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Senate State Affairs Committee
W. Jefferson St.
Boise, Idaho 83702

3/29/24

Dear Chair Guthrie, Vice Chair Bernt, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I am writing to express strong opposition to H 421 which would curtail the rights of the people of Idaho, and enshrine medically inaccurate terms into statute.

ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of the art, science, and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals and others.

People who identify as transgender are at an increased risk for suicide, depression and anxiety symptoms. Multiple studies have found, that, along with social and familial support, access to gender-affirming care has been shown to reduce suicide ideation and attempts in transgender individuals. Transgender persons may or may not choose to alter their bodies hormonally or surgically. Hormone therapy and gender affirming surgery, which will change a person's body to conform to their gender identity, is now seen as an effective, safe treatment and is increasingly covered by medical insurance. Research indicates mainly positive outcomes, resulting in relief from gender dysphoria and an improved sense of well-being. Moreover, for those born with intersex characteristics, the language of this bill could have devastating effects on their treatment, and ability to live safely in Idaho.

For these and other reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose the passage of H 421. For more information, feel free to contact me or Sean Tipton, Chief Advocacy and Policy officer at Stipton@asrm.org or 202-421-5112.

Sincerely,

Paula Amato, MD
President
American Society for Reproductive Medicine