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American College of Pediatricians Urges FCC: Hold Media Accountable to Parents

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. The normal cognitive development of children reveals it is best that they be shielded from gender ideology. At a minimum, any TV-Y, TV-Y7 and TV-G programs containing elements of gender ideology must contain relevant descriptions so parents can make an informed decision.

According to child psychologist Dr. Lawrence Kohlberg, children go through three sequential stages of cognitive development with regard to awareness of their sex. The first is called gender identity which refers to when the majority of children correctly identify whether they are a girl or a boy, and occurs by 3 years of age. The second stage is called gender stability which is when children recognize girls grow into women and boys grow into men. A majority of children achieve this milestone by 5 years of age. The final stage known as gender constancy refers to the understanding that sex does not change across a person's lifespan. Only at 7 years of age do a majority of children grasp that a boy who puts on a dress does not become a girl. These stages of cognitive development can be derailed by environmental influences including educational indoctrination and the media.

The central lie of gender ideology is that people can be born in the wrong body. Once embraced, this lie leads 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] 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.[8] 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.[9]

The FCC must do all it can to hold corporate media accountable to parents and thereby safeguard the normal cognitive and psychological development of America's children.

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