



SCOTT ALLEN

REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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Rep Allen Releases the “Help Not Harm Act”

Madison, WI – Today, Rep. Allen along with Senator Stroebel released the “Help Not Harm Act,” a bill designed to protect minors from making life-altering, irreversible decisions that cause mental and bodily harm.

“Children who struggle with gender identity deserve help, not harm,” said Rep. Allen. “There are too many studies that show the harm of these procedures, and there are too many stories of young people regretting their transition later. We need to help minors by giving them the inherent blessing of time.”

Our understanding of how the brain develops has increased dramatically in recent years. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry notes that “adolescents are more likely to act on impulse...are less likely to think before they act, [or] pause to consider the consequences of their actions.”

This is why the state bans minors from voting, joining the military, getting a tattoo, signing a contract, or buying alcohol or tobacco.

“Why should the state depart from this prudent policy when it comes to minors engaging in untested, harmful, and irreversible procedures?” asked Rep. Allen.

Finland had been doing gender transitioning for minors for many years, but in their 2020 revised guidelines, they acknowledge, “As far as minors are concerned, there are no medical treatments that can be considered evidence-based,” and in fact, “Scientific evidence for any interventions on minors with gender identity indication is actually zero.”

With no long-term studies showing positive effects of these procedures on minors, and considering that research demonstrates that up to 98% of children will outgrow gender dysphoria if untreated, we should not encourage harmful interventions with lifelong consequences.

“Our children are not experiments,” wrote Representatives Allen, Vos, and Senator Stroebel in the co-sponsorship memo, “parents should not be scared or pressured into having their children receive non-medically necessary drugs or irreversible procedures before their brains are fully developed.”

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Rep. Scott Allen represents the City of Waukesha, the Villages of Dousman, North Prairie, Summit, and Waukesha, and the Towns of Genesee, Mukwonago, and Ottawa.