



May 25, 2023

Honorable Page Cortez
President, Louisiana State Senate
Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear President Cortez,

Louisiana will soon become an outlier among conservative, pro-family states unless you lead the Senate to rectify yesterday's unjustified actions by the Health and Welfare Committee.

For some unstated reason, Sen. Fred Mills (R-New Iberia, LA) ignored compelling testimony, valid medical evidence, and tragic personal stories of regret by people who tried to medically "transition" from their biological sex, and wrongly decided to defer HB 648, The Stop Harming Children Act. Passing HB 648 would have brought Louisiana in line with legislatures in 17 other states that have acknowledged the absurdity of offering these "treatments" to minors below the age of consent and have enacted measures to address this issue.

The Louisiana Senate Health and Welfare Committee heard testimony from numerous experts, including a pediatric endocrinologist and credible mental health professionals, regarding the long-term damage done to children when puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries are administered. The committee heard heart-wrenching stories of adults who deeply regret their "transition." Also present were heartbroken parents because counselors and school personnel encouraged their children to "identify" as something they can never be.

I will avoid the hearsay that Governor Edwards wanted this bill killed, and Republican Senators did his bidding. As you are aware, the Senate can rectify the situation by discharging the committee of its duty and ordering it to report HB 648 to the full Senate.

We call upon you to lead the Louisiana Senate to move to bring HB 648 to the floor for a fair vote that will enable our state to protect children from experimental drugs and surgeries being advanced by the profiteers of the gender-transition movement.

Sincerely,

Tony Perkins
President, Family Research Council

CC Members of the Louisiana State Senate