



Wisconsin Psychological Association

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2023

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October 4, 2023

To the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Health:

We are responding to **2023 Senate Bill 480**, relating to the prohibition of gender transition medical intervention for individuals under 18 years of age. The Wisconsin Psychological Association opposes this bill based on the current scientific literature in our field. This bill seeks to eliminate access to gender-affirming care for youth, which should be a decision made by the patient, their provider(s), and caregiver(s). Further, it seeks to criminalize providers, including psychologists, for making referrals for gender-affirming care. This conflicts with important ethical principles that guide psychologists' work.

Please see the attached document from Division 44 of the American Psychological Association. It provides an explanation of how legislation such as SB 480 contradicts current psychological science, undermines ethical principles, and may increase psychological distress for patients and their families. There are multiple resources and references listed at the end of the document. A copy of the American Psychological Association's resolution on gender identity change efforts is also attached for your reference. Additional information from the American Psychological Association on gender-affirmative care can be found here: <https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq/gender-affirmative-care>

Thank you for taking the time to review the accompanying documents. We appreciate your interest in learning more about the current state of psychological science and our practice standards as psychologists. We are happy to discuss any of these items further.

Sincerely,

Kim Skerven, PhD on behalf of the Wisconsin Psychological Association
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