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Legislation to Protect Children from Irreversible Medical Interventions Passes Senate

Madison, WI – Today, the Senate passed <u>Assembly Bill 465</u> ("AB 465"), a bill authored by Senator Stroebel and Representative Allen to prohibit gender transition medical interventions for individuals under 18 years of age, with certain limited exceptions. Senator Duey Stroebel (R – Cedarburg) issued the following statement:

"I introduced AB 465 alongside Representative Allen to help protect children from being subjected to invasive and irreversible medical interventions. Children often struggle to think rationally and fully comprehend the long-term consequences of decisions they make. It has been well-established that the prefrontal cortex is far from fully-developed prior to adulthood. That's why there are a lot of things children can't legally do, such as purchasing alcohol and tobacco products, getting a tattoo or joining the military."

"If AB 465 is signed into law, children could still decide to undergo social transition and receive appropriate mental health support. But when it comes to sterilization and the removal of healthy body parts, that's where a line needs to be drawn. Research suggests that the overwhelming majority of children with gender dysphoria will reconcile their gender identity with their biological sex during puberty. Studies from multiple countries on the gender-affirming model have found that the majority of children referred to pediatric gender clinics have been diagnosed with at least one mental health disorder prior to the onset of gender dysphoria. The oft-repeated 'affirm-or-suicide' rhetoric conflates correlation with causation and presents parents with a false dichotomy. At the end of the day, the goal of this bill is to help children struggling with gender dysphoria, not harm them."

"We're already seeing the impacts of this movement as more and more individuals that have gone through with gender transition procedures have spoken out against the negative effects of 'gender affirming care'. It's unfortunate that children are being used as guinea pigs for the left's ongoing experiment on gender dysphoria. The bill prescribes a penalty of license revocation for health care professionals who violate the prohibition. Over 20 other states have enacted similar restrictions on medical gender transition for children. Children should never be rushed and parents shouldn't be pressured into consenting to harmful and irreversible puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones or sex reassignment surgeries. AB 465 simply gives children time to fully mature and develop before altering their life forever."

Senator Stroebel represents the 20th Senate District which includes parts of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Calumet and Sheboygan Counties.

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