

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8573

To prohibit gender transition procedures on minors, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to impose civil penalties on persons who perform gender transition procedures on minors, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2026

Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit gender transition procedures on minors, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to impose civil penalties on persons who perform gender transition procedures on minors, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safeguarding The
5 Overall Protection of Minors Act” or the “STOP Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) CARETAKER.—The term “caretaker” means
4 an adult, who is not a parent of a child, with whom
5 a child resides and who provides that child with the
6 care, maintenance, and supervision consistent with
7 the duties and responsibilities of a parent of the
8 child.

9 (2) DETRANSITION TREATMENT.—The term
10 “detransition treatment” means any treatment, in-
11 cluding mental health services, medical intervention,
12 or surgery, that does any of the following:

13 (A) Stops or reverses the effects of a gen-
14 der transition procedure.

15 (B) Helps an individual cope with the ef-
16 fects of a prior gender transition procedure.

17 (3) FEMALE.—The term “female”, when used
18 to refer to a natural person, means an individual
19 who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but
20 for a congenital anomaly or intentional or uninten-
21 tional disruption, the reproductive system that at
22 some point produces, transports, and utilizes eggs
23 for fertilization.

24 (4) GENDER TRANSITION.—The term “gender
25 transition” means the process, which may be accom-
26 panied with social, legal, or physical changes—

1 (A) in which an individual—

2 (i) intentionally halts the natural de-
3 velopment of the individual’s body so that
4 the body no longer corresponds to the indi-
5 vidual’s sex; or

6 (ii) intentionally transforms the indi-
7 vidual’s physical appearance to confirm the
8 individual’s physical appearance to be of
9 the alternate sex; or

10 (B) that alters or removes sexual organs as
11 part of chemical or surgical mutilation.

12 (5) GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURE.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “gender tran-
14 sition procedure” means any hormonal, phar-
15 maceutical, or surgical intervention for the pur-
16 pose of gender transition, including—

17 (i) gonadotropin-releasing hormone
18 (GnRH) agonists or other puberty-blocking
19 or suppressing drugs to stop or delay nor-
20 mally timed puberty;

21 (ii) testosterone, estrogen, progester-
22 one, androgen blockers, or other sex hor-
23 mones to an individual at doses that are
24 supraphysiologic to what would normally

1 be produced endogenously in a healthy in-
2 dividual of the same age and sex;

3 (iii) procedures that attempt to trans-
4 form an individual's physical appearance to
5 confirm the individual's physical appear-
6 ance to be of the alternate sex, or that
7 alter or remove sexual organs as part of
8 chemical or surgical mutilation;

9 (iv) castration;

10 (v) orchiectomy;

11 (vi) scrotoplasty;

12 (vii) implantation of erection or testic-
13 ular prostheses;

14 (viii) vasectomy;

15 (ix) hysterectomy;

16 (x) oophorectomy;

17 (xi) ovariectomy;

18 (xii) reconstruction of the fixed part
19 of the urethra with or without a
20 metoidioplasty or a phalloplasty;

21 (xiii) metoidioplasty;

22 (xiv) penectomy;

23 (xv) phalloplasty;

24 (xvi) vaginoplasty;

25 (xvii) clitoroplasty;

- 1 (xviii) vaginectomy;
- 2 (xix) vulvoplasty;
- 3 (xx) reduction thyrochondroplasty;
- 4 (xxi) chondrolaryngoplasty;
- 5 (xxii) mastectomy;
- 6 (xxiii) tubal ligation;
- 7 (xxiv) sterilization;
- 8 (xxv) any plastic, cosmetic, or aes-
- 9 thetic surgery that feminizes or
- 10 masculinizes the facial or other physio-
- 11 logical features of an individual;
- 12 (xxvi) any placement of chest implants
- 13 to create feminine breasts;
- 14 (xxvii) any placement of fat or artifi-
- 15 cial implants in the gluteal region;
- 16 (xxviii) augmentation mammoplasty;
- 17 (xxix) liposuction;
- 18 (xxx) lipofilling;
- 19 (xxxi) voice surgery;
- 20 (xxxii) hair reconstruction;
- 21 (xxxiii) pectoral implants; and
- 22 (xxxiv) the removal of any otherwise
- 23 healthy or non-diseased body part or tis-
- 24 sue.

1 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “gender
2 transition procedure” does not include the fol-
3 lowing when furnished to an individual by a
4 health care provider with the consent of such
5 individual or, if applicable, such individual’s
6 parents or legal guardian:

7 (i) Services to individuals who have
8 been diagnosed with a disorder of sex de-
9 velopment by a licensed health care pro-
10 vider operating within their scope of prac-
11 tice, including an individual with external
12 sex characteristics that are irresolvably
13 ambiguous, such as an individual born with
14 46 XX chromosomes with virilization, an
15 individual born with 46 XY chromosomes
16 with undervirilization, or an individual
17 born having both ovarian and testicular
18 tissue.

19 (ii) Services provided when a health
20 care professional has otherwise diagnosed a
21 disorder of sexual development in which
22 the health care professional has determined
23 through genetic or biochemical testing that
24 the individual does not have normal sex
25 chromosome structure, sex steroid hormone

1 production, or sex steroid hormone action
2 for a healthy individual of the same sex
3 and age.

4 (iii) The treatment of any infection,
5 injury, disease, or disorder that has been
6 caused by or exacerbated by the perform-
7 ance of gender transition procedures,
8 whether or not the gender transition proce-
9 dure was performed in accordance with
10 State and Federal law or whether or not
11 funding for the gender transition proce-
12 dure is permissible under this section.

13 (iv) Any procedure undertaken be-
14 cause the individual suffers from a physical
15 disorder, physical injury, or physical illness
16 (but not mental, behavioral, or emotional
17 distress or a mental, behavioral, or emo-
18 tional disorder) that would, as certified by
19 a health care professional, place the indi-
20 vidual in imminent danger of death or im-
21 pairment of major bodily function, unless
22 the procedure is performed, which may in-
23 clude the following:

1 (I) Traumatic bodily injuries
2 (such as fractures, organ rupture, or
3 penetrating trauma).

4 (II) Congenital structural anoma-
5 lies of major organs or systems, in-
6 cluding the cardiovascular, res-
7 piratory, renal, hepatic, neurological,
8 or musculoskeletal systems.

9 (III) Acute illnesses with a high
10 probability of imminent mortality.

11 (v) Any procedure to restore or recon-
12 struct the body of the individual in order
13 to correspond to the individual's sex after
14 one or more previous gender transition
15 procedures, which may include the removal
16 of a pseudo phallus or breast augmenta-
17 tion.

18 (vi) Puberty suppression or blocking
19 prescription drugs for the purpose of nor-
20 malizing puberty for a minor experiencing
21 precocious puberty.

22 (vii) Male circumcision.

23 (6) MALE.—The term “male”, when used to
24 refer to a natural person, means an individual who
25 naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for

1 a congenital anomaly or intentional or unintentional
2 disruption, the reproductive system that at some
3 point produces, transports, and utilizes sperm for
4 fertilization.

5 (7) MINOR.—The term “minor” means an indi-
6 vidual under the age of 18.

7 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

9 (9) SEX.—The term “sex”, when referring to a
10 natural person’s sex, means the person’s immutable
11 biological classification as either male or female, as
12 biologically determined and defined by this section.

13 **SEC. 3. GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURES ON MINORS.**

14 (a) PROHIBITION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—No person may, in any cir-
16 cumstance described in paragraph (2), knowingly
17 perform, attempt to perform, conspire to perform, or
18 otherwise aid or abet the performance of any gender
19 transition procedure on a minor.

20 (2) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—A cir-
21 cumstance referred to in paragraph (1) is any of the
22 following:

23 (A) The person, or the minor on whom the
24 gender transition procedure was performed, at-
25 tempted to be performed, or conspired to be

1 performed or on whom the performance of any
2 gender transition procedure was aided or abet-
3 ted, traveled in interstate or foreign commerce,
4 or traveled using a means, channel, facility, or
5 instrumentality of interstate or foreign com-
6 merce, in furtherance of or in connection with
7 the conduct described in paragraph (1).

8 (B) The person, or the minor on whom the
9 gender transition procedure was performed, at-
10 tempted to be performed, or conspired to be
11 performed or on whom the performance of any
12 gender transition procedure was aided or abet-
13 ted, used a means, channel, facility, or instru-
14 mentality of interstate or foreign commerce in
15 furtherance of or in connection with the con-
16 duct described in paragraph (1).

17 (C) A payment of any kind was made, di-
18 rectly or indirectly, in furtherance of or in con-
19 nection with the conduct described in paragraph
20 (1), using any means, channel, facility, or in-
21 strumentality of interstate or foreign commerce
22 or in interstate or foreign commerce.

23 (D) The person, or the minor on whom the
24 gender transition procedure was performed, at-
25 tempted to be performed, or conspired to be

1 performed or on whom the performance of any
2 gender transition procedure was aided or abet-
3 ted, transmitted in interstate or foreign com-
4 merce any communication relating to or in fur-
5 therance of the conduct described in paragraph
6 (1) using any means, channel, facility, or in-
7 strumentality of interstate or foreign commerce
8 or in interstate or foreign commerce by any
9 means or in manner, including by computer,
10 mail, wire, or electromagnetic transmission.

11 (E) Any instrument, item, substance, or
12 other object that has traveled in interstate or
13 foreign commerce was used to perform the con-
14 duct described in paragraph (1).

15 (F) The conduct described in paragraph
16 (1) occurred within the special maritime and
17 territorial jurisdiction of the United States or
18 any territory or possession of the United States.

19 (G) The conduct described in paragraph
20 (1) otherwise occurred in interstate or foreign
21 commerce.

22 (3) KNOWINGLY.—For purposes of paragraph
23 (1), a person acts knowingly when—

1 (A) the person has actual knowledge of the
2 facts giving rise to the violation of the prohibi-
3 tion described in paragraph (1); or

4 (B) a reasonable person acting in the cir-
5 cumstances and exercising reasonable care
6 would have that knowledge.

7 (4) APPLICATION TO WORK ARRANGEMENTS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—A violation of para-
9 graph (1)—

10 (i) by an employee acting in the scope
11 of their employment for an employer shall
12 also be considered a violation of such para-
13 graph by such employer; or

14 (ii) by any other individual who is en-
15 gaged by a person for the performance of
16 labor or services for remuneration and who
17 is acting in the scope of their performance
18 of such labor or services for such person
19 shall also be considered a violation of such
20 paragraph by such person.

21 (B) LIABILITY.—

22 (i) EMPLOYEE VIOLATIONS.—In the
23 case of a violation that is described in sub-
24 paragraph (A)(i), the employee and the
25 employer described in such subparagraph

1 shall be jointly and severally liable for any
2 civil penalty under subsection (b) and any
3 private right of action under subsection
4 (c).

5 (ii) OTHER WORKER VIOLATIONS.—In
6 the case of a violation that is described in
7 subparagraph (A)(ii), the individual and
8 person described in such subparagraph
9 shall be jointly and severally liable for any
10 civil penalty under subsection (b) and any
11 private right of action under subsection
12 (c).

13 (b) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may impose a
15 civil monetary penalty on any person upon making
16 a determination, after written notice and an oppor-
17 tunity for a hearing, that the person has violated a
18 requirement of subsection (a)(1).

19 (2) AMOUNT OF CIVIL MONETARY PEN-
20 ALTIES.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a civil
22 monetary penalty under paragraph (1) shall be
23 not less than \$100,000 for each violation.

24 (B) PENALTY CONSIDERATIONS.—In de-
25 termining the amount of a civil monetary pen-

1 alty under this subsection, the Secretary shall
2 consider—

3 (i) the nature, circumstances, extent,
4 and gravity of the violation; and

5 (ii) with respect to the violator, the
6 degree of culpability, any history of prior
7 violations, and any effect on the ability to
8 continue to do business.

9 (3) CIVIL ACTION TO COLLECT.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General
11 may bring a civil action in an appropriate dis-
12 trict court of the United States to collect a civil
13 monetary penalty under this subsection and any
14 accrued interest on the civil monetary penalty
15 as assessed by the Secretary. In such a civil ac-
16 tion, the amount and appropriateness of the
17 civil monetary penalty shall not be subject to
18 review.

19 (B) COMPROMISE.—The Secretary may
20 compromise the amount of a civil monetary
21 penalty imposed under this subsection before
22 referral to the Attorney General under subpara-
23 graph (A), on the condition that such amount
24 shall be not less than \$100,000.

1 (4) LIABILITY FOR PROCEDURES REQUIRED AS
2 A MATTER OF STANDARD PRACTICE.—It shall not be
3 a defense in a hearing under this subsection that
4 gender transition procedures are required as a mat-
5 ter of standard practice.

6 (5) PROHIBITION ON IMPOSITION OF CIVIL
7 MONETARY PENALTY ON A PERSON ON WHOM PRO-
8 CEDURES ARE PERFORMED.—No person on whom a
9 gender transition procedure is performed, attempted
10 to be performed, or conspired to be performed or on
11 whom the performance of any gender transition pro-
12 cedure was aided or abetted in violation of sub-
13 section (a)(1), and no parent, guardian, or caretaker
14 of such a person, may be held liable for a civil mone-
15 tary penalty under this subsection.

16 (6) DEPOSITING AMOUNTS COLLECTED.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts collected
18 under this subsection shall be deposited in the
19 fund established under subparagraph (B).

20 (B) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—

21 (i) IN GENERAL.—There is established
22 in the Treasury of the United States a
23 fund, to be known as the “Victims of Gen-
24 der Transition Procedures Compensation
25 Fund”, which shall consist of amounts de-

1 posited in the fund pursuant to subpara-
2 graph (A).

3 (ii) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

4 Amounts in the fund established under
5 clause (i) shall be made available for ex-
6 penditure for fiscal year 2026 and each fis-
7 cal year thereafter, without further appro-
8 priation or fiscal year limitation for ex-
9 penditure by the Secretary to carry out
10 section 4.

11 (c) PRIVATE CIVIL ACTION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual on whom a
13 gender transition procedure is performed in violation
14 of subsection (a)(1), or the parent, guardian, or
15 caretaker of such an individual if such individual is
16 a minor, may bring a civil action in an appropriate
17 district court of the United States against any per-
18 son in violation of subsection (a)(1) for damages, in-
19 cluding damages described in paragraph (3).

20 (2) AVAILABILITY.—A cause of action described
21 in paragraph (1) shall be available regardless of
22 whether the alleged violation occurred before, on, or
23 after the date of enactment of this Act.

24 (3) DAMAGES.—Damages referred to in para-
25 graph (1) include—

1 (A) compensatory damages, including all
2 economic damages associated with undoing, cor-
3 recting, or ameliorating the effects or results of
4 any gender transition procedure;

5 (B) non-economic damages for emotional
6 distress and pain and suffering; and

7 (C) punitive damages, if the claimant
8 proves by clear and convincing evidence that the
9 defendant against whom punitive damages are
10 sought acted maliciously, intentionally, fraudu-
11 lently, or recklessly.

12 (d) PENALTY FOR OBSTRUCTION OF INVESTIGA-
13 TIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may impose a
15 civil penalty on any person who obstructs or pre-
16 vents the Secretary from carrying out an investiga-
17 tion into an alleged violation of subsection (a)(1).

18 (2) DEFINITION OF OBSTRUCT.—In this sub-
19 section, the term “obstruct” means to take an action
20 that was known, or reasonably should have been
21 known, to prevent, hinder, or impede an investiga-
22 tion.

23 (e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—In any proceeding described
25 in subsection (b) or (c) any ambiguities shall be re-

1 solved against any person found to be in violation of
2 subsection (a)(1).

3 (2) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—In any
4 proceeding described in subsection (b) or (c) against
5 a health care professional, if a gender transition pro-
6 cedure of a minor is shown to have occurred before
7 the date of enactment of this Act, limited deference
8 shall be given to prevailing standards of care in ef-
9 fect at such time, to the extent that such standards
10 of care contradict the intent of this Act and it is
11 shown that such health care professional knew or
12 should have known that such standards of care were
13 in serious, scientific, and medical dispute at the time
14 of the gender transition procedure.

15 (3) NO LIABILITY FOR MINORS.—Nothing in
16 this Act shall be construed to impose any liability
17 whatsoever on a minor who is the individual on
18 whom a gender transition procedure is performed,
19 attempted to be performed, or conspired to be per-
20 formed or on whom the performance of any gender
21 transition procedure was aided or abetted.

22 (f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act—

23 (1) establishes a private right of action based
24 on counseling, referrals to mental health profes-
25 sionals, or discussions of treatment options (includ-

1 ing counseling, referrals, or options available upon
2 reaching adulthood) provided by health care profes-
3 sionals or mental health professionals or against
4 health care professionals or mental health profes-
5 sionals based on circumstances not described in sub-
6 section (a)(2), on the condition that such actions do
7 not constitute participation in a gender transition
8 procedure;

9 (2) prohibits a health care professional or men-
10 tal health professional from providing information
11 about all available treatment options, discussing
12 risks and benefits, or expressing professional medical
13 opinions, so long as such actions do not constitute
14 participation in a gender transition procedure; or

15 (3) waives liability for a health care profes-
16 sional.

17 (g) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—An action under
18 subsection (c) may be brought within 25 years from the
19 date of the eighteenth birthday of an individual on whom
20 a gender transition procedure is performed as a minor or
21 within 4 years from the time the cost of a detransition
22 treatment is incurred, whichever date is later.

23 (h) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this Act, or
24 the application of such provision to any person or cir-
25 cumstance, is held to be or made invalid, the remainder

1 of this Act, and the application of the provision to any
2 other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

3 **SEC. 4. OPENING AVENUES FOR VICTIMS.**

4 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to sup-
5 port, encourage, and assist individuals in their efforts to
6 reverse gender transition procedures.

7 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—The
8 Secretary shall establish a grant program under which the
9 Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to carry
10 out the activities described in subsection (d).

11 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—

12 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible for a
13 grant under this section, an entity—

14 (A) shall be a private nonprofit entity;

15 (B) shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
16 cation at such time, in such manner, and con-
17 taining such information and assurances as the
18 Secretary may require, including an assurance
19 that such entity will—

20 (i) submit to the Secretary such re-
21 ports of deidentified data, information, and
22 metrics as the Secretary may require to as-
23 sess the entity's performance in carrying
24 out activities under the grant and ensure

1 the entity is in compliance with the terms
2 and conditions of such grant;

3 (ii) not charge individuals for services
4 provided through the grant; and

5 (iii) provide each individual counseled
6 through the grant with accurate informa-
7 tion on the appropriate medical procedures
8 to reverse gender transition procedures;
9 and

10 (C) shall agree to have a privacy policy
11 and procedures in place to ensure that—

12 (i) the name, address, telephone num-
13 ber, or any other information that might
14 identify any individual seeking services
15 supported through the grant is not made
16 public or shared with any other entity
17 without the written consent of the indi-
18 vidual; and

19 (ii) the grantee adheres to require-
20 ments comparable to those applicable
21 under the HIPAA privacy regulation (as
22 defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social
23 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d–9(b)(3)))
24 to covered entities (as defined for purposes
25 of such regulation).

1 (2) INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity shall be
2 ineligible to receive a grant under this section if the
3 entity or any affiliate, subsidiary, successor, or clinic
4 thereof—

5 (A) performs, induces, refers for, or coun-
6 sels in favor of gender transition procedures;

7 (B) performs, induces, refers for, or coun-
8 sels in favor of an abortion, except—

9 (i) if the pregnancy is the result of an
10 act of rape or incest; or

11 (ii) in the case where a woman suffers
12 from a physical disorder, physical injury,
13 or physical illness, including a life-endan-
14 gering physical condition caused by or aris-
15 ing from the pregnancy itself, that would,
16 as certified by a physician, place the
17 woman in danger of death unless an abor-
18 tion is performed; or

19 (C) provides financial support to any other
20 entity that conducts any activity described in
21 subparagraph (A) or (B).

22 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

23 (1) REQUIRED INFORMATION AND REFER-
24 RAL.—For the purpose described in subsection (a),
25 an eligible entity receiving a grant under this section

1 shall use the grant funds to provide to individuals
2 who are exploring detransition information on, and
3 referral to, 1 or more of the following services:

4 (A) Medical advice and care to reverse a
5 gender transition procedure.

6 (B) Education and employment assistance,
7 including services that support the continuation
8 and completion of high school.

9 (C) Voluntary mental health and substance
10 use disorder services.

11 (2) PERMISSIBLE DIRECT PROVISION OF SERV-
12 ICES.—For the purpose described in subsection (a),
13 in addition to using grant funds under this section
14 as described in paragraph (1), an eligible entity re-
15 ceiving a grant under this section may use the grant
16 funds for the direct provision of one or more services
17 described in paragraph (1).

18 (e) PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS.—None of the
19 funds made available under this section shall be used for—

20 (1) gender transition procedures;

21 (2) payment for an abortion, except—

22 (A) if the pregnancy is the result of an act
23 of rape or incest; or

24 (B) in the case where a woman suffers
25 from a physical disorder, physical injury, or

1 physical illness, including a life-endangering
2 physical condition caused by or arising from the
3 pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a
4 physician, place the woman in danger of death
5 unless an abortion is performed; or

6 (3) requiring any person to perform, or facili-
7 tate in any way the performance of, any abortion.

8 (f) CONSIDERATION.—In selecting the recipients of
9 grants under this section, the Secretary shall consider
10 each applicant’s demonstrated capacity in providing serv-
11 ices to assist individuals who are exploring and seeking
12 medical advice in their efforts to reverse gender transition
13 procedures.

14 (g) MONITORING AND REVIEW.—The Secretary
15 shall—

16 (1) monitor and review each program funded
17 through a grant under this section to ensure that
18 the grantee carefully adheres to—

19 (A) the purpose described in subsection
20 (a); and

21 (B) the requirements of this section; and

22 (2) cease to fund a program under this section
23 if the grantee fails to adhere to such purpose and re-
24 quirements.

○