

# MEANING, MORALITY, AND MEDICALLY ASSISTED GENDER CROSSING

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# What my doctors helped me get:





# And...



# TODAY'S THEMES

- I. Medicine, Keeping Gates, and Crossing Gender: Revolutionary Practices, Reassuring Narratives
  - Subtheme; The Best of Times, the Worst of Times
- II. “Keeping them from Harm and Injustice”: Ordinary Health Care as Social Advocacy

# The Natural Attitude toward Gender

There are two and only two genders

One's gender is invariant

Genitals are the essential sign of gender

Any exceptions to two genders are not taken seriously

No (nonceremonial) gender transfers

Everyone must be assigned to one or the other gender.

*Kessler and McKenna (1978;2004)*

# The “Paradox” of Medically Assisted Gender Crossing

- A revolutionary and effective response to a significant form of human distress.
- It downplayed the radical nature of its own achievement to conserve, and and even reinforce, widely shared, deeply entrenched beliefs and attitudes about gender that were called into question by its very success.

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# Sarah McBride addresses the DNC



Just your run-of-the-mill transwoman





White, cisgender man wins again!



And then, there is this...

"This is not the first time that we have seen discriminatory responses to historic moments of progress for our nation. We saw it in the Jim Crow laws that followed the Emancipation Proclamation. We saw it in fierce and widespread resistance to *Brown v. Board of Education*."

**LORETTA LYNCH**



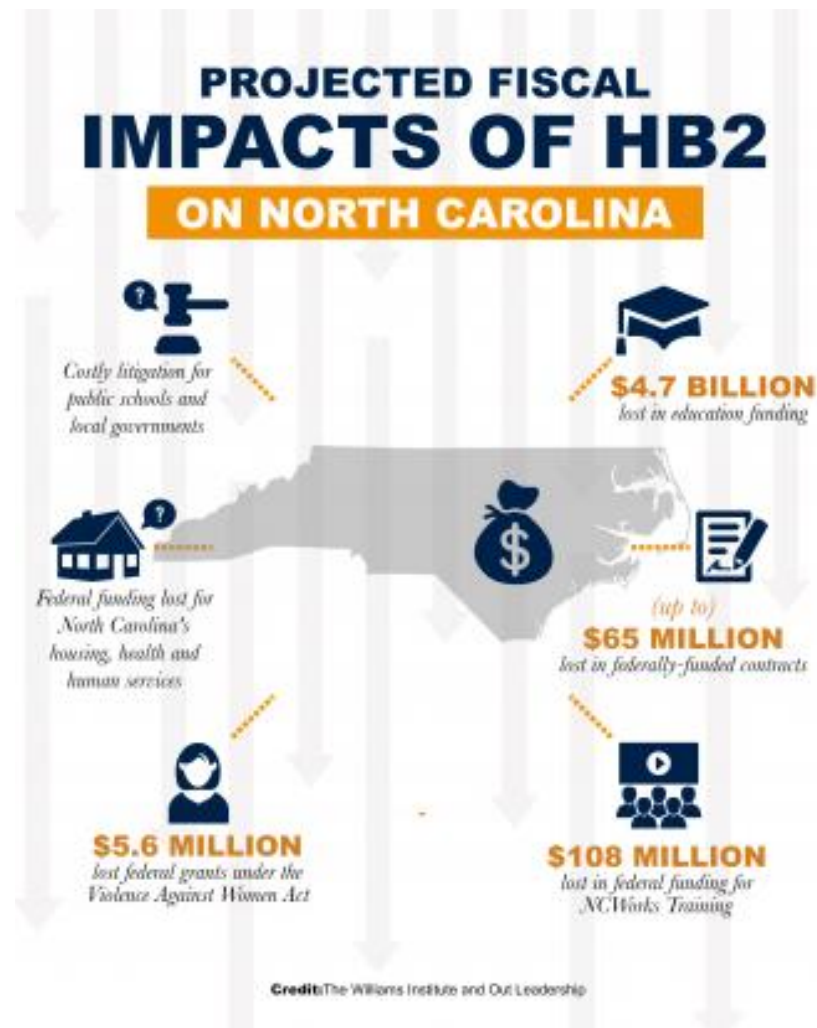
# And then, there is this:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMqK-VBwl4c>

# TG Population and Suicide Attempt Data

- Estimated US Population; 1.4 million (Williams Institute, UCLA Law School)
- 41% of a sample of 6450 TG and gender nonconforming people reported having attempted suicide; (National Center for Transgender Equality).

# NC HB 2: What Price the Binary?





# Is 'Gender Dysphoria' a Disease?

- 1 Refers to a variety of phenomena
2. Not clear that GD itself is a cause of suffering;
- 3; One's gender identity might inform and be informed by one's overall 'sense of life'; One's overall sense of life may not be the kind of thing to be explained reductively.
4. Apart from the desire to live as women or men, TG people can otherwise seem robustly mentally healthy.

# Medical care for the healthy

- Elective Cosmetic surgery?
  - Justified by Pt informed consent solely;
  - Fundamental motivation may seem too instrumental
  - What one chooses is worthy of choice because it is chosen (competently)
- Obstetricians?
  - Pregnancy not a disease, but oftentimes medical assistance is both wise and wanted.
  - Fundamental motivations and impact: Substantial revisions of course of life.
  - Screening and gatekeeping not required for access to care;

# Kyler Prescott (2000-2015)



# Thanks for your time, and your thought!

- I'm grateful for the opportunity to come to UT Southwestern and discuss these important questions with you all.

# Some Bibliographic Resources

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