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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

MATT GALLIVAN, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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www.help.senate.gov

March 24, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Carol Lange, Ph.D.

President

The Endocrine Society

2055 L Street NW, Suite 600

Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Lange:

Last Congress, I launched an investigation into professional organizations promoting the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and irreversible gender transition surgeries on minors.¹ To that end, I sent a letter to the Endocrine Society requesting information on its clinical practice guidelines, “Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline,” for treating children and adolescents suffering from “gender dysphoria.”²

Although the Endocrine Society provided responses on November 12, 2024, to my letter dated October 9, 2024, some questions remain outstanding. Additionally, I have questions on the development of clinical practice guidelines and its partnership with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health’s (WPATH) and other professional organizations that promote gender transition procedures in children and adolescents. In my prior letters to WPATH and the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP), I raised alarm regarding efforts by the Biden administration, particularly Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) former Assistant Secretary Admiral Levine and staff, to remove age limits for adolescent surgeries including

¹ Press Release, S. Comm. on Health, Labor, Educ., & Pensions, Ranking Member Cassidy Launches Investigation into Medical Organizations Promoting Puberty Blockers, Gender Transition Procedures for Children Against Scientific Data (Oct. 10, 2024), <https://www.help.senate.gov/rep/newsroom/press/ranking-member-cassidy-launches-investigation-into-medical-organizations-promoting-puberty-blockers-gender-transition-procedures-for-children-against-scientific-data>.

² Letter from Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chairman, S. Comm. on Health, Labor, Educ., & Pensions, to Kate Fryer, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, Endocrine Society (Oct. 9, 2024), <https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09-letter-from-bc-to-endocrine-society-re-cass-review-and-clinical-practice-guidelinepdf.pdf>.

mastectomies, breast augmentation, facial surgeries, genital surgeries, and hysterectomies, from WPATH's Standards of Care (SOC-8).³

According to the *New York Times*, emails exchanged between WPATH and Admiral Levine's staff raised concerns that keeping the age limits would result in setbacks to the progress made to the "fight against the conservative anti-trans agenda."⁴ As a result, the WPATH SOC-8, released in 2022, ultimately removed the age limits for these procedures.⁵ My October 2024 letter highlighted the Endocrine Society's close relationship with WPATH, specifically related to WPATH's input to drafts of the Endocrine Society's guidelines and adoption of the Endocrine Society's recommendations.⁶

Since taking office, President Trump has delivered on his promise to protect American children and families from the reckless decisions of medical organizations and interest groups that claim to act based on "science" and in the best interests of children.⁷ I also applaud HHS for taking decisive action against providers and other entities that violate the President's Executive Order.⁸

Gender transition treatments and surgeries, particularly in children and adolescents, are highly consequential. They are irreversible, with damaging, long lasting side-effects that affect a child or adolescent's immediate physical, mental, and emotional development and their future wellbeing as an adult. I was pleased to note recent statements issued by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Medical Association backing limitations on gender-related surgical procedures for minors.⁹ To date, the Endocrine Society has not issued a similar statement.

³ See generally Letter from Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chairman, S. Comm. on Health, Labor, Educ., & Pensions, to Marci Bowers, M.D., President, WPATH (Oct. 9, 2024), [https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09 letter from bc to wpath re cass review and standards of care.pdf](https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09%20letter%20from%20bc%20to%20wpath%20re%20cass%20review%20and%20standards%20of%20care.pdf); Letter from Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chairman, S. Comm. on Health, Labor, Educ., & Pensions, to Mark Del Monte, J.D., Chief Executive Officer/Exec. Vice President, Am. Academy of Pediatrics (Oct. 9, 2024), [https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09 letter from bc to american academy of pediatrics re cass review and 2018 policy statement.pdf](https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09%20letter%20from%20bc%20to%20american%20academy%20of%20pediatrics%20re%20cass%20review%20and%202018%20policy%20statement.pdf).

⁴ Azeen Ghorayshi, *Biden Officials Pushed to Remove Age Limits for Trans Surgery, Documents Show*, N.Y. TIMES (June 25, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/25/health/transgender-minors-surgeries.html>.

⁵ E. Coleman et al., *Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People, Version 8* 23 INT'L J. TRANSGENDER HEALTH 1-259 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644>.

⁶ Letter from Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chairman, S. Comm. on Health, Labor, Educ., & Pensions, to Kate Fryer, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, Endocrine Society (Oct. 9, 2024), [https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09 letter from bc to endocrine society re cass review and clinical practice guideline.pdf](https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09%20letter%20from%20bc%20to%20endocrine%20society%20re%20cass%20review%20and%20clinical%20practice%20guideline.pdf).

⁷ Exec. Order No. 14187, Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation, 90 Fed. Reg. 8771 (2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/03/2025-02194/protecting-children-from-chemical-and-surgical-mutilation>.

⁸ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Health and Human Serv., HHS Acts to Bar Hospitals from Performing Sex-Rejecting Procedures on Children (Dec. 18, 2025), <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-acts-bar-hospitals-performing-sex-rejecting-procedures-children.html>.

⁹ Andrew Jacobs, *Doctors' Group Endorses Restrictions on Gender-Related Surgery for Minors*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/04/health/gender-surgery-minors-ama.html>.

As a physician and Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, I am deeply committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in matters related to public health. Americans have every right to know the scientific rigor supporting guidelines issued by your organization, particularly given that these guidelines are widely used and relied upon by physicians and healthcare providers, and patients, including minors.

Therefore, to cooperate with the Committee's ongoing investigation, please provide the requested responses (including related documents, records, and communications) on a **question-by-question** basis **by Tuesday, April 7, 2026**. For the production of documents and communications, we ask that these be **unredacted** and Bates stamped.

A. Outstanding questions from the Endocrine Society's November 12, 2024, response to my letter dated October 9, 2024.

1. Please provide the name(s) and title(s) of each individual involved in creating the 2017 guidelines.
2. Please state how it was possible for the Endocrine Society to measure its 2017 guidelines in improving "health outcomes" given that there continues to be a lack of high-quality evidence to support gender transition procedures in children and adolescents.
3. Please produce *unredacted* copies of all records, including agendas, minutes, electronic communications, and electronic recordings, for Endocrine Society Board of Directors meetings related in any way to gender transition procedures from 2017 to the present. Materials produced under Bates stamps ENDO_00000543 - ENDO_00000561 in November 2024 were heavily redacted.

B. Additional Questions

4. In 2024, the Endocrine Society announced a review of its clinical guidelines for gender transition treatments.¹⁰ In your November 12 response, you provided an anticipated publication in Spring 2026. However, the Endocrine Society's website states these guidelines are still "[i]n development."¹¹

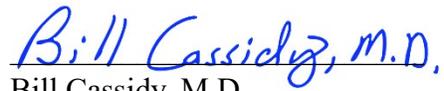
¹⁰ Jen Christensen, *First on CNN: Major Medical Society Re-Examines Clinical Guidelines for Gender-Affirming Care*, CNN (Feb. 26, 2024), <https://www.cnn.com/2024/02/26/health/endocrine-society-gender-affirming-care-guidelines/index.html>.

¹¹ Endocrine Society, *Guidelines in Development* (Jan. 25, 2023), <https://www.endocrine.org/clinical-practice-guidelines/guidelines-in-development> (last accessed Mar. 20, 2026).

- a. Please provide an update on the process and proposed timetable for reevaluation, including the expected publication of this review since your last response to the Committee.
 - b. Please provide details on the methodology and any preliminary findings of this review.
 - c. Please provide details on contributing partners and advisors to this review.
5. Please provide all communications, including but not limited to emails, internal messages, calendar invitations, meeting notes, text messages, and social media messages (herein, collectively, “communications”), and all documents, including but not limited to memoranda, presentations, reports, and records (herein, collectively, “documents”), between the Endocrine Society and Admiral Levine, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
6. Please provide all communications and documents between the Endocrine Society and members of Admiral Levine’s staff, including chief of staff Sarah Boateng, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
7. Please provide all communications and documents between the Endocrine Society and White House personnel, including staff of former President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
8. Please produce all communications and documents related to the Endocrine Society’s partnership with academic institutions on child and adolescent gender transition procedures, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
9. Please produce all communications and documents related to the Endocrine Society’s partnership with WPATH on child and adolescent gender transition procedures and the development of SOC-8, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
10. Please produce all communications and documents related to the Endocrine Society’s partnership with WPATH on child and adolescent gender transition procedures and the development of the Endocrine Society’s 2017 Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
11. Please produce all communications and documents related to the Endocrine Society’s partnership with the AAP on child and adolescent gender transition procedures, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.

12. Please produce all communications and documents related to the Endocrine Society's partnership with professional and medical organizations on child and adolescent gender transition procedures, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bill Cassidy, M.D. in blue ink.

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Chairman

U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions