

I am a graduate of University of California at Davis School of Medicine and completed my Internal Medicine internship and residency at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard. I have extensive experience in quality care assurance and medical policy (see my LinkedIn account).

As rule making on HB2002 moves through Oregon's regulatory process, it is important to acknowledge the growing controversy surrounding the WPATH SOC 8, which is NOT a broadly accepted "standard of care". Even WPATH has clarified that their practices guidelines are simply treatment recommendations, not standards. Numerous European countries have moved in a decisively different direction, as noted by the editorial board of the British Medical Journal in 2023, by prioritizing psychotherapy, watchful waiting, and family involvement in their treatment recommendations. Leading health authorities in Finland, Sweden, France, Denmark and the U.K. have determined the evidence base underlying the WPATH recommendations is low quality and very low quality. U.S. authorities are behind in their positions and a number have initiated policy reconsideration because of the controversy and its serious implications.

An international professional organization, Genspect (Genspect.org), has issued a Gender Framework that is being finalized this year. This will serve as an alternative to WPATH's recommendations. I work as a volunteer for Genspect and a contributor to the Framework, advising parents and professionals on how to gain a deeper understanding of the scientific debate, treatment options, and informed consent. The Gender Framework will recommend non-medicalized alternatives to supporting gender dysphoric and gender non-conforming youth, supporting a healthy adolescent identity formation process free of unnecessary medical intervention.

This is not a partisan issue. A judicious approach to the needs of gender non-conforming young people experiencing distress about their bodies requires awareness of the growing debate and the low-quality evidence underlying rapid gender affirmative treatments.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Kathleen Goonan, MD
Genspect Patient & Parent Advocacy

Kate@Genspect.org

