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# H. R. 5483

To prohibit health care professionals, hospitals, or clinics from participating in the chemical or surgical mutilation of a child and to provide a private right of action for children and the parents of children whose healthy body parts have been damaged by medical professionals practicing chemical and surgical mutilation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. ONDER (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To prohibit health care professionals, hospitals, or clinics from participating in the chemical or surgical mutilation of a child and to provide a private right of action for children and the parents of children whose healthy body parts have been damaged by medical professionals practicing chemical and surgical mutilation.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Chloe Cole Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

4       In this Act:

5           (1) **CHEMICAL OR SURGICAL MUTILATION.**—

6               (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “chemical or  
7               surgical mutilation” means engaging in any one  
8               or more of the following for the purpose of in-  
9               tentionally halting the natural development of  
10              the individual’s body so that it no longer cor-  
11              responds to the individual’s sex or intentionally  
12              changing the individual’s body, including the in-  
13              dividual’s external appearance or biological  
14              functions, to no longer correspond to the indi-  
15              vidual’s sex:

16                   (i) The use of puberty blockers, in-  
17                   cluding gonadotropin releasing hormone  
18                   agonists and other interventions, to delay  
19                   the onset or progression of normally timed  
20                   puberty in an individual.

21                   (ii) The use of sex hormones, such as  
22                   androgen blockers, estrogen, progesterone,  
23                   or testosterone.

24                   (iii) Surgical procedures that attempt  
25                   to transform an individual’s physical ap-

1           pearance or that attempt to alter or re-  
2           move an individual's sexual organs.

3           (B) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not in-  
4           clude any of the following:

5                   (i) Appropriate and medically nec-  
6                   essary procedures to treat a verifiable dis-  
7                   order of sexual development, including an  
8                   individual born with 46 XX chromosomes  
9                   with virilization, with 46 XY chromosomes  
10                  with undervirilization, or having both ovar-  
11                  ian and testicular tissue.

12                  (ii) The treatment of any infection, in-  
13                  jury, disease, or disorder that has been  
14                  caused or exacerbated by the performance  
15                  of an intervention described in subpara-  
16                  graph (A) without regard to whether the  
17                  intervention was performed in accordance  
18                  with State or Federal law or whether the  
19                  intervention is covered by the private right  
20                  of action under section 4.

21                  (iii) Any intervention undertaken be-  
22                  cause the individual suffers from any diag-  
23                  nosed and verifiable condition of the body's  
24                  organ systems, including the following:

1 (I) Traumatic bodily injuries  
2 (such as fractures, organ rupture, or  
3 penetrating trauma).

4 (II) Congenital structural anomalies  
5 of major organs or systems, including  
6 the cardiovascular, respiratory,  
7 renal, hepatic, neurological,  
8 or musculoskeletal systems.

9 (III) Acute illnesses with a high  
10 probability of rapid mortality.

11 (iv) Detransition treatment.

12 (2) CHILD.—The term “child” means an individual  
13 under 18 years of age.

14 (3) DETRANSITION TREATMENT.—The term  
15 “detransition treatment” means any treatment, including  
16 a mental health treatment, medical intervention,  
17 or surgery, that does either or both of the following:  
18

19 (A) Stops or reverses the effects of a prior  
20 chemical or surgical mutilation.

21 (B) Helps an individual cope with the effects  
22 of a prior chemical or surgical mutilation.

23 (4) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.—The term  
24 “health care professional” means a person, including  
25 a physician, who is licensed, certified, or otherwise

1 authorized by the laws of a State to administer  
2 health care in the ordinary course of the practice of  
3 his or her profession or performing such acts which  
4 require such licensure.

5 (5) MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.—The  
6 term “mental health professional” means a person  
7 who is licensed to diagnose and treat mental health  
8 conditions in a State.

9 (6) PARTICIPATE.—The term “participate”,  
10 with respect to acts constituting chemical or surgical  
11 mutilation as defined in paragraph (1), means di-  
12 rectly engaging in the planning, authorization, pre-  
13 scription, administration, or performance of any  
14 such act, including any of the following:

15 (A) Prescribing puberty blockers, sex hor-  
16 mones, or related medications with the intent to  
17 alter an individual’s physical appearance or re-  
18 productive function to align with an identity  
19 differing from his or her sex.

20 (B) Administering medications or treat-  
21 ments described in subparagraph (A) with such  
22 intent, whether by injection, oral delivery, or  
23 other means.

24 (C) Performing surgical procedures that  
25 attempt to transform an individual’s physical

1 appearance to confirm a patient’s physical ap-  
2 pearance to be of the alternate sex, or that alter  
3 or remove sexual organs as part of chemical or  
4 surgical mutilation.

5 (D) Authorizing or directing such chemical  
6 or surgical mutilation procedures as a super-  
7 vising health care professional or institutional  
8 representative.

9 (E) Knowingly planning or coordinating  
10 the provision of treatments or procedures de-  
11 scribed above in subparagraph (A), (C), or (D)  
12 with the intent to facilitate chemical or surgical  
13 mutilation.

14 (7) SEX.—The term “sex” means a person’s  
15 immutable biological classification, determined at the  
16 moment of conception, as either male or female, as  
17 follows:

18 (A) The term “female” is a person who  
19 naturally has, had, will have, or would have but  
20 for a congenital anomaly or intentional or unin-  
21 tentional disruption, the reproductive system  
22 that produces, transports, and utilizes the large  
23 gamete (ova) for fertilization.

24 (B) The term “male” is a person who nat-  
25 urally has, had, will have, or would have but for

1 a congenital anomaly or intentional or unintentional  
2 disruption, the reproductive system that  
3 produces, transports, and utilizes the small gamete  
4 (sperm) for fertilization.

5 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON CHEMICAL OR SURGICAL MUTILATION.**  
6

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—No health care professional, hospital,  
8 or clinic shall, in a circumstance described in subsection  
9 (b), participate in the chemical or surgical mutilation  
10 of a child, and a health care professional, hospital,  
11 or clinic may commence participation in a treatment that  
12 qualifies as an exception specified in clauses (i) through  
13 (iv) of section 2(1)(B) only after determining that clear  
14 and convincing evidence supports a determination that the  
15 treatment so qualifies.

16 (b) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—The circumstances  
17 described in this subsection are that—

18 (1) the defendant or child traveled in interstate  
19 or foreign commerce, or traveled using a means,  
20 channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or  
21 foreign commerce, in furtherance of or in connection  
22 with the participation in the chemical or surgical  
23 mutilation;

24 (2) the defendant used a means, channel, facility,  
25 or instrumentality of interstate or foreign com-

1       merce in furtherance of or in connection with the  
2       participation in the chemical or surgical mutilation;

3           (3) any payment of any kind was made, directly  
4       or indirectly, in furtherance of or in connection with  
5       the participation in the chemical or surgical mutila-  
6       tion using any means, channel, facility, or instru-  
7       mentality of interstate or foreign commerce or in or  
8       affecting interstate or foreign commerce;

9           (4) the defendant transmitted in interstate or  
10       foreign commerce any communication relating to or  
11       in furtherance of the participation in the chemical or  
12       surgical mutilation using any means, channel, facil-  
13       ity, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign com-  
14       merce or in or affecting interstate or foreign com-  
15       merce by any means or in any manner, including by  
16       computer, mail, wire, or electromagnetic trans-  
17       mission;

18           (5) any instrument, item, substance, or other  
19       object that has traveled in interstate or foreign com-  
20       merce was used to perform the chemical or surgical  
21       mutilation;

22           (6) the chemical or surgical mutilation occurred  
23       within the District of Columbia, the special maritime  
24       and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or  
25       any territory or possession of the United States; or



1           (7) the chemical or surgical mutilation other-  
2       wise occurred in or affected interstate or foreign  
3       commerce.

4   **SEC. 4. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—An individual subjected as a child  
6   to chemical or surgical mutilation prohibited by section 3,  
7   or the parents or legal guardians of such individual, may  
8   bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the  
9   United States for damages against any health care profes-  
10   sional, hospital, or clinic, who participates in the chemical  
11   or surgical mutilation of that child. Such a cause of action  
12   shall be available regardless of whether the alleged chem-  
13   ical or surgical mutilation occurred before, on, or after the  
14   date of enactment of this Act.

15       (b) DAMAGES.—Damages available pursuant to such  
16   an action may include—

17           (1) compensatory damages, including all eco-  
18       nomic damages associated with undoing, correcting,  
19       or ameliorating the effects or results of any chemical  
20       or surgical mutilation procedures;

21           (2) non-economic damages for emotional dis-  
22       tress and pain and suffering; and

23           (3) punitive damages, if the claimant proves by  
24       clear and convincing evidence that the defendant

1       against whom punitive damages are sought acted  
2       maliciously, intentionally, fraudulently, or recklessly.

3       (c) **STRICT LIABILITY.**—Any health care profes-  
4       sional, hospital, or clinic whose participation in the chem-  
5       ical or surgical mutilation of a child after the date of en-  
6       actment of this Act is proven by clear and convincing evi-  
7       dence shall be strictly liable for damages for any such act  
8       of mutilation. If a treatment qualifies under an exception  
9       specified in clauses (i) through (iv) of section 2(1)(B), and  
10      that is raised as an affirmative defense to a violation of  
11      this Act, the health care professional, hospital, or clinic  
12      shall bear the burden of proving by clear and convincing  
13      evidence that such exception applies.

14   **SEC. 5. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

15       In this Act:

16           (1) No private right of action is established  
17       based on counseling, referrals to mental health pro-  
18       fessionals, or discussions of treatment options, in-  
19       cluding counseling, referrals, or options available  
20       upon reaching adulthood, or in circumstances not  
21       described in section 3(b), provided by health care  
22       professionals, or mental health professionals, pro-  
23       vided that such actions do not constitute participa-  
24       tion in chemical or surgical mutilation, as defined in  
25       section 2.

1           (2) No liability for a health care professional  
2           under these provisions may be waived.

3           (3) Any ambiguities shall be resolved against  
4           any party found to have engaged in participation, as  
5           defined in section 2(6), in the chemical or surgical  
6           mutilation of a child.

7           (4) In any cases in which chemical or surgical  
8           mutilation of a child is shown to have occurred be-  
9           fore the date of enactment of this Act, there is lim-  
10          ited deference to prevailing standards of care to the  
11          extent that such standards contradict the intent of  
12          this Act and it is shown that the health care profes-  
13          sional knew or should have known that such stand-  
14          ards of care were in serious, scientific, and medical  
15          dispute at the time of the chemical or surgical muti-  
16          lation.

17          (5) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to  
18          prohibit a health care professional or mental health  
19          professional from providing information about all  
20          available treatment options, discussing risks and  
21          benefits, or expressing professional medical opinions,  
22          so long as such actions do not constitute participa-  
23          tion in chemical or surgical mutilation.

1   **SEC. 6. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**

2           An action under section 4 may be brought within 25  
3 years from the date of the eighteenth birthday of an indi-  
4 vidual subjected to chemical or surgical mutilation as a  
5 child or within 4 years from the time the cost of a  
6 detransition treatment is incurred, whichever date is later.

7   **SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY.**

8           If any provision of this Act, or the application of such  
9 a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be  
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, and the appli-  
11 cation of the provision held to be unconstitutional to any  
12 other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

