

**Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB 214:**

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven, CT and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. These are my personal views and do not reflect those of my employer.

I am writing in **support** of SB 214.

Access to gender-affirming care can be a lifesaving measure for [transgender or gender diverse youth](#). The American Academy of Pediatrics published a [policy statement in 2017](#) which supports gender-affirming care. The statement was [reaffirmed in 2023](#) in light of multiple states enacting laws that restrict care. Research has shown that transgender youth are at increased risk of multiple mental health disorders including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, self-harm, and suicide. However [further research](#) has shown that when youth receive gender-affirming care, there may be a decrease in mental health disorders such as depression and suicide. When transgender or gender diverse youth do not have access to gender-affirming care, [there may be negative health consequences](#).

Therefore, passing of SB 214 would greatly benefit CT's transgender and gender diverse youth.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please reach out with questions.

Sincerely,

**Molly Markowitz, MD FAAP**

Chair, Advocacy Committee

CT American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter

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