

Members of the Colorado Title Board
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
Remarks in response to Initiative #175

To the members of the Colorado Title Board:

Hello, my name is Jude Clinchard and I am submitting written remarks with the concerns I have regarding single subject requirement in initiative #175.

As a transgender person, gender affirming care saved my life and helped me become the woman I am today. I started socially transitioning when I was 9 years old because I felt more like a girl than a boy.

My initial objection is that Initiative #175 does not meet the single subject requirement because it has the potential to impact several types of medical professionals. Trans youth may seek care from a number of healthcare providers in relation to their transition or when needing medical care outside of gender affirming care. This initiative would impact all of the healthcare providers a young trans person might see in the span of their childhood. For example, throughout my transition, I have seen multiple doctors for many different forms of care. My first doctor in my transition was a state-licensed and insured psychologist who helped me learn more about my feelings and how to embrace how I felt about myself. My psychologist then referred me to a gender-affirming care specialist (MD) who explained to me how transitioning works and helped me figure out when I was ready to start my medical gender affirming care. My gender affirming care specialist (MD) followed the medical standards of care published by WPATH, which is based on scientific and medical research for transgender people. My gender-affirming care specialist worked with my pediatrician throughout my care to ensure I was getting the proper blood work drawn and ensuring my prescriptions made it to the pharmacy on time. The medical care process for my transition has taken a village of mental health therapists, gender-affirming specialists, a pediatric doctor, nurses, phlebotomists, and pharmacists to ensure the best treatment for me. These providers would all be regulated and liable under this one initiative, therefore, this initiative violates single subject requirements.

My second objection to initiative #220 is regarding who could be implicated as complacent in accessing gender affirming care, and therefore does not meet the single subject requirement. Under this initiative, my doctor and medical team alongside my mom and anyone else who drove me to appointments, or helped me seek healthcare, would be held liable and could be subject to a lawsuit. This very important support system in my transition - my family, friends, teachers, school counselors, and school principals - would have had to weigh the risk of supporting my journey. My mom and sister were the first people I told that I feel more like a girl than a boy. They have never left my side and have been on this journey with me since day one.

My teachers, school counselors, and principals were all supportive starting in elementary school. They worked with my mom so I could go to my health appointments and be caught up in school. All these individuals could be held liable for helping me access gender affirming care under this initiative.

This initiative is seeking to prevent trans minors from accessing necessary healthcare; preventing trans minors from relying on support systems that would help them live healthy lives; and attempting to clump together doctors with friends and family members and others. As a registered elector and transgender citizen, I believe that grouping all of these different people in a minor's life - from healthcare providers to their support systems - and regulating them under one initiative is a violation of single subject.

Thank you to the Title Board for your time.

Jude Clinchard
Boulder County Registered Elector