We Need Balance When It Comes To Gender

Dysphoric Kids. I Would Know | Opinion

SCOTT NEWGENT

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SHARE f y in P & P TRANSGENDER OPINION TRANSGENDER RIGHTS LGBT LGBTO am a 48-year-old transgender man. I was thrilled when the medical community told me six years ago that I could change from a woman to a man. I was informed about all the wonderful things that would happen due to medical transition, but all the negatives were glossed over. Since then, I have suffered tremendously, including seven surgeries, a pulmonary embolism, an induced stress heart attack, sepsis, a 17-month recurring infection, 16 rounds of antibiotics, three weeks of daily IV antibiotics, arm reconstructive surgery, lung, heart and bladder damage, insomnia, hallucinations, PTSD, \$1 million in medical expenses, and loss of home, car, career and marriage. All this, and

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or widely accepted baseline for transgender health care. Read that again: There is no structured, tested, or widely accepted baseline for transgender health care. Not for 42-year-olds, and not for the many minors embarking on medical transition in record numbers. It is not transphobic or discriminatory to discuss this—we as a society need to fully understand what we are encouraging our children to do to their bodies. Throughout transition, I second-guessed my decisions, but each counseling session and doctor's appointment amounted to one more push convincing me I could be cured of being born in the wrong body. The truth was that I didn't fit in as a dominant, aggressive, assertive lesbian. The dream of finally fitting in dangled like a carrot: The idea that I could fit in catapulted me to a time much like adolescence, with its drive for acceptance, inclusive peers and the fantasy of being normal.

yet I cannot sue the surgeon responsible—in part because there is no structured, tested

During my post-operation 17 months of sheer survival, I discovered that transgender health care is experimental and that large swaths of the medical industry encourage minors to transition due, at least in part, to fat profit margins. I was gobsmacked. Each day I researched more and became increasingly appalled. As I jumped from ER to ER desperately seeking help, I realized that nobody knew what to do. Each physician told me to return to the original surgeon. I was trapped like a child with an abusive parent.

My recurring bladder infection not only demolished my body; it started to ravage my

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One night I simply couldn't take it. I wanted to die. I crawled to bed and had another hallucination. My children's lives flashed before my eyes, and I saw the devastation my death would cause them. Right then, I made a deal with God, the universe, whatever you call it, that if my life were spared, if I were allowed to be here for my kids, I would help other kids by ensuring people knew what the experimentation of transgender health care really entails. I remember my whimpers: "God, an eye for an eye—in reverse. I will

• Increased risk of premature death from heart attacks and pulmonary embolisms Bone damage • Possible liver damage Increased mental health complications • Increased chances of mood-syndrome symptoms • Higher suicide rates than non-trans population • 12 percent higher chance than non-trans population to develop symptoms of

Moreover, no *long-term* studies have been conducted on children who grow up without

(people who return to identifying as their natal sex). What are the psychological effects?

No one has a clue, and researchers are too often shut down by cancel culture for even

the benefit of natural puberty. No studies at all have been done on de-transitioners

Peer-reviewed studies show a shocking correlation between gender dysphoria and

autism, depression, anxiety, eating disorders and other co-morbidities. Additionally, it

seems that many of these children are simply gay. Could pushing people on a one-way

path to medical transition be a different form of "conversion therapy?" We need to ask

and study these hard questions—for the good of all children. But we're not—not in the

restoring greater balance. This past December, the U.K. High Court of Justice ruled that

puberty blockers for minors are both experimental and a one-way ticket to permanent

transition. Finland in 2020 completely overhauled its approach to treating minors with

systematic literature review of the scientific basis of the long-term effects on physical

the "Dutch protocol" recently called for a rethink, while other research is beginning to

So if we are now waking up to the fact that gender dysphoria is over-simplistically

conflated with transgenderism, medical treatments have understudied long-term

show that the current one-size-fits-all status quo is too limited.

and mental health of puberty blockers and hormones. The researcher who championed

recognizing adolescence as a time of major identity exploration. Sweden is conducting a

gender dysphoria, prioritizing psychotherapeutic non-invasive interventions and

mainstream media, and certainly not in President Joe Biden's new administration.

America is proceeding down its path of total affirmation just as other countries are

Transgender rights activists in New York City in 2018

DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES

raising the questions.

consequences, some are getting rich off transgender medicine and de-transitioners are speaking up in skyrocketing numbers, why are we only making it easier for children to unquestioningly transition? We now have the obligation to work together to slow trans medicalization of minors until they are adults and have the capacity to truly understand the lifelong consequences of transitioning. As a former lesbian and current trans man, I maintain this is not

Therefore, I am currently building a bipartisan army to protect our children, hold the

the dangers of transgender extremism. We must throw our differences aside for a

moment; I promise you, once children are safe, we can resume fighting. But until

So, endocrinologists and pediatricians, moderate Democrats and moderate

medical industry accountable and educate our president and the rest of society about

Republicans, radical feminists and evangelicals, lawyers and psychologists, parents and

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teachers: My hand is out. I will grab yours and turn down no one. Together, we can build

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What do you think?

help them and not harm the rest.

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Start a discussion, not a fire. Post with kindness. Read our guidelines here.

Fellow parents: never stop being your child's expert and advocate. Don't be bullied by an industry that would make your child take part in a life long medical experiment. Give them love and freedom to question and explore, and then be there for them when, as healthy adults, they can choose their own path in life. 1 day ago Finally a mainstream media outlet has the courage to publish this much needed truth. Newsweek, please to cave to the coming onslaught by those who want to continue to profit at the expense of

Reply 652 71 Guest 1 day ago Thank you Scott for your passion, empathy, bravery, and eloquence for writing this article. Thank you Newsweek for your bravery and integrity for publishing it. The topics of trans medicine and the ideological push to transition minors for profits needs to be discussed much more honestly by the media, and society at large.

Cassandra 1 day ago Thank you for giving a voice to all the false positives affected by this modern day medical scandal. Transgender ppl and Detransitioners deserve better health care--which is not what they are getting. All of these medical interventions are applied outside of experimental protocols. Many media outlets turn the other way, so thank you for offering room for dissenting opinions because Scott is right, our children are worth it. Reply 2 44 7

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mind, too. I stopped being able to problem-solve, and then lost my health insurance when I couldn't work. I spent many nights in the bathroom in too much pain to even make it to the toilet, forced to urinate on the floor, screaming as what felt like razor blades left my body. Rest came only in 45-minute increments that I induced with four shots of vodka, six Benadryl pills and a handful of melatonin—with only sleep-deprived hallucinations for my trouble. fight with a mother's passion for others if I can be here for my kids." So here I am, a trans man, sifting through my good and bad decisions, and for the first time embracing who I am—what I have created, and the life I now lead. It took me 48 years to realize I transitioned because I never wholeheartedly accepted being a lesbian. Our children don't have a prayer to embrace the reality of something it takes a lifetime to understand. That's our job, as parents: to protect them from foolish, lifelong mistakes. Here's what I could not comprehend before transitioning and what I honestly believe no child is capable of consenting to: **NEWSWEEK SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS >** Decreased life expectancy psychosis • Chance of stunted brain development • Much reduced chance for lifelong sexual pleasure Higher chance of sterility and infertility No improved mental health outcomes • Not completely reversible Trans activists tout studies that say medically transitioning gender-questioning children improves mental health. But those studies have often been retracted (and those retractions underreported by the media).

transphobic. It is actually sensitive and caring to recognize that not just one treatment or

children are safe, nothing else matters.

pathway is right for all kids.

a circle around our most precious resource: our children. Help me fulfill the promise I made on the night I almost gave up, to be here for my children—and now yours. Who's with me? Scott Newgent is active with Trans Rational Educational Voices (www.TReVoices.com). Twitter: @ScottNewgent.

Popular in the Community

Thank you Scott for speaking out and revealing what is really going on. It's not transphobic to

the first course of intervention. This seems like a dereliction of duty on the part of clinics and

doctors to do no harm. A handful of minors may genuinely need to physically transition, so let's

question whether all kids who question the gender need the identical treatment. I don't understand

I'm surely not the only one who is profoundly shocked that this article has been given the visibility it

obviously deserves. Kudos to Scott Newgent and to the editors of Newsweek for doing what is right.

If there is a logical, evidence-based counterargument to this piece, by all means let's see it and

How many of us doubt that any such counterargument will be or can be made, though? It seems

research. In the past, the vast majority of kids with gender confusion desisted upon going through

natural puberty. And the majority of those desistors grew up to be healthy LGB, fertility and adult

This is was an excellent article. Please listen to Newgent's plea. Call for common sense, careful

Bravo, Scott and Newsweek, for shining a light on this current "affirmation-model" trend that so

many of us parents have been thrust into. Kids who have expressed any kind of interest in gender

decisions for their bodies and reproductive systems, (many of whom still believe in the tooth fairy,)

and believe they can magically really change into another sex. My own family had a therapist push

If we question or raise alarm, we are branded as bigots, transphobes, and told our kids are likely to

commit suicide. Assumptions are made about our political beliefs, our parenting skills, even our

love. All for wanting to "watchfully wait" and let our kids grow up a bit into a place where they can

Ideology or feelings of dysphoria are being nudged and pushed into making radical, lifelong medical

supportive healthcare for our kids. And for god's sake, support detransitioners who find themselves

sexual function intact. But Watchful Waiting was supplanted by instant Affirmation and

discuss that too. That is what being in a free society is all about, right? Rational discourse.

why clinics are not adopting a similar model as Finland, with noninvasive therapeutic treatment as

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infinitely more likely Scott will receive vicious death threats from a mob of Twitter activists than a well-reasoned refutation drawn from scientific fact and medical expertise. 1 day ago Finally this issue is breaking into the mainstream. People need to sit up and take notice. Do your

utterly abandoned by their erstwhile community and doctors alike.

puberty blockers on us in just one, thirty minute zoom call.

truly give informed consent about such grave decisions.

children. Reply 🖒 51 🖓 SilverStar

Thank you, Scott, and thank you, Newsweek, for publishing this extremely important piece. It's our

This article is well needed. As the author says in this article, we must safeguard children and this has

duty--our DUTY--as concerned citizens to speak out on the reality of this issue.

got to come before any ideology or political games.

Robert This is happening in broad daylight but the horror show Scott describes is being suppressed by the trans lobby. The US media is complicit through their silence. Children are suffering and adults are either cashing in on it, calling these confused kids "brave" to score woke points or are just unaware. Kids are suffering. It has always fallen on adults to provide safeguarding. They need us to do that now. Reply 🖒 57 🖓

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