

**From:** [Gregory Coffman](#)  
**To:** [zzzz Feedback, BOM MeetingMaterials](#)  
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Dear Members of the Florida Board of Medicine,

I am a pediatrician in the Central Florida area and have practiced for 28 years. I am gravely concerned that “Affirmative Care “ is detrimental to the children of Florida. In all my years of practice, I have never had any discussions with parents regarding their children’s gender identity until the past 2 to 3 years. This explosion of gender dysphoria came out of nowhere and is very much a socially driven issue. I know that some children truly struggle with gender dysphoria, but for most, it is transitory.

Children during development go through many stages of trying to define who they are, where they fit into their family, society and their own bodies. There is a natural progression and struggle in all these areas. Giving a child the power to make a life altering decision at such a young age is malpractice! Most children end up comfortable with their gender. The few that don’t, can as adults with full knowledge undergo gender reassignment.

We need to be compassionate and provide psychological support for these children as they struggle, but affirming their decision and providing them medical intervention that is irreversible is maleficence. We are called as physicians to “First Do No Harm“ as stated in the Hippocratic Oath.

I strongly encourage the Florida Board of Medicine to protect the children of Florida from this misguided , detrimental Affirmative Care model.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Coffman, M.D  
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Department of Pediatrics