

## VOTE YES ON THE VULNERABLE CHILD COMPASSION AND PROTECTION ACT VCAP

EAGLE FORUM OF ALABAMA

February, 2020

### WHAT DOES VCAP DO?

VCAP safeguards children who struggle with the belief they were born in the opposite-sex body from receiving certain dangerous drugs and irreversible surgeries to induce superficial sex-related cosmetic changes in their appearance.

### WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

- Administration or prescription of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and sex-reassignment surgeries are being done on otherwise healthy children based on the child's belief *that he or she is the opposite sex*. VCAP bans these medicines and procedures if they are based solely on the child's feelings. There's no blood test, no brain scan, nor any other objective medical test to validate a child's feelings. No other life-altering medical decision is allowed for children based solely on a child's self-assertion.
- Transgender dysphoria is a psychological problem NOT an endocrine problem. Children need evidence-based care NOT experimental medical interventions.
- There is reliable medical concern that these treatments pose risks of irreversible, adverse consequences to children's health. There is no long-term study to show these interventions are safe or effective for children struggling with their sex.
- Banned interventions in children include:
  - Experimental, off-label (non-FDA approved) use of **Puberty Blockers** to stop normal development. These medications cause disease in children. Side effects include slowing of bone growth, decrease in bone density, and interference with brain and psychosocial development.
  - Mega-doses of **opposite-sex (wrong-sex) hormones**. Adverse consequences include increased risk of heart attack and death, increased risk of thromboembolism (deadly blood clots), infertility, loss of bone density with future risk of osteoporosis and fractures, sexual dysfunction, abnormal brain development, and development or worsening of psychiatric illness. Also, for young men growth of breasts and hips, and for young women deepening voice, beards and weight gain among other things.
  - **Irreversible mastectomies and genital surgeries** to remove healthy breasts and sex organs resulting in permanent sterility and life-long sexual dysfunction.
- Children have not developed the maturity to provide **informed consent** for life-long, irreversible medical procedures.
- When young children are not subjected to these procedures but are allowed to go through natural puberty, studies show that **80 to 95 percent of children** come to embrace their bodies by young adulthood.
- This bill gives children and adolescents time to mature in their healthy, developing bodies. It protects them until the age of 18 from harmful medications and procedures.

**Please Vote YES on the Alabama Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act!**