

# CONCERNED WOMEN *for* AMERICA

October 6, 2022

Dr. Moira Szilagyi, M.D., Ph.D, FAAO  
President, American Academy of Pediatrics  
10833 Le Conte Ave., Suite 22-395  
Los Angeles, CA 90095  
mszilagyi@mednet.ucla.edu

Dr. Sandy L. Chung, M.D., FAAP  
President-Elect, American Academy of Pediatrics  
13135 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., Ste 201  
Fairfax, VA 22033  
schung@fairfaxpeds.com

Dear Dr. Szilagyi and Dr. Chung,

As you gather for your national convention, I am writing with grave concerns on behalf of hundreds of thousands of women and their families as President and CEO of Concerned Women for America. We are the nation's largest women's public policy organization representing women and families of all ages across every state in America. For over forty years we have fought against sexual exploitation of women and children. That is why I write today.

Under your leadership, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is failing children, adolescents, parents, and families. Your disregard for the mental, emotional, and physical harm of gender ideology being forced on children is evidenced by the alarming trend in so-called "gender affirming care." Pediatricians are trusted physicians for parents of a newborn child. Like any mother and father, they should know that babies are fully formed male or female humans, not "born in the wrong body." Any case of an intersex condition or disorder of sexual development is exceedingly rare.

Today the American Academy of Pediatrics peddles an insidious, unscientific doctrine that children can be "born in the wrong body." [AAP teaches](#) that children have a "gender identity" that does not have to align with their sex. AAP preaches that "the internal sense of being a girl, boy, in between or something else (i.e., gender identity) cannot be changed."

Do you believe that a child's internal sense about Santa Claus can be changed? What about a child's internal sense about being an invincible superhero?

As doctors sworn to do no harm, it is tragic that you are on the side of defending harm to children. Your organization promotes the use of unapproved puberty-blocking drugs to slow the normal healthy development of a children's body, bones, and brain for "gender exploration". These drugs are unapproved by the Food and Drug Administration who has [warned of serious side effects](#) include brain swelling, vision loss, and suicide ideation. You endorse the promotion in schools and social media of "gender affirmation," requiring social accommodations of a child's self-declared identity which reinforces deception. You support children self-diagnosing their gender care needs and condone the practice of irreversible medical interventions.

Pediatricians should know that natural maturation is a critical part of a child's health and well-being. Doctors who understand normal childhood development should know it is better to allow children to grow up with a healthy body intact, not mutilate a child's body to conform to his or her developing mind - which is not fully developed until after the pediatric years.

Most alarming, the American Academy of Pediatrics is failing to allow any rigorous challenge to today's destructive prevailing orthodoxy about so-called "gender affirming care." In fact, you are actively preventing it.

As you know, [five pediatricians submitted Resolution #27](#) to implore the AAP to conduct a comprehensive, systematic review of the available evidence to update the AAP's 2018 position on gender-associated care. Instead, AAP leadership barred its members from commenting on Resolution #27, based upon a manipulated excuse that any new rule required a sponsor for the Resolution before it would be circulated to the membership. Because of activism in your ranks, any sponsor would be risking his or her career and outed as a target of activism and abuse.

Knowing the importance of rigorous scientific review, why won't you allow your members to comment on Resolution #27? Why don't you initiate what the Resolution requests? What do you fear could be revealed? Silencing concerns of your members, which amounts to censorship, suggests AAP is afraid of the truth.

Dr. Szilagyi, you recently rushed to the defense of your organization in a [letter to the editor](#) of the *Wall Street Journal* published on August 21, 2022. In that letter, you claim that "AAP is committed to following the evidence and basing our recommendations on the best science." If this is true, why are you shutting down a review of evidence?

You also assert, "It doesn't push medical treatments or surgery; for the vast majority of children, it recommends the opposite." If this true, why are you staying silent as gender clinics at children's hospitals are pushing these treatments as profitable? Why aren't you condemning the evil [exposed at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital](#) that is promoting mastectomies and phalloplasties on girls struggling with their identity as an effective strategy to boost the bottom line?

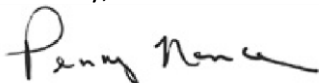
This week, [Reuters published a first of its kind analysis](#) finding that gender dysphoria diagnoses among 6–17-year-olds had nearly tripled from 2017-2021. Puberty-blocking drugs, cross-sex hormones and surgeries to remove breasts and genitalia rose dramatically during this period. These are "undercounts" according to the report, because they only include treatments that were covered by insurance.

Do these trends alarm the AAP? Why are youth facing increasing confusion about their identity at such alarming rates? Why are vulnerable youth the subjects of "gender-affirming" experiments causing lifelong dependency on drugs and irreversible damage?

We agree that a vigorous investigation of AAP's misinformation about the actual science and harms to children of these practices ought to be undertaken, along with an independent review of whether hospitals and clinics can obtain verifiable and ethically informed consent from children before they are irreversibly harmed by chemical and surgical gender transition procedures.

We trust there are many pediatricians who abhor the reckless direction that the AAP and "gender-affirming care" has taken, and they don't want anything to do with the harm being inflicted on children. Unfortunately, the AAP refuses to listen. You have become part of the problem, not the solution. You will only regain credibility by allowing a penetrating light to expose this growing [multi-billion-dollar industry](#) for the horror that it is and accept your part in it, not continue enabling its malpractice.

Sincerely,



Penny Young Nance  
CEO and President  
Concerned Women for America