

EQUALITY ACT HARMS TO CHILDREN

The Equality Act would elevate sexual orientation and gender identity to protected class status in existing federal nondiscrimination laws. While proponents of the bill claim it is about nondiscrimination, in reality **the Equality Act is about forcing many people to violate their consciences, and poses a devastating threat to the health, safety, and privacy of our nation's children.**

THE EQUALITY ACT COULD SUBJECT CHILDREN TO DANGEROUS “GENDER REASSIGNMENT” INTERVENTIONS

- The Equality Act could force healthcare providers to participate in “gender reassignment” medical procedures (including puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and sterilizing surgeries) for otherwise healthy children who are struggling with their gender identity, even though such interventions cause severe and often irreversible harm.
- Every child deserves a natural childhood—one that allows them to experience puberty and other normal adolescent changes that shape their maturity and their reproductive capacity. “Gender reassignment” is neither natural nor healthy, and it certainly shouldn't be the only option for children, especially since there is strong disagreement among doctors about these procedures for children, and there is no evidence that hormonal and surgical cross-sex “treatments” improve the mental and or physical health of young people over the long term, as they mature into adults. Instead, multiple studies show that adults who live in a transgender identity have severely negative health outcomes.
- In fact, 80-95 percent of children with gender dysphoria no longer feel distressed by their bodies after puberty, and a court in England found just last year that puberty blockers are “experimental in children, and can put children on a pathway to sterilization.”



► PUBLICATION

In her book *Irreversible Damage*, Wall Street Journal writer Abigail Shrier investigates the troubling rise of young girls identifying as transgender and the dangerous and often permanent treatments they are being encouraged to undergo—including medically unnecessary double mastectomies and cross-sex hormones that can cause permanent infertility.



THE EQUALITY ACT COULD FORCE FAITH-BASED CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES TO SHUT DOWN

- The Equality Act would harm the over 400,000 children in our nation’s foster care system by closing down faith-based adoption and foster care providers who believe children thrive best in a home with a married mother and father.
- It would significantly threaten the many faith-based social service organizations that receive federal grants to enable them to better serve the most vulnerable among us every day. These organizations would have to violate their beliefs about marriage and human sexuality in order to receive federal funding.



► REAL WORLD EXAMPLE:

In New York, the state is trying to use a sexual orientation/gender identity regulation—similar to the Equality Act—to shutter the adoption ministry of New Hope Family Services, which has been placing children in loving homes for over 50 years. Adoption providers who help children find a caring home should be protected, not shut down for their faith.

THE EQUALITY ACT WOULD FORCE FEMALE STUDENTS TO SHARE PRIVATE SPACES WITH MEN

- Schools would be forced to allow males to use female private spaces, like showers, locker rooms, and overnight accommodations.
- Student privacy rights in showers, locker rooms, and restrooms should not depend on others’ beliefs about their gender. Every student should be assured that his or her school will protect his or her bodily privacy and safety.



► REAL WORLD EXAMPLE:

During the 2016-17 school year—without informing parents or students—Pennsylvania’s Boyertown Area School District opened its high school locker rooms and restrooms to students of the opposite sex based on those students’ beliefs about their gender. Alexis Lightcap, a female student at the school, learned of the policy when she encountered a male in her restroom. She was shocked, afraid, and fled the room. When she told the school about the incident, school officials refused to listen to her privacy concerns.

