



# OREGON SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Senate Republicans Call for Study on Long-Term Effects of Transgender Medical Treatments on Children

*Senate Democrats Reject Proposal, Then Expand Legal Shielding for Providers*

**SALEM, Ore. – Senate Democrats** today rejected [a proposal](#) to have the Oregon Health Authority study the long-term impacts of transgender medical treatments provided to minors in Oregon. If adopted, the minority report would have replaced [House Bill 4088](#), a bill Democrats passed on party lines that creates legal protections for providers at the very moment when doctors and clinics nationwide are facing malpractice claims from former patients alleging harm.

“On issues this sensitive and controversial, we need a better understanding of the long-term effects of transgender treatments on minors prior to enacting broader shield laws. Oregon families and taxpayers deserve to know what the long-term outcomes of these treatments look like in our own state,” said **Senator Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer)**, who carried the minority report on the Senate floor.

“Can we just protect kids from permanent and irreversible decisions they are too young to make?” **Senate Republican Leader Bruce Starr (R-Dundee)** asked on the Senate floor. “History will look back on this moment and I believe we will be judged harshly. We have inflicted not a small number of kids with unnecessary pain and suffering over an extreme ideology whose long-term effects we understand very little about.”

The debate comes amid a growing number of lawsuits and personal stories from minors and young adults across the country who allege they underwent irreversible medical interventions without thorough psychological evaluation. Cases from New York and other states have resulted in significant legal judgments, highlighting the real risks of current “informed consent” models that prioritize rapid affirmation over careful diagnostic review.

Several young people have testified in Oregon about permanent consequences following transgender treatments. Forrest Smith described undergoing surgical castration, leaving him sterile and dependent on lifelong hormones. Camille Kiefel says she received a double mastectomy after brief virtual consultations, leaving permanent scarring and an inability to breastfeed.

“House Bill 4088 moves Oregon in the wrong direction on transparency, public health, and parental rights,” **Senator Thatcher** added. “It restricts access to information parents and researchers need to understand real-world outcomes and potential risks. We cannot craft effective policy if we deliberately blind ourselves to the evidence. Oregon should not

choose secrecy over science, or limit parental access in ways that could conflict with longstanding legal principles.”

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