

## Comment on SF 418

I am asking the committee to consider the following information in regard to SF 418, which would remove gender identity as a protected class under the civil rights act. While most people are born male or female, it is possible for a person's gender to be indeterminate either genotypically, phenotypically, or psychologically.

- A person may be born with indeterminate sex chromosomes, such as only one X, XXX, XXY, XYY, or other variations. The genitals may appear male, female, or different from either. Being intersex is not a disease or disorder (as incorrectly referred to in the bill) and is a part of the human condition. In these cases, the gender identity and expression should be left up to the individual and they should not be discriminated against for how they choose to live in the body they were born in. If the person is assigned a gender at birth, they should be allowed to change it as the gender may have been assigned based on incorrect assumptions and interpretations of their chromosomes/genitalia.
- A person can have a phenotype (physical expression or biochemical traits) that differ from their genotype. For example, a person born with XY chromosomes could still develop female reproductive organs and appear as a woman. There are also a host of hormonal conditions that blur the lines between genders. It is best to let the individual decide how to classify themselves, and once again they do not deserve to be discriminated against.
- A person can have a psychological incongruence between the gender that they were assigned at birth, and their personal sense of their own gender. This is more difficult for some people to understand, yet it is just as valid as the aforementioned physical/medical differences. These individuals are at higher risk of discrimination, victimization and hate crimes. Societal rejection of gender identity is one of the strongest predictors of mental health issues among transgender people, which often leads to suicide. They deserve protection from discrimination and are still our family members, loved ones, neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

In conclusion, this bill should not be passed because it is scientifically unsound and violates the liberties of individuals just for being different. It may be convenient to ignore nuance, but that does not make it right. Especially when it invalidates someone's personhood and strips them of their rights.

Sources:

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/atypical-genitalia/symptoms-causes/syc-203692>  
[73](#)

<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/swyer-syndrome/>

<https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/gender-dysphoria/what-is-gender-dysphoria>