



ADVANCING FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

January 28, 2020

Governor Kristi Noem
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, S.D. 57501

Re: Request for phone call to discuss House Bill 1057

Dear Governor Noem:

I am writing to ask if I could schedule a phone call with you at your earliest convenience to discuss House Bill 1057, the Vulnerable Child Protection Act, currently under consideration in the South Dakota legislature.

Over the last 10-12 years, supporters of the transgender movement have been aggressively pushing the envelope, persuading medical personnel to perform more and more radical procedures upon minors at younger and younger ages. The use of puberty-blocking drugs, cross-sex hormones, and various gender reassignment surgeries has advanced far faster than the scientific evaluation of the long-term results of these procedures. Children and adolescents are having their normal development disrupted and their healthy bodies irreversibly altered merely because they request it, without any convincing scientific evidence of long-term benefit.

The goals of H.B. 1057 are actually quite modest. It would not prevent a child with gender dysphoria from changing his or her name, gender expression, or publicly-expressed gender identity. This bill makes no policy change with respect to bathroom or locker room access, or participation in school sports—troubling as those issues are. And it would not prevent any resident of South Dakota from obtaining gender transition procedures, including hormones and surgery, as soon as they reach adulthood.

However, H.B. 1057 would prevent the most radical medical procedures—which *irreversibly* alter a young person's body in ways that many have come to deeply regret—from being performed on minors in South Dakota.

Passage of this bill is a high priority for Family Research Council and FRC Action. South Dakota has the opportunity to be a national leader in calling a moratorium on this radical experiment being conducted on vulnerable children and avoid becoming embroiled in a controversy as we saw in Texas with seven-year-old James Younger. However, I have seen in media reports that you have expressed reservations about this bill.

It was our pleasure to have extended the endorsement of the FRC Action PAC to your campaign for Governor in 2018, as it was to have given you our "True Blue Award" in recognition of your voting record in Congress before that. If you were to oppose or veto H.B. 1057, it would be a

deep disappointment, inconsistent with the support for pro-family positions that we had come to expect from you.

I would love to talk to you as soon as possible, to alleviate any concerns you may have about this bill and to receive your assurance that you will do everything possible to protect vulnerable children in South Dakota. To arrange a call, please have your office reach out to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending to the right and a vertical line that loops back to the left, crossing the horizontal line.

Tony Perkins
President