, some of those ongoing harms are irreversible. They are contrary to the core values of any decent society. We urge you not only to oppose S.B. 923, but to repeal the entire body of California law that enshrines in law the lie that is “gender identity.”

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