

April 17, 2016

Pat McCrory  
Governor of North Carolina

Dear Governor McCrory:

As North Carolinians and Pediatricians with specialty training in Endocrinology, we respectfully request that you reconsider Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act (HB2).

A law that defines biological sex as “the physical condition of being male or female, which is stated on a person's birth certificate” is inherently flawed and potentially harmful to a group of children that we care for in our pediatric practices. As professional experts in the field of chromosomes and genital anatomy, we provide professional consultation to our colleagues on babies in whom assigning sex may not be possible at the time of birth. For example, there are babies born in whom chromosomes suggesting one sex do not match the appearance of the genitalia. This can be due to multiple biological causes such as chromosome abnormalities, abnormalities in anatomic development, environmental exposures during pregnancy, genetic mutations in the synthesis and actions of adrenal and gonadal hormones, and tumors that make sex hormones. For these children, gender assignment at birth is challenging and takes substantial time- sometimes requiring re-evaluation over months to years. Severe hormonal imbalances at birth may also result in gender assignments at the time of the birth that may require reassignment later in life.

Our patients already face major medical and social challenges and HB2 creates unnecessary hardship for these vulnerable youth. We respectfully ask you to repeal this hurtful bill.

Respectfully,

**Deanna W.Adkins, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and  
Diabetes  
Duke University Medical Center

**Evelyn Artz, MD**  
Pediatric Endocrinology  
Mission Children’s Specialties  
Mission Children’s Hospital

**Robert Benjamin, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and  
Diabetes  
Duke University Medical Center

**Ali S. Calikoglu, MD**  
Professor of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Disclaimer: We write to express our professional and personal opinions and do not speak on behalf of our institutions (University of North Carolina, Duke University, Brenner Children's Hospital Wake Forest University Baptist Health, Mission Children’s Hospital, New Hanover regional Medical Center). The petitioners are in alphabetical order.

**Cathrine Constantacos, MD**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Section of Pediatric Endocrinology  
Wake Forest Baptist Health  
Brenner Children's Hospital

**Elizabeth Estrada, MD**

Clinical Professor of Pediatrics  
Chief, Division of Pediatric Endocrinology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Nancy E. Friedman MD**

Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and  
Diabetes  
Duke University Medical Center

**Nina Jain, MD**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Jennifer Law, MD, MSCR**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Shipra Patel, MD**

Adjunct Faculty of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Robert Schwartz, MD**

Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics  
Section of Pediatric Endocrinology  
Wake Forest Baptist Health  
Brenner Children's Hospital

**A. Joseph D'Ercole, MD**

Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Michael Freemark, MD**

Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Professor of  
Pediatrics  
Chief, Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and  
Diabetes  
Duke University Medical Center

**Pinar Gumus Balikcioglu, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and  
Diabetes  
Duke University Medical Center

**Kateryna Kotlyarevska, MD**

Pediatric Endocrinology  
New Hanover Regional Medical Center

**Nancie MacIver, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and  
Diabetes  
Duke University Medical Center

**Elizabeth Sandberg, MD**

Incoming Fellow  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Maureen A. Su, MD**

Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Endocrinology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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**Bradly Thrasher, DO**

Fellow

Division of Pediatric Endocrinology

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Lory Wagner, MD**

Pediatric Endocrinology

Mission Children's Specialties

Mission Children's Hospital

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