The American College of Pediatricians®
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American College of Pediatricians Supports
The Chloe Cole Act of 2026

The American College of Pediatricians (ACPeds) is a scientific organization of physicians and other pediatric healthcare professionals dedicated to the ethical principle of first do no harm. ACPeds promotes recommendations expected to yield optimal health outcomes for youth from conception through young adulthood. When our patients suffer harm from medical interventions that are driven by ideology over science, ACPeds supports the right to private action for our patients and their parents. ACPeds urges Congress to pass the Chloe Cole Act of 2026.

The dangerous myth of gender ideology, which claims people can be born in the wrong body, pervades our nation's K – 12 schools, media and many medical institutions. Once embraced, this myth leads countless children into receiving harmful and irreversible sex-rejecting interventions including puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgeries. Since 2019, there have been several high quality systematic reviews of the world's scientific literature concluding that social, medical and surgical sex-rejecting interventions for minors are based on low to very low-quality evidence and must be considered experimental. This means the alleged benefits put forth in "pro-transition" studies are likely not true due to significant flaws in the studies' design.[1,2,3,4,5,6,7] Additionally, there is evidence for long-term harm. Puberty blockers cause low bone density, sexual dysfunction, impair brain development and when combined with cross-sex hormones, permanent sterility. Cross-sex hormones raise patients' risk for heart attacks, strokes, blood clots, and certain cancers [8] [9]As a result, the UK, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark have greatly restricted the use of sex-rejecting interventions among youth with gender dysphoria and instead recommend comprehensive psychotherapy to address underlying issues and comorbid conditions.[10]

Most recently, a very large longitudinal registry study from Finland demonstrated that chemical and/or surgical sex-rejecting interventions do not improve, and in many cases, worsen subjects' mental health.[11]

Sex-rejecting interventions cause physical and emotional damage, and do not prevent suicide. Now consider the fact that countless parents are told that unless they consent to these procedures their child will commit suicide. That's not informed consent; that's emotional blackmail.

Passage of the Chloe Cole Act of 2026 is a critical step in addressing this medical scandal.

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[3] Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services' 2019 literature review. https://www.sbu.se/en/publications/sbu-bereder/gender-dysphoria-in-children-and-adolescents-an-inventory-of-the-literature/
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[5] 2020. UK's The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) reviews: N.I.C.E. Evidence review: Gonadotrophin releasing hormone analogues for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria.: https://ia802301.us.archive.org/4/items/gov.uscourts.ared.128159/gov.uscourts.ared.128159.45.9.pdf or https://cass.independent-review.uk/nice-evidence-reviews/; see also N.I.C.E. Evidence review: Gender-affirming hormones for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria.: https://cass.independent-review.uk/nice-evidence-reviews/
[6] Cass Review, Interim Report (2022) https://cass.independent-review.uk/publications/interim-report/
[7] 2022 Florida AHCA Generally Accepted Professional Medical Standards Determination on the Treatment of Gender Dysphoria, comprehensive literature review (Attachment C), Romina Brignardello-Petersen, DDS, MSc, PhD and Wojtek Wiercioch, MSc, PhD: Effects of Gender Affirming Therapies in People with Gender Dysphoria: Evaluation of the Best Available Evidence. 16 May 2022. https://ahca.myflorida.com/letkidsbekids/docs/AHCA_GAPMS_June_2022_Attachment_C.pdf
[8] Laidlaw MK, Van Meter QL, Hruz PW, Van Mol A and Malone WJ, Letter to the Editor: "Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline" , *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, Volume 104, Issue 3, March 2019, Pages 686-687 https://doi.org/10.1210/jc.2018-01925
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[10] Society for Evidence Based Medicine (2023) "Denmark Joins the List of Countries That Have Sharply Restricted Youth Gender Transitions" Available at https://segm.org/Denmark-sharply-restricts-youth-gender-transitions
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