HF 2557

SUPPORT

OUR MISSION

To restore, protect, and advance the rights of women and girls through legal argument, policy advocacy, and public education

OUR VISION

Total liberation of women and girls from all forms of sex-based oppressions, including gender identity, male violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and reproductive coercion

Women's Liberation Front SUPPORTS HF 2557 which provides that not affirming a child's "gender identity" does not constitute child abuse.

Women's Liberation Front is a national secular nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works to restore, defend, and advance the rights of women and girls. Though we oppose policies that enforce the concept of "gender" or the socially enforced idea certain traits and preferences are innate and specific to the sexes ("sex stereotypes,") and policies that cater to "gender identity" for taking the concept of "gender" further by asserting that one's adoption of sex stereotypes are what make them a man or a woman, we fully support the recognition of the material condition of being male or female in law. After all, you cannot restore, defend, or advance the rights of that which you cannot define, and addressing the material condition of being female comes first and foremost among our issues.

HF 2557 is correct for specifying that *not* lying to a child about their material reality *does not* constitute "child abuse." It is far more harmful to lie to children about their physical bodies and make them believe they are the opposite sex.

The concept of "gender identity," or that one may be incongruent with their biological sex due to a mutable and quantifiable element apart from sex, was pioneered by a highly unethical, pro-pedophile sexologist and psychologist, John Money, who practiced at Johns Hopkins where the first gender clinic was established in 1965. Twin boys, Brian and Bruce Reimer, had been diagnosed with phimosis in infancy, a condition in which the foreskin of the penis cannot retract, inhibiting urination. Unfortunately, the doctor who treated them used an unconventional means of circumcision by cauterization, and Bruce's procedure left his penis beyond repair.[1,2] Fearing for his romantic and sexual future, his parents consulted John Money in 1967 who told them that the best thing for Bruce would be that he should never be told that he was a boy, socially reinforce that he was a girl, and to have his reproductive organs reconstructed to mimic a vulva and vaginal canal. Bruce was renamed "Brenda," and his parents did as John Money suggested, believing it was in his best interest.

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As a part of teaching the Reimer twins about their "gender roles" John Money had the boys view sexually explicit material as early as six-years-old and coach the boys to act out sex roles with "Brenda" "acting as the woman," sometimes in front of an audience of adults. "Brenda" was also given hormones in adolescence so that he would undergo "female puberty" and develop breasts.

At the end of this study, Money concluded his experiment successfully demonstrated "gender fluidity" and has been used as justification for sex reassignment surgeries on children with ambiguous genitalia ever since.[1,2] However, "Brenda" was miserable and would later attempt to commit suicide at 13. At 14, his parents finally told him the truth, whereupon he rejected the farce that was forced upon him and renamed himself "David." Both David[3,4] and his brother[5] would later commit suicide before the age of 40.

While the legacy of John Money lives on to propagate the idea that "gender identity" is some innate quality apart from sex, people may change "gender" if they act out certain "gender roles," and society must be categorized based on this concept, the above history demonstrates contrary to Money's theory. Socially enforcing a lie to a child about their material condition is *never* in the child's best interest and should be considered a form of psychological harm.

HF 2557 is correct to assert that recognizing a child's biological sex is *not* child abuse. Raising a child according to their material condition in medical decisions and other accommodations where relevant is also correct. No state law should consider any such recognition of reality as abuse.

Women's Liberation Front urges the state of Iowa to vote YES on HF 2557 in support of children as the sex they are.

Sincerely,

Women's Liberation Front

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[1] Gaetano, P. David Reimer and John Money Gender Reassignment Controversy: The John/Joan Case. The Embryo Project Encyclopedia. November 15, 2017.

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https://embryo.asu.edu/pages/david-reimer-and-john-money-gender-reassignment-controversy-johnjoan-case

[2]R Cvz, M. The Case of John/Joan. https://www.academia.edu/8879499/The_Case_of_John_Joan

[3]The Associated Press. David Reimer, 38, Subject of the John/Joan Case. The New York Times. May 12, 2004. https://archive.fo/3qGEL#selection-303.0-303.47

[4] Find a Grave. David Reimer. Accessed February 9, 2026. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20309661/david-reimer

[5] Find a Grave. Brian Reimer. Accessed February 9, 2026. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16482516/brian_henry-reimer

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