

APPENDIX TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement of Jonathon Skinner	1a
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STATEMENT OF JONATHON SKINNER

My name is Jonathon Skinner and I am 21 years old. I was transitioned when I was 13 years old because I was a gender non-conforming boy who was drawn to other boys.

As a child, I admired female pop stars, loved to dance and sing, and play house. These interests were always very offensive to the men around me, both in my family and in school. There were a few incidents in preschool where I was in huge trouble for holding a boy's hand. Between that and my dislike for rough and tumble play, my school held to the idea that I didn't understand "proper behavior." This description became a label that stuck to me throughout all of my years in school. My grandfather, brother, and uncle did not take well to my developing "effeminate" personality. It was fairly normal for me to be mocked for the way I walked, talked, just the general way I carried myself. They often got frustrated with me for "acting like a sissy." I was mocked with gay and AIDS jokes since I was about 5 years old, called a "fag," and lost friends because of that. The constant bullying at school and at home caused me to become a very anxious and isolated kid very early on.

When I was around 12 years old, I stumbled across transgender influencers on social media who appeared to have early life experiences similar to mine, but now appeared to be celebrated as "women." They talked about how much transition improved their lives, by not being a target of homophobia. My tutor at the time, Hailey, who was in her early 20s, was transitioning

App.2a

female-to-male for similar reasons, a butch lesbian transitioning to become a “straight man.” I had talked to her about some of my struggles and she encouraged the idea that transitioning was the right path for me.

After I turned 13, I came out to my family as trans, my mum was accepting, and the rest thought transitioning would be better for me than being a gay man. Hailey referred us to the gender services program where she was getting treatment, and we went there.

During my first appointment, W, a gender therapist immediately supported the idea that life would be easier for me if I transitioned to “female.” She said that I had an inborn “feminine essence” and that’s why I was always so different, because I had a girl’s brain in a boy’s body, and transitioning would align my brain with my body, and help me avoid all the discrimination that gay men experience. I could find a husband who loves me for me without having to worry about “manning up.” I thought of the transgender personalities on social media who seemed happy with their transition and thought this was finally the answer to all my problems. I could just blend in as a “straight girl.”

W then told my mother that if she didn’t agree to the treatments, I would become so depressed that I would eventually kill myself, and asked her if she would rather have a dead son or a living daughter. After just 2 or 3 visits, W introduced us to Doctor S, a nationally prominent gender doctor, and I was medicalized right away. Dr S also repeated that my life would become much easier after transitioning, and that this was life saving treatment.

App.3a

After a few weeks on hormone therapy I started having frequent fainting spells and was switched from spironolactone to puberty blockers. I was told that sterilization is a possible side effect and was asked if I wanted to save my sperm. I was only 13 years old. It felt very icky, and I said no.

Within weeks I started having severe muscle pains, spasms, nausea, hot flashes affecting even sleep, extreme breast tenderness and fluid leakage, erectile dysfunction, anorgasmia, full body rashes, hematuria, near complete loss of appetite and nausea after eating, and muscle weakness. But Dr. S. casted doubt that these sudden symptoms were side effects of the blockers, and encouraged the hope that my life will improve and I will fit in once I have transitioned fully.

Although, I was on the blocker for only a brief time and estrogen for 7 years, my body has never fully recovered. My body has not grown and developed as it otherwise would have. I still suffer from numerous side effects that are not well understood and for which there is no known treatment.

Now that I am 21 and out in the world, I see that being gay is not anything like I was told. If I just had one counselor who told me that nothing was wrong with me for just being me, it would have changed my life positively. I would have learned to accept myself and grown out of my awkward stage just like other gay men. Instead, I was told that my body was wrong and needed to change to be acceptable. I was physically and psychologically deprived of the possibility to develop freely and become myself, and I will never be able to express myself as a gay man. In fact, I

App.4a

have been deprived of having any sexual expression for the rest of my life.

I affirm under penalty of perjury that facts set forth in this statement are true and accurate.

Date: 10/5/24
Jonathon Skinner
Jonathon Skinner

Date: 10/5/24

/s/ Jonathon Skinner
Jonathon Skinner