

Oral In-Person with Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 12

John McDermott,

Pastor, Morning Star Church

Founder, Board Member Called to Greatness

Senate District #3

Honorable Chairman Gossage, Vice-Chair Erickson, Ranking Minority Pettey, and Committee Members,

I am grateful for the opportunity today to speak in **favor of SB12**

My wife, Pam and I are the parents of 5 adult children, ages 23 to 31, we also have 6 grandchildren between the ages of 1 and 13, and another will be born in June. We have had foster children beginning in 1990, and currently have a 17-year-old helping him make the transition to independent living.

My Involvement with Young People

Through my involvement with Called to Greatness, I have had enormous amount of engagement in many different ways with the youth in our community from all different age groups and socio-economic and racial backgrounds.

Love and Compassion

I am speaking to you today motivated by love and compassion for young people. I am aware of the challenges young people face today in their struggle to find meaning, identity and purpose in an ever-increasing stressful world.

Matthew 9:36 (NASB95) — 36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

I am deeply concerned about a false narrative cascading down upon vulnerable young boys and girls, to such a degree that they need the Kansas Legislature to protect their future by enacting this Bill into Law. A law that would protect their youthful vulnerabilities before they would decide to make irreversible, life altering, health risking decisions.

Current Laws Reflect the Philosophy Behind SB12

We already have laws in Kansas that reflect this understanding. You can't buy alcohol until you are 21. You can't buy tobacco products until you're 18 and 21 in many jurisdictions in Kansas. Why? Because we have the belief in "informed consent", and that minors don't have the capacity to grasp the severity and long-term consequences of these decisions.

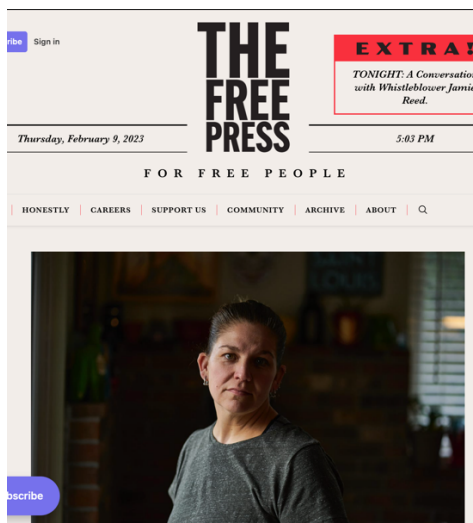
Thankfully we follow the science, the scientific studies on how young peoples' brains aren't fully developed until their early to mid-twenties. Because of this they are vulnerable to pressure and influence from peers and social media, rather than through reason and good judgement.

An Incomplete Narrative

Mark 9:42 (NASB95) — 42 “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.”

Algorithm controlled Social Media platforms, censoring an alternative view, while giving unprincipled influencers the access to promote unscientific solutions that lack any evidence-based research to the minds of vulnerable minors, who are wrestling with age-appropriate questions of identity, acceptance and belonging.

I strongly urge you to read the testimony of a whistleblower in her recent article below. As difficult as it is to read the graphic descriptions of many of the surgeries and chemical castrations it describes, it is insightful into the process of how these procedures get approval and on the real medical care the children who are get them receive. The author, Jamie Reed, is not aligned politically with what has been typical of the opposition to these practices, however she breaks with what she calls her fellow progressives because of the truth she can no longer deny. There's a link in the article to the letter she wrote to the Missouri AG, that is her official whistleblowing document.



Jamie Reed at home in Missouri. (Theo R. Welling.)

I Thought I Was Saving Trans Kids. Now I'm Blowing the Whistle.

*There are more than 100 pediatric gender clinics across the U.S. I worked at one.
What's happening to children is morally and medically appalling.*



By **Jamie Reed**
February 9, 2023



<https://www.thefp.com/p/i-thought-i-was-saving-trans-kids>

Child Mutilation Act

Because genital mutilation surgery is not genital transplant surgery, it is the destruction of reproductive organs with no reproductive replacement, the naming of the Bill is accurate.

This an opportunity to do something right and heroic. “Heroic?”, you may ask. Yes, I know the barrage of the false narrative, I live in Lawrence. But that narrative is built on lies and not reality, and reality is undefeated.

I ask for your support for SB128 for these reasons.
Thank you, John McDermott Lawrence, KS