



## IDAHO S.B. 1009: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Alliance Defending Freedom urges the Senate Health and Welfare Committee to reject S.B. 1009 for three reasons:

1. It may be interpreted to require doctors to perform **dangerous experimental surgery** on children confused about their sexual identity;
2. Its requirements are **vague and open-ended**; and
3. It establishes a **negative precedent** for potential future laws that would threaten constitutional rights and the interests of women.

S.B. 1009 reads in pertinent part as follows:

A patient cannot be refused treatment based on sex, age, race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or military status, or any other basis prohibited by federal law.

S.B. 1009, § 1, p. 1, ll. 27-29 (adding 39 I.C. § 39-9004(4)).

First, we agree that health care providers should not turn away patients simply because their self-perception does not match their biological reality. However, the bill's language will likely be interpreted to do far more than simply prevent such conduct.

More specifically, it may require medical professionals to perform "sex reassignment," including the administration of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones, as well as dangerous surgical procedures, some of which sterilize patients and deprive them of normal sexual function.

Second, the scope of this proposed statutory section is entirely open-ended, as its reach depends on unspecified "federal law." One cannot predict what characteristics or behaviors might be deemed by the federal government to possess protected status. That the bill does not identify *which* federal statutes Idaho law should look to makes the problem worse.

Third, the bill would set a precedent for the enactment of further sexual orientation and gender identity laws (SOGIs). In other jurisdictions, SOGIs have deprived women and girls of fair athletic competition, allowed men to invade women's private spaces, and forced artistic professionals to create expression contrary to their beliefs, among other things.

Alliance Defending Freedom respectfully urges the committee to reject S.B. 1009.

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