

Kansas SB12

Jeff Tooley

Position: For SB12

My name is Jeff Tooley, and I am in favor of passing SB12. I dealt with gender issues for over 50 years, I have been in and around the LGBT community for over 40 years, and lived as a woman for 20 years, God radically delivered me from gender dysphoria a year and a half ago, on a Facebook live.

I have been a part of the transgender community for over 40 years. I love the transgender people and they will always have a very special place in my heart. Every human being deserves to be loved respected, have decent affordable housing, adequate employment, and access to quality health care. We are not there, how can we possibly bring transgender kids into this?

The life of a transgender person is extremely hard and requires a very thick skin. This decision should never be made lightly and our children do not have the knowledge, understanding, or capacity to make these decisions. I didn't even have it in my late 30's.

When I transitioned, I knew I needed something solid to stand on when feelings of doubt and regret set in. These kids need the same, but they are too young to process this kind of information.

The transgender community has always done a pretty good job of policing itself. The rate of regret used to be about 1-2%. Now, the rate of transgender regret and de-transition is staggering and very rapidly climbing. We are now starting to get very sloppy largely due to outside forces and relaxed standards of care. Many professionals are not following our own standards of care:

I got my primary therapist letter for surgery with only a single visit to the therapist. It was very eloquently written, saying she had known me for 10 years. The truth is, she did briefly meet me 10 years prior at an event, and we bumped into each other a couple times since. The one visit we had was for her to ask questions so she had something to write in the letter. I did have a couple visits with interns under her, but only very basic conversations at best, mostly off topic.

I got a letter from a psychiatrist after just one visit; the visit was shortened due to another appointment behind me so he just finished filling in the answers himself, on his own time. A couple days later, I got my letter in the mail.

The tiny bit of therapy you can get is all just affirming the fact you need to transition genders. There is no help in dealing with the underlying issues. Everything is about getting just enough documentation and papers signed to cover the doctors' butt against lawsuits. I never got copies of most of the paperwork I ever signed, nor enough time to read what I was signing. I was just rushed through the process and never given enough time to think things through, or had the help of a professional to guide me through. Once the opportunity for me to get my gender re-assignment surgery became

available, the whole process was so rushed. Once the surgery date is set, I had so much to do in a very short time. My electrolysis was never completed, and now insurance no longer covers it. I now have hair inside the vagina. This was supposed to be completed prior to surgery.

The day before my surgery, I met my surgeon on a Sunday afternoon for consultation and pre-surgical exam. This visit was rushed as he had a dinner date to attend. I spent the night in a bedroom in the back of his office. Myself and another patient who was upstairs were the only two in the building. The surgery was at a hospital, but rarely saw a nurse or doctor. There were missed doses of pain meds, I was in so much pain and as a result, therefore, I was moving around too much, and the skin graft didn't take. After several days in the hospital, I was taken back to the room I stayed in the back of his office. I stayed there for about a week and then was released to go home. I was just there, and pretty much had to fend for myself. He did check in on me once a day. I still had bleeding and excessive discharge from the surgery, but could not stay any longer as he had another patient behind me scheduled for the room. I didn't have money to stay in a motel room close by so I had to make the 4 ½ hour, 275 mile drive home, high on pain meds. I stopped several times to change pads, as everything was soaked in blood and fluids. When I got home, I needed two people to help me out of my car, I was in so much pain, I couldn't see straight and ready to black out. My story is not unique. This is the reality of what too many of us have deal with. I was all alone, as I had no one that could go with me.

I had complications and needed some revisions which would require another surgery. My vagina closed up very quickly and now there is no chance of intercourse. As a result of the vaginal closing, I have frequent urinary tract infections. I was told this would be done free of charge. What I wasn't told was all the hidden costs that they know I could never afford. These costs are not covered by our insurance. The aftercare needed is mostly nonexistent. Doctors at home were supposed to follow up but most had no clue on what to do.

I deal with medical issues as a result being on hormones for so long. I deal with are irregular heart beat and rhythms (I was warned about this being a possibility); Respiratory (COPD), due to lack of steroids; severe bone, joint and muscle pain, this again due to lack of steroids in my body. The pain is so bad, I often need strong opioids to control the pain. The opioids slow down my respiratory, but I need to control the pain.

I see so many people coming into the de-transition groups who have been on hormone blockers, having their breasts removed and have had hysterectomies and now feel their life is over and just want to die. The lesbian community disbands them as they are not woman enough. They are estranged from their families and friends. Most of the Churches don't want them. Where do they turn? They feel like their life is over and just want to die. The suicide rate is very high.

Many of the Male to female transgender have a very similar experience.

If we are going pass any laws for any gender transition, they need to include a way out for the ones who regret their decisions, or just want out. We cannot just discard the ones that come to regret their decisions, there are now too many of us.

Many transgender people, myself included, have dealt with very severe abuse including sexual abuse and/or severe trauma and mental health issues. Many are on the autism spectrum. If we don't deal with these issues prior to the gender transition, we will never have a happy and healthy transition and quality of life.

The left wants to ban reparative therapy. Some reparative therapy can be bad, and should be banned. We need to define reparative therapy. Good Christian counseling is not reparative therapy and is actually the best therapy available—it worked for me.

Gender transition should never be taken lightly. I wish I could have had access to some good counseling before I did all of this damage to my body. In the end you are left with a host of medical problems, your body is disfigured and you don't have the ability to enjoy intimacy. You are left isolated and all alone. PLEASE vote in favor of SB12.