

No. 18-14096-HH

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT**

REIYN KEOHANE, *Plaintiff-Appellee*,

v.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SECRETARY, *Defendant-Appellant*.

On Appeal from the United States District Court for the
Northern District of Florida
Case No. 16-cv-00511 (Hon. Mark E. Walker)

**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* MEDICAL, MENTAL HEALTH, AND OTHER
HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF APPELLEE**

Kenneth L. Doroshov
Counsel of Record for Amici Curiae
JENNER & BLOCK LLP
1099 New York Ave., NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: (202) 639-6000

**CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PERSONS AND CORPORATE
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Eleventh Circuit Rule 26.1-2(b), *amici* certify that, to the best of their knowledge, the CIP contained in Defendant-Appellant's brief is complete.

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 26.1 and Eleventh Circuit Rules 26.1-1 through 26.1-3, each *amicus curiae* hereby certifies that it has no parent corporation and that no publicly held corporation owns 10% or more of its stock.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT OF IDENTITY, INTEREST, AND AUTHORITY TO FILE OF <i>AMICI CURIAE</i>	1
STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE.....	2
SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT	2
ARGUMENT	4
I. What It Means To Be Transgender And To Suffer From Gender Dysphoria.....	4
A. Gender Identity.....	6
B. Gender Dysphoria.....	8
1. The Diagnostic Criteria And Seriousness Of Gender Dysphoria.....	9
2. The Accepted Treatment Protocols For Gender Dysphoria.....	10
II. The District Court’s Medical Factual Findings Are Fully Consistent With The International Medical Consensus.	15
CONCLUSION.....	16

TABLE OF CITATIONS*

PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES

American Academy of Pediatrics, <i>Gender Identity Development in Children</i> (2015), https://healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/grade-school/Pages/Gender-Identity-and-Gender-Confusion-In-Children.aspx	7
American Academy of Pediatrics, <i>Gender Non-Conforming & Transgender Children</i> (2015), https://healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/Pages/Gender-Non-Conforming-Transgender-Children.aspx	8
American Medical Association, Committee on Human Sexuality, <i>Human Sexuality</i> (1972).....	11
American Medical Association, Policy H-160.991, <i>Health Care Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Populations</i> (rev. 2016), https://searchpf.ama-assn.org/SearchML/searchDetails.action?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-805.xml	12
American Medical Association, Policy H-185.950, <i>Removing Financial Barriers to Care for Transgender Patients</i> (rev. 2016), https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/transgender?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-1128.xml	13
American Medical Association, <i>Resolution on Removing Financial Barriers to Care for Transgender Patients</i> (2008), http://www.imatyfa.org/assets/ama122.pdf	12
* American Psychiatric Association, <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i> (5th ed. 2013).....	9, 10
American Psychiatric Association, <i>Position Statement on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression</i> (2012), http://www.apsa.org/content/2012-position-statement-attempts-change-sexual-orientation-gender-identity-or-gender	11, 12

* Authorities upon which we chiefly rely are marked with an asterisk.

American Psychiatric Association, *Position Statement on Discrimination Against Transgender and Gender Variant Individuals* (2012), <https://psychiatry.org/File%20Library/About-APA/Organization-Documents-Policies/Policies/Position-2012-Transgender-Gender-Variant-Discrimination.pdf>6, 8

American Psychiatric Association Workgroup on Treatment of Gender Dysphoria, *Assessment and Treatment of Gender Dysphoria and Gender Variant Patients: A Primer for Psychiatrists* (2016).....12

American Psychological Association, *Answers to Your Questions About Transgender People, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression* (2014), <http://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/transgender.pdf>6

* American Psychological Association, *Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People*, 70 *Am. Psychologist* 832 (2015)4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13

American Psychological Association, *Report of the APA Task Force on Gender Identity and Gender Variance* (2008), <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/policy/gender-identity-report.pdf>5, 12

American Psychological Association & National Association of School Psychologists, *Resolution on Gender and Sexual Orientation Diversity in Children and Adolescents in Schools* (2015), <http://www.apa.org/about/policy/orientation-diversity.aspx>12

American School Counselor Ass’n, *The School Counselor and LGBTQ Youth* (2016), https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/PositionStatements/PS_LGBTQ.pdf12

Walter Bockting & Eli Coleman, *Developmental Stages of the Transgender Coming-Out Process: Toward an Integrated Identity*, in *Principles of Transgender Medicine and Surgery* 137 (Randi Ettner, Stan Monstrey & Eli Coleman eds., 2d ed. 2016).....15

Stephanie A. Brill & Rachel Pepper, *The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals* (2008)10, 14

William Byne et al., *Report of the American Psychiatric Association Task Force on Treatment of Gender Identity Disorder*, 41 *Arch. Sexual Behav.* 759 (2012)14

Ethan C. Cicero & Linda M. Wesp, *Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Transgender Students*, J. Sch. Nursing 1 (2017).....7

Peggy T. Cohen-Kettenis et al., *The Treatment of Adolescent Transsexuals: Changing Insights*, 5 J. Sexual Med. 1892 (2008)8

Halley P. Crissman et al., *Transgender Demographics: A Household Probability Sample of US Adults, 2014*, 107 Am. J. Pub. Health 213 (2017).....4

Hillary Daniel et al., *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Disparities: Executive Summary of a Policy Position Paper from the American College of Physicians*, 163 Annals Internal Med. 135 (2015).....12

Annelou L.C. de Vries, *Young Adult Psychological Outcome After Puberty Suppression and Gender Reassignment*, 134 Pediatrics 696 (2014).....14

Arianne B. Dessens et al., *Gender Dysphoria and Gender Change in Chromosomal Females with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia*, 34 Arch. Sexual Behav. 389 (2005).....8

Madeline B. Deutsch, Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, University of California, San Francisco, *Guidelines for the Primary and Gender-Affirming Care of Transgender and Gender Nonbinary People* (2d ed. 2016)13

Jack Drescher, *Controversies in Gender Diagnoses*, 1 LGBT Health 9 (2013).....10

Jack Drescher, *Queer Diagnoses: Parallels and Contrasts in the History of Homosexuality, Gender Variance, and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, 39 Arch. Sexual Behav. 427 (2010)10

Alessandra D. Fisher et al., *Cross-Sex Hormone Treatment and Psychobiological Changes in Transsexual Persons: Two-Year Follow-Up Data*, 101 J. Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism 4260 (2016)13

Andrew R. Flores et al., The Williams Institute, *How Many Adults Identify as Transgender in the United States?* (2016), <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/How-Many-Adults-Identify-as-Transgender-in-the-United-States.pdf>4

Andrew R. Flores et al., The Williams Institute, *Race and Ethnicity of Adults Who Identify as Transgender in the United States* (2016), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Race-and-Ethnicity-of-Transgender-Identified-Adults-in-the-US.pdf> 4-5

Gary J. Gates & Jody L. Herman, The Williams Institute, *Transgender Military Service in the United States* (2014), <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Transgender-Military-Service-May-2014.pdf>5

* Wylie C. Hembree et al., *Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline*, 102 J. Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism 3869 (2017).....13, 14

Michael L. Hendricks & Rylan J. Testa, *A Conceptual Framework for Clinical Work with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Clients: An Adaptation of the Minority Stress Model*, 43 Prof'l Psychol.: Research & Practice 460 (2012).....10

Darryl B. Hill et al., *An Affirmative Intervention for Families with Gender Variant Children: Parental Ratings of Child Mental Health and Gender*, 36 J. Sex & Marital Therapy 6 (2010).....11

Sandy E. James et al., National Center for Transgender Equality, *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey* (2016), <http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS%20Full%20Report%20-%20FINAL%201.6.17.pdf>5

* David A. Levine & Committee on Adolescence, American Academy of Pediatrics Technical Report, *Office-Based Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth*, 132 Pediatrics e297 (2013).....4, 12, 13

Colt Meier & Julie Harris, American Psychological Association, *Fact Sheet: Gender Diversity and Transgender Identity in Children*,

<http://www.apadivisions.org/division-44/resources/advocacy/transgender-children.pdf>.....7, 8

Francine Russo, *Is There Something Unique About the Transgender Brain?*, Sci. Am. (Jan. 1, 2016), <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/is-there-something-unique-about-the-transgender-brain/>.....8

Caitlin Ryan, Family Acceptance Project, *Supportive Families, Healthy Children: Helping Families with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Children* (2009), http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/FAP_English%20Booklet_pst.pdf6

Rebecca L. Stotzer et al., The Williams Institute, *Transgender Parenting: A Review of Existing Research* (2014), <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/parenting/transgender-parenting-oct-2014>5

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth* (2015), <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA15-4928/SMA15-4928.pdf>.....6, 10

Robert Wallace & Hershel Russell, *Attachment and Shame in Gender-Nonconforming Children and Their Families: Toward a Theoretical Framework for Evaluating Clinical Interventions*, 14 Int’l J. Transgenderism 113 (2013).....11

* World Professional Association for Transgender Health, *Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People* (7th Version, 2011), http://www.wpath.org/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpage_menu=1351&pk_association_webpage=46557, 11, 13, 14

Jessica Xavier et al, Va. Dep’t of Health, *The Health, Health-Related Needs, and Lifecourse Experiences of Transgender Virginians* (2007), <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/10/2016/01/THISFINALREPORTVol1.pdf>10

**STATEMENT OF IDENTITY, INTEREST, AND AUTHORITY TO FILE
OF *AMICI CURIAE*¹**

Amici are nine leading medical, nursing, and other health care organizations:

- American Academy of Nursing
- American College of Physicians
- American Medical Association
- American Medical Women’s Association
- American Nurses Association
- Endocrine Society
- GLMA—Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
- Mental Health America
- WPATH—World Professional Association for Transgender Health

Collectively, *amici* represent hundreds of thousands of physicians and mental health professionals, including specialists in family medicine, internal medicine, and endocrinology; and millions of nurses. *Amici* share a commitment to improving the physical and mental health of all Americans—regardless of gender identity—and to

¹ *Amici* hereby certify that no party’s counsel authored this brief in whole or in part, no party or party’s counsel contributed money intended to fund preparation or submission of this brief, and no person other than *amici* and their counsel contributed money intended to fund preparation or submission of the brief. Plaintiff-Appellee has consented to the filing of this brief. Defendant-Appellant has not responded to a request for consent. Accordingly, *amici* have moved the Court for leave to file this brief.

informing and educating lawmakers, the judiciary, and the public regarding the public health impacts of laws and policies.

Amici submit this brief to inform the Court of the medical consensus regarding what it means to be transgender and the protocols for the treatment of gender dysphoria.

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

1) Whether the district court erred in concluding that the Defendant-Appellant Jones's treatment of Plaintiff-Appellee Keohane's gender dysphoria violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Transgender individuals have a gender identity that is incongruent with the sex they were assigned at birth. The medical community's understanding of what it means to be transgender has advanced greatly over the past century. It is now understood that being transgender implies no impairment in a person's judgment, stability, or general social or vocational capabilities. According to recent estimates, approximately 1.4 million transgender adults live in the United States—0.6 percent of the adult population.

Many transgender individuals, like Plaintiff, have a condition called gender dysphoria, which is characterized by clinically significant distress and impairment of function resulting from the incongruence between one's gender identity and the

sex assigned at birth. If left untreated, gender dysphoria can result in serious harm. The international medical consensus regarding treatment for gender dysphoria is to assist the patient to live in accordance with his or her gender identity, thus alleviating the distress. Treatment may include the following: counseling, social transition (living one's life in accordance with one's gender identity through, *e.g.*, use of a new name and pronouns, clothes, and grooming most consistent with the individual's gender identity), hormone therapy and surgical interventions to align one's body with one's gender identity.

The District Court's findings of fact regarding gender dysphoria and the established standards of care for the treatment of gender dysphoria are fully consistent with the international medical consensus. Moreover, the specific treatments the District Court found medically necessary in this case—hormone therapy and access to gender-affirming clothing and grooming—are fully consistent with the internationally-accepted standards of care for the treatment of gender dysphoria.

ARGUMENT

I. What It Means To Be Transgender And To Suffer From Gender Dysphoria

Transgender individuals have a “gender identity”—a “deeply felt, inherent sense” of their gender—that is not aligned with the sex assigned to them at birth.²

Transgender people differ from cisgender (*i.e.*, non-transgender) individuals, whose gender identity aligns with the sex assigned at birth.³

Recent estimates suggest that approximately 1.4 million transgender adults live in the United States, or 0.6 percent of the adult population.⁴ That said, “population estimates likely underreport the true number of [transgender] people.”⁵

People of all different races and ethnicities identify as transgender.⁶ They live in

² Am. Psychol. Ass’n, *Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People*, 70 *Am. Psychologist* 832, 834 (2015) [**hereinafter** “**Am. Psychol. Ass’n Guidelines**”]; *see also* David A. Levine & Comm. on Adolescence, Am. Acad. of Pediatrics Technical Report, *Office-Based Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth*, 132 *Pediatrics* e297, 298 (2013) [**hereinafter** “**AAP Technical Report**”]. Although most people have a gender identity that is male or female, some individuals have a gender identity that is “a blend of male or female[,] or an alternative gender.” Am. Psychol. Ass’n Guidelines at 834.

³ Am. Psychol. Ass’n Guidelines, *supra*, at 861.

⁴ Andrew R. Flores et al., The Williams Inst., *How Many Adults Identify as Transgender in the United States?* 2 (2016), <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/How-Many-Adults-Identify-as-Transgender-in-the-United-States.pdf>.

⁵ Am. Psychol. Ass’n Guidelines, *supra*, at 832.

⁶ *See* Halley P. Crissman et al., *Transgender Demographics: A Household Probability Sample of US Adults*, 2014, 107 *Am. J. Pub. Health* 213, 214-15 (2017); Andrew R. Flores et al., The Williams Inst., *Race and Ethnicity of Adults Who Identify as Transgender in the United States* 2 (2016), <https://williamsinstitute.law>.

every state, serve in our military, and raise children.⁷ Gender identity is distinct from and does not predict sexual orientation; transgender people, like cisgender people, may identify as heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or asexual.⁸

The medical profession's understanding of gender has advanced considerably over the past fifty years. Throughout much of the twentieth century, individuals who were not gender conforming—that is, individuals whose gender expression did not conform to the sex they were assigned at birth—were often viewed as “perverse or deviant.”⁹ Practices during that period tried to “correct” this perceived deviance by attempting to force transgender people to live in accordance with the sex assigned

ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Race-and-Ethnicity-of-Transgender-Identified-Adults-in-the-US.pdf.

⁷ Gary J. Gates & Jody L. Herman, The Williams Inst., *Transgender Military Service in the United States* (2014), <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Transgender-Military-Service-May-2014.pdf>; Sandy E. James et al., Nat'l Center for Transgender Equality, *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey 2* (2016), <http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS%20Full%20Report%20-%20FINAL%201.6.17.pdf>; Rebecca L. Stotzer et al., The Williams Inst., *Transgender Parenting: A Review of Existing Research* (2014), <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/parenting/transgender-parenting-oct-2014>.

⁸ Am. Psychol. Ass'n Guidelines, *supra*, at 835-36; James et al., Nat'l Center for Transgender Equality, *Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*, *supra*, at 246.

⁹ Am. Psychol. Ass'n, *Report of the APA Task Force on Gender Identity and Gender Variance* 26-27 (2008), <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/policy/gender-identity-report.pdf> [**hereinafter “Am. Psychol. Ass'n Task Force Report”**].

to them at birth. These efforts failed and caused significant harm to the individuals subjected to them.¹⁰

Much as our professions recognize that homosexuality is a normal form of human sexuality—and that stigmatizing gay people causes significant harm—we now recognize that being transgender “implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities.”¹¹

A. Gender Identity

“[G]ender identity” refers to a person’s internal sense of being male, female, or another gender.¹² Every person has a gender identity,¹³ which cannot be altered

¹⁰ *Id.*; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Servs. Admin., *Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth* 13, 25 (2015), <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA15-4928/SMA15-4928.pdf>.

¹¹ Am. Psychiatric Ass’n, *Position Statement on Discrimination Against Transgender and Gender Variant Individuals* (2012), <https://psychiatry.org/File%20Library/About-APA/Organization-Documents-Policies/Policies/Position-2012-Transgender-Gender-Variant-Discrimination.pdf>.

¹² Am. Psychol. Ass’n, *Answers to Your Questions About Transgender People, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression* 1 (2014), <http://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/transgender.pdf>.

¹³ See Caitlin Ryan, Family Acceptance Project, *Supportive Families, Healthy Children: Helping Families with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Children*, 17 (2009), http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/FAP_English%20Booklet_pst.pdf.

voluntarily¹⁴ or ascertained immediately after birth.¹⁵ Many children develop stability in their gender identity between ages 3 and 4.¹⁶

“[G]ender expression refers to the way a person communicates gender identity to others through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, voice, or body characteristics.”¹⁷ There are many individuals who depart from stereotypical male and female appearances and roles, but who are not transgender.¹⁸ Indeed, most people who express their gender in a non-stereotypical or non-conforming manner are or become comfortable with the sex they were assigned at birth.¹⁹ In contrast, a transgender

¹⁴ Colt Meier & Julie Harris, Am. Psychol. Ass’n, *Fact Sheet: Gender Diversity and Transgender Identity in Children* 1, <http://www.apadivisions.org/division-44/resources/advocacy/transgender-children.pdf>; see also Am. Acad. of Pediatrics, *Gender Identity Development in Children* (2015), <https://healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/Pages/Gender-Identity-and-Gender-Confusion-In-Children.aspx>.

¹⁵ Am. Psychol. Ass’n Guidelines, *supra*, at 862.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 841. “Although gender identity is usually established in childhood, individuals may become aware that their gender identity is not in full alignment with sex assigned at birth in childhood, adolescence, or adulthood.” *Id.* at 836.

¹⁷ Am. Psychol. Ass’n, *Answers to Your Questions About Transgender People*, *supra*, at 1.

¹⁸ Ethan C. Cicero & Linda M. Wesp, *Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Transgender Students*, *J. Sch. Nursing* 1, 6 (2017).

¹⁹ World Prof’l Ass’n for Transgender Health, *Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People* 5 (7th Version, 2011), http://www.wpath.org/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpage_menu=1351&pk_association_webpage=4655 [**hereinafter “WPATH Standards of Care”**].

person “consistently, persistently, and insistentlly” identifies as a gender different than the sex they were assigned at birth.²⁰

Psychologists, psychiatrists, and neuroscientists are not certain why some people are transgender. Some research suggests there may be biological influences,²¹ including, for example, exposure of natal females to elevated levels of testosterone in the womb.²² Brain scans and neuroanatomical studies of transgender individuals may also support these biological explanations.²³

B. Gender Dysphoria

Being transgender “implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities.”²⁴ However, many transgender individuals are diagnosed with gender dysphoria, a condition that is characterized

²⁰ See Meier & Harris, Fact Sheet: *Gender Diversity and Transgender Identity in Children*, *supra*, at 1; see also Cicero & Wesp, *Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Transgender Students*, *supra*, at 6.

²¹ See Am. Acad. of Pediatrics, *Gender Non-Conforming & Transgender Children* (2015), <https://healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/Pages/Gender-Non-Conforming-Transgender-Children.aspx>; Peggy T. Cohen-Kettenis et al., *The Treatment of Adolescent Transsexuals: Changing Insights*, 5 J. Sexual Med. 1892, 1895 (2008).

²² Arianne B. Dessens et al., *Gender Dysphoria and Gender Change in Chromosomal Females with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia*, 34 Arch. Sexual Behav. 389, 395 (2005).

²³ See, e.g., Francine Russo, *Is There Something Unique About the Transgender Brain?* Sci. Am. (Jan. 1, 2016), <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/is-there-something-unique-about-the-transgender-brain>.

²⁴ Am. Psychiatric Ass’n, *Position Statement on Discrimination Against Transgender and Gender Variant Individuals*, *supra*.

by debilitating distress and anxiety resulting from the incongruence between an individual's gender identity and birth-assigned sex.²⁵

1. The Diagnostic Criteria And Seriousness Of Gender Dysphoria

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders codifies the diagnostic criteria for gender dysphoria in adolescents and adults as follows: “A marked incongruence between one’s experienced/expressed gender and assigned gender, of at least 6 months’ duration, as manifested by at least two” out of six criteria, and “clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.”²⁶ The six criteria include (1) “[a] marked incongruence between one’s experienced/expressed gender and primary and/or secondary sex characteristics”; (2) “[a] strong desire to be rid of one’s primary and/or secondary sex characteristics”; (3) “[a] strong desire for the primary and/or secondary sex characteristics of the other gender”; (4) “[a] strong desire to be of the other gender (or some alternative gender)”; (5) “[a] strong desire to be treated” as a gender different from one’s assigned gender; and (6) “[a] strong conviction that one has the typical feelings and reactions” of a different gender.²⁷

²⁵ Am. Psychiatric Ass’n, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* 451-53 (5th ed. 2013) [hereinafter “DSM-5”].

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.* at 452.

If untreated, gender dysphoria can contribute to debilitating distress, depression, impairment of function, substance use, self-mutilation to alter one's genitals or secondary sex characteristics, other self-injurious behaviors, and suicide.²⁸ Transgender individuals also are frequently subjected to prejudice and discrimination in multiple areas of their lives, which exacerbates these negative health outcomes.²⁹

2. The Accepted Treatment Protocols For Gender Dysphoria

Until the middle of the twentieth century, most mental health practitioners treated transgender people by attempting to make the patient's gender identity consistent with the sex assigned at birth.³⁰ There is no evidence that these methods alleviate gender dysphoria or that they can prevent someone from being transgender.³¹ To the contrary, they can "often result in substantial psychological

²⁸ See, e.g., DSM-5, *supra*, at 455, 458; Stephanie A. Brill & Rachel Pepper, *The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals* 202 (2008) (discussing risk of self-mutilation).

²⁹ Michael L. Hendricks & Rylan J. Testa, *A Conceptual Framework for Clinical Work with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Clients: An Adaptation of the Minority Stress Model*, 43 *Prof'l Psychol.: Research & Practice* 460 (2012); Jessica Xavier et al, Va. Dep't of Health, *The Health, Health-Related Needs, and Lifecourse Experiences of Transgender Virginians* (2007), <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/10/2016/01/THISFINALREPORTVol1.pdf>.

³⁰ Am. Psychol. Ass'n Guidelines, *supra*, at 835; Jack Drescher, *Queer Diagnoses: Parallels and Contrasts in the History of Homosexuality, Gender Variance, and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, 39 *Arch. Sexual Behav.* 427, 436-40 (2010).

³¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Servs. Admin., *Ending Conversion Therapy*, *supra*, at 26; Jack Drescher, *Controversies in Gender Diagnoses*, 1 *LGBT Health* 9, 12 (2013).

pain by reinforcing damaging internalized attitudes,”³² and can damage family relationships and individual functioning by increasing feelings of shame.³³

In the last few decades, transgender people suffering from gender dysphoria have gained widespread access to gender-affirming psychological and medical support.³⁴ For over 30 years, the generally-accepted treatment protocols for gender dysphoria³⁵ have been aimed at alleviating the distress associated with the incongruence between gender identity and birth-assigned sex.³⁶ These protocols are laid out in the *Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People (Version 7)* developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (“WPATH”).³⁷ Many of the major medical and mental health groups in the United States expressly recognize the WPATH

³² Am. Psychoanalytic Ass’n, *Position Statement on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression* (2012), <http://www.apsa.org/content/2012-position-statement-attempts-change-sexual-orientation-gender-identity-or-gender>.

³³ Darryl B. Hill et al., *An Affirmative Intervention for Families with Gender Variant Children: Parental Ratings of Child Mental Health and Gender*, 36 *J. Sex & Marital Therapy* 6, 10 (2010); Robert Wallace & Hershel Russell, *Attachment and Shame in Gender-Nonconforming Children and Their Families: Toward a Theoretical Framework for Evaluating Clinical Interventions*, 14 *Int’l J. Transgenderism* 113, 119-20 (2013).

³⁴ Am. Psychol. Ass’n Guidelines, *supra*, at 835; WPATH Standards of Care, *supra*, at 8-9.

³⁵ Earlier versions of the DSM used different terminology, *e.g.*, gender identity disorder, to refer to this condition. Am. Psychol. Ass’n Guidelines, *supra*, at 861.

³⁶ Am. Med. Ass’n, Comm. on Human Sexuality, *Human Sexuality* 38 (1972).

³⁷ WPATH Standards of Care, *supra*.

Standards of Care as representing the consensus of the medical and mental health community regarding the appropriate treatment for gender dysphoria.³⁸

The recommended treatment for transgender adults with gender dysphoria includes assessment, counseling, and, as appropriate, social transition, hormone therapy, and surgical interventions to bring the body into alignment with one's gender identity.³⁹ However, each patient requires an individualized treatment plan that accounts for the patient's specific needs.⁴⁰

³⁸ Am. Med. Ass'n, *Resolution on Removing Financial Barriers to Care for Transgender Patients* (2008), <http://www.imatyfa.org/assets/ama122.pdf>; Am. Psychol. Ass'n Task Force Report, *supra*, at 32; AAP Technical Report, *supra*, at 307-08.

³⁹ Am. Psychol. Ass'n Task Force Report, *supra*, at 32-39; Am. Psychol. Ass'n & Nat'l Ass'n of Sch. Psychologists, *Resolution on Gender and Sexual Orientation Diversity in Children and Adolescents in Schools* (2015), <http://www.apa.org/about/policy/orientation-diversity.aspx>; Am. Psychiatric Ass'n Workgroup on Treatment of Gender Dysphoria, *Assessment and Treatment of Gender Dysphoria and Gender Variant Patients: A Primer for Psychiatrists* 16-18 (2016); AAP Technical Report, *supra*, at 307-09. Some clinicians still offer versions of "reparative" or "conversion" therapy based on the idea that being transgender is a mental disorder. However, all of the leading medical professional organizations that have considered the issue have explicitly rejected such treatments. *See* Am. Med. Ass'n, Policy H-160.991, *Health Care Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Populations* (rev. 2016), <https://searchpf.ama-assn.org/SearchML/searchDetails.action?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-805.xml>; Am. Sch. Counselor Ass'n, *The School Counselor and LGBTQ Youth* (2016), https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/PositionStatements/PS_LGBTQ.pdf; Hillary Daniel et al., *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Disparities: Executive Summary of a Policy Position Paper from the American College of Physicians*, 163 *Annals Internal Med.* 135, 136 (2015); AAP Technical Report, *supra*, at 301; Am. Psychoanalytic Ass'n, *Position Statement on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression*, *supra*.

⁴⁰ Am. Psychol. Ass'n Task Force Report, *supra*, at 32.

Social transition—*i.e.*, living one’s life fully in accordance with one’s gender identity—is often a critically important part of treatment. This typically includes publicly identifying oneself as that gender; adopting a new name; using different pronouns; and grooming and dressing in a manner typically associated with one’s gender identity.⁴¹

For some adults and adolescents, hormone treatment to feminize or masculinize the body may be medically necessary to treat their gender dysphoria.⁴² *Amicus curiae* the Endocrine Society, the oldest and largest global professional membership organization representing the field of endocrinology, considers these treatments to be the standard of care for gender dysphoria.⁴³ A transgender boy undergoing hormone treatment, for example, will be exposed to the same levels of testosterone as other boys who go through male puberty; and just as they would in

⁴¹ AAP Technical Report, *supra*, at 308; Am. Psychol. Ass’n Guidelines, *supra*, at 840.

⁴² Am. Med. Ass’n, Policy H-185.950, *Removing Financial Barriers to Care for Transgender Patients* (rev. 2016), <https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/transgender?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-1128.xml>; Am. Psychol. Ass’n Guidelines, *supra*, at 861, 862; Madeline B. Deutsch, Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, University of California, San Francisco, *Guidelines for the Primary and Gender-Affirming Care of Transgender and Gender Nonbinary People* 23 (2d ed. 2016); WPATH Standards of Care, *supra*, at 33, 54.

⁴³ See Wylie C. Hembree et al., *Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline*, 102 J. Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism 3869, 3869-70 (2017); see also Alessandra D. Fisher et al., *Cross-Sex Hormone Treatment and Psychobiological Changes in Transsexual Persons: Two-Year Follow-Up Data*, 101 J. Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism 4260 (2016).

any other boy, these hormones will affect most of his major body systems.⁴⁴ Hormone treatment alters the appearance of the patient's genitals and produces secondary sex characteristics such as breast growth and decreased muscle mass in transgender girls and women, and increased muscle mass, increased facial hair, and a deepening of the voice in transgender boys and men.⁴⁵

Surgical interventions may also be an appropriate and medically necessary treatment for some patients. These procedures could include chest reconstruction surgery for transgender men, breast augmentation (*i.e.* implants) for transgender women, and genital surgery.⁴⁶ Studies show that these accepted treatments are effective in reducing gender dysphoria and improving mental health.⁴⁷

Ultimately—regardless of the particular treatments required for a specific individual and when such treatment begins—the goal is for individuals with gender dysphoria to experience “identity integration,” where “being transgender is no

⁴⁴ Hembree et al., *Endocrine Treatment of Gender Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons*, *supra*, at 3869, 3871; *see also* Brill & Pepper, *The Transgender Child*, *supra*, at 217.

⁴⁵ Hembree et al., *Endocrine Treatment of Gender Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons*, *supra*, at 3886-89.

⁴⁶ Hembree et al., *Endocrine Treatment of Gender Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons*, *supra*, at 3893-94; *see also* WPATH Standards of Care, *supra*, at 57-58.

⁴⁷ William Byne et al., *Report of the American Psychiatric Association Task Force on Treatment of Gender Identity Disorder*, 41 *Arch. Sexual Behav.* 759, 778-79 (2012); Annelou L.C. de Vries, *Young Adult Psychological Outcome After Puberty Suppression and Gender Reassignment*, 134 *Pediatrics* 696 (2014).

longer the most important signifier of one's identity" and the individual can refocus on other aspects of life.⁴⁸

II. The District Court's Medical Factual Findings are Fully Consistent with the International Medical Consensus.

The District Court's decision is based in significant part on factual findings regarding gender dysphoria, the treatment protocols for gender dysphoria, and the treatments that are medically necessary for Plaintiff. As Section I above makes clear, the District Court's factual findings regarding gender dysphoria and its generally-accepted treatment protocols—the WPATH Standards of Care—are fully consistent with the international medical consensus. Doc. 171 at 5-9. In addition, the specific treatments the District Court found medically necessary for Plaintiff—hormone therapy and access to gender-affirming clothing and grooming—are well-established treatments within the WPATH Standards of Care.

* * *

Without appropriate treatment—including, as needed based on an individualized assessment, hormone therapy and access to clothing and grooming standards consistent with their gender identity—transgender inmates with gender

⁴⁸ Walter Bockting & Eli Coleman, *Developmental Stages of the Transgender Coming-Out Process: Toward an Integrated Identity*, in *Principles of Transgender Medicine and Surgery* 137, 153 (Randi Ettner, Stan Monstrey & Eli Coleman eds., 2d ed. 2016).

dysphoria will be deprived of medically necessary care, causing myriad harms to their health and overall well-being.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, *amici* respectfully urge this Court to affirm the District Court's order enjoining Defendants from reenacting and enforcing Former Procedure 602.053, and requiring Defendants to permit Plaintiff access to female clothing and grooming standards and to continue providing Plaintiff, while she remains in Defendant's custody, hormone therapy so long as it is not medically contraindicated.

Dated: January 9, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

JENNER & BLOCK LLP

/s/ Kenneth L. Doroshow

Kenneth L. Doroshow
Counsel of Record
1099 New York Ave. NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-6000
kdoroshow@jenner.com

Counsel for Amici Curiae

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I hereby certify that this document complies with the word limit of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29(a)(5) because, excluding the parts of the document exempted by Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(f), this document contains fewer than 3,388 words, and that this document complies with the typeface requirements of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(a)(5) and the type-style requirements of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(a)(6).

/s/ Kenneth L. Doroshow

Kenneth L. Doroshow
JENNER & BLOCK LLP
1099 New York Avenue NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: (202) 639-6000
kdoroshow@jenner.com
Counsel for Amici Curiae

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 9, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing *amici curiae* brief with the Clerk of the Court by using the CM/ECF system. I certify that all participants in the case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the CM/ECF system.

Dated: January 9, 2019

/s/ Kenneth L. Doroshow

Kenneth L. Doroshow
JENNER & BLOCK LLP
1099 New York Ave. NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-6000
kdoroshow@jenner.com

Counsel for Amici Curiae