



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR  
THERAPEUTIC & COUNSELLING CHOICE

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June 14, 2023

Re: AB 957—opposed

Dear California Senators,

I am Dr. Laura Haynes, California psychologist, and Board Member and USA Country Representative writing for the International Federation for Therapeutic and Counselling Choice that serves professionals in California and about 27 nations. We urge you to vote NO on AB 957.

AB 957 would take gender incongruent children away from parents because of parents' religious beliefs. This is overreach.

Governments that previously were world leaders in gender affirming treatments are now moving away from that and prioritizing psychotherapy. They are saying incongruent gender identity may reflect the temporary search for identity typical of the developmental state of adolescence and may subside. These children need their parents.

These governments are also saying young people who have psychiatric conditions may be more predisposed to develop incongruent gender identity, and they need psychiatric treatment, not gender treatment.

These governments include liberal and tolerant nations. They are Sweden,<sup>1 2 3</sup> Finland,<sup>4</sup> England,<sup>5 6 7</sup> Norway,<sup>8</sup> France,<sup>9</sup> and Italy,<sup>10</sup> Australia, and New Zealand,<sup>11</sup> and they are growing. Health authorities in America and California are outliers. Worldwide, there is not a professional consensus that supports taking children away from religious parents for gender affirmation.

Under AB 957, politicians would place many religious California parents under threat—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, Buddhist, and more. California parents will not be happy with politicians who place them under threat of taking away their children.

Don't let AB 957 happen. Vote NO.

Sincerely, Laura Haynes, Ph.D., California Psychologist,  
Board Member and USA Country Representative,  
International Federation for Therapeutic and Counselling Choice ([iftcc.org](https://iftcc.org))

## References

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- <sup>2</sup> Sweden: National Board of Health and Welfare (Sweden) (February 2, 2022). Updated recommendations for hormone therapy for gender dysphoria in young people. Press release. RushTranslate (June 27, 2022), Certified English translation, Louisville, Kentucky. <https://iftcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Swedish-Health-Service-February-2022-Policy-Statement-Translated-and-Notarized.pdf-from-Brooks.pdf>
- <sup>3</sup> Sweden: Georgas, K. et al. (2018). Gender affirmation surgery for gender dysphoria-effects and risks. [Könskonfirmerande kirurgi vid könsdysfori - effekter och risker]. Göteborg: Västra Götalandsregionen, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, HTA-centrum. Regional activity based HTA 2018:102. [https://mellanarkiv-offentlig.vgregion.se/alfresco/s/archive/stream/public/v1/source/available/sofia/su4372-1728378332-373/native/2018\\_102%20Rapport%20Könsdysfori.pdf](https://mellanarkiv-offentlig.vgregion.se/alfresco/s/archive/stream/public/v1/source/available/sofia/su4372-1728378332-373/native/2018_102%20Rapport%20Könsdysfori.pdf)
- <sup>4</sup> Finland: Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland (PALKO/COHERE Finland) (2020). Recommendation of the Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland (PALKO/COHERE Finland): Medical Treatment Methods for Dysphoria Related to Gender Variance in Minors. <https://palveluvalikoima.fi/en/recommendations#genderidentity>. Certified English Translation, Lingua Franca Translations, Coconut Grove, Florida (18 May, 2022), <https://archive.iftcc.org/finnish-2020-cohere-guidelines-minors-finland-certified-translation/>
- <sup>5</sup> England: See pp. 9, 11-13. NHS England (20 October 2022). Public consultation: Interim service specification for specialist gender dysphoria services for children and young people. Classification: Official. Publication, reference: PR1937\_ii. [https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/specialised-commissioning/gender-dysphoria-services/user\\_uploads/b1937-ii-interim-service-specification-for-specialist-gender-dysphoria-services-for-children-and-young-people-22.pdf](https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/specialised-commissioning/gender-dysphoria-services/user_uploads/b1937-ii-interim-service-specification-for-specialist-gender-dysphoria-services-for-children-and-young-people-22.pdf)
- <sup>6</sup> England: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) (Oct. 2020a). Evidence review: Gender-affirming hormones for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria. <https://arms.nice.org.uk/resources/hub/1070871/attachment>
- <sup>7</sup> England: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) (Oct. 2020b). Evidence review: Gonadotrophin releasing hormone analogues for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria. <https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/document?id=2334888&returnUrl=search%3ffrom%3d2020-01-01%26q%3dgender%2bdysphoria%26sp%3don%26to%3d2021-03-3>
- <sup>8</sup> Norway: Society for Evidence Based Gender Medicine (SEGM) (March 9, 2023),” <https://www.segm.org>
- <sup>9</sup> France: National Academy of Medicine (NAM) (28 Feb. 2022). Press Release: Medical Care of Children and Adolescents with Transgender Identity. Unofficial translation by the Society for Evidence-based Gender Medicine (SEGM), (2 March 2022). [https://segm.org/sites/default/files/English%20Translation\\_22.2.25-Communique-PCRA-19-Medecine-et-transidentite-genre.pdf](https://segm.org/sites/default/files/English%20Translation_22.2.25-Communique-PCRA-19-Medecine-et-transidentite-genre.pdf)
- <sup>10</sup> Italy: Buttons, C. (30 Jan. 2023). Italian Psychological Association expressed “great concern” over puberty blocking drugs. The Daily Wire. [https://www.dailywire.com/news/italian-psychological-association-expressed-great-concern-over-puberty-blocking-drugs?inf\\_contact\\_key=5f4f5a2dc69a3b2e9ba1748470b5556bb7af0999dac2af6212784c39e05d2aef](https://www.dailywire.com/news/italian-psychological-association-expressed-great-concern-over-puberty-blocking-drugs?inf_contact_key=5f4f5a2dc69a3b2e9ba1748470b5556bb7af0999dac2af6212784c39e05d2aef)

<sup>11</sup> Australia and New Zealand: The Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) (August 2021). Recognising and addressing the mental health needs of people experiencing Gender dysphoria/Gender Incongruence; Position Statement 103. <https://www.ranzcp.org/news-policy/policy-and-advocacy/position-statements/gender-dysphoria>