

**OPINION**

# Parents Must Stand Up Against Gender Surgeries Performed on Minors | Opinion

**KIMBERLY FLETCHER**, *PRESIDENT AND CEO, MOMS FOR AMERICA*

ON 9/19/23 AT 9:38 AM EDT

[OPINION](#)[HEALTH AND MEDICINE](#)[CHILDREN'S HEALTH](#)[GENDER](#)[PARENTING](#)

**I**t is *déjà vu* for parents. First we were told [Critical Race Theory](#) wasn't being taught in our schools. Then we were told radical activists were not [targeting our children](#) with sexual content. For the past several years, we have been told that [no minors are undergoing surgeries to alter their gender](#).

These are all lies.

A [study](#) published in August in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) confirms what many parents have long feared. This study, which should be front-page news, shows that thousands of minors have been subjected to life-altering breast removal operations and genital mutilation surgeries.

Do not believe the lies that children are only put on so-called "hormone blockers" and given time to decide their gender when they are older. This is a myth. Now, we have the numbers to prove it.

**[SUBSCRIBE NOW FROM JUST \\$1 PER MONTH >](#)**

The JAMA study was conducted by researchers at Columbia University, who attempted to estimate the number of attempted sex change operations—also called, in the double speak of radical activists, "gender-affirming care"—in our country.

Analyzing the Nationwide Ambulatory Surgery Sample and the National Inpatient Sample between [2016 and 2020](#), researchers estimated the number of "gender-affirming surgeries," including breast and chest operations, genital surgeries, and "cosmetic procedures" to change a person's appearance to align with their preferred gender.

The numbers are shocking. In those five years, an estimated 48,019 patients of all ages underwent procedures. Of those, 7.7 percent (3,678) were between the ages of 12 and 18. Yes, the researchers found surgeries conducted on children as young as 12! We don't let 12-year-olds legally drive a car, smoke cigarettes, or drink alcohol, but we currently have "doctors" committing life-altering procedures on these young people.

Of those 3,678 minors, 3,215 underwent "breast/chest surgery," 405 underwent "genital surgery," and 350 underwent other unspecified "cosmetic surgery." There are no data on the age of the youngest child to undergo "genital surgery." These barbaric procedures involve mutilating genitalia to create a false version of the opposite gender's organs. These operations often involve removing tissue from other parts of the body, carrying a very high risk of permanent biological dysfunction and potentially lethal infection.

**[SIGN UP FOR NEWSWEEK'S DAILY HEADLINES >](#)**

CHINO, CALIFORNIA - JULY 20: A man holds a sign in support of a policy that the Chino Valley school board is meeting to vote on which would require school staff to "out" students to their parents if they ask to be identified by a gender that is not listed on their birth certificate on July 20, 2023 in Chino, California.

**DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES**

We do not have to speculate about the danger of these operations. In a widely touted study of transgender surgery, an 18-year-old [died from an infection](#) after doctors attempted to create a "neo-vagina."

These surgeries cannot be fully reversed, and in some cases cannot be reversed at all. Young girls having their breasts removed today will one day realize that they can never breastfeed a baby. Boys undergoing life-altering mutilations will likely never be able to father children. These are dire consequences, especially for young children.

In an [interview](#), Senator [Rand Paul](#) (R-Ky.) explained how outraged his Democratic colleagues were when he insisted on calling these operations "genital mutilation." There is no other appropriate term. Senator Paul explains, "Universally, around the world, we've been opposed to this [genital mutilation]. We were opposed to it in Africa when they were doing it; the U.N, everybody was working to stop it. And now we have the opposite, we have clinics set up where we're affirming this and encouraging this to happen to our children."

Amid a mental health crisis that is claiming the lives of so many young Americans, [studies show](#) that sex change operations do not improve mental health outcomes for teens and adults.

#### READ MORE

- [Hiding Students' Gender Identities From Their Parents Is Immoral](#)
- [Demanding Schools Notify Parents If Their Kids Are Trans Endangers Children](#)
- [Gender Ideology Is Taking Over Pregnant Workers' Protection Law](#)

Actually "affirming" the gender of the child would mean treating the mental confusion that has led an impressionable child to think he or she was "born in the wrong body." But no, in the world of "transgender medicine," giving children opposite-sex hormones and mutilating their genitalia is called "gender-affirming."

Our children are the victims of this cultural battle, and our moms are on the front lines. Moms for America has been leading the charge to defend parental rights. These are

our children, not the teachers' unions', not the schools', not the government's. We take seriously the task of protecting our children. The latest information on transgender surgeries happening in our country should be a wake-up call for anyone who doubted that this is one of the most critical battles for the soul of our nation that our generation will face.

Almost three years have passed since the last year included in the data for the JAMA study. How many more thousands of children have been hurt by these procedures since then? How many more will there be? Parents must unite and stand up against this threat to our children's health and happiness. Now is the time to take action. [Moms for America](#) is raising awareness about this issue and demanding answers from the people who have robbed our children of their innocence, and even their health.

*Kimberly Fletcher is the founder, president, and CEO of Moms For America.*

*The views expressed in this article are the writer's own.*

**REQUEST REPRINT & LICENSING, SUBMIT CORRECTION OR VIEW EDITORIAL GUIDELINES**

## The Debate

---

**Ukraine Is a Fledgeling United States. To Abandon It Is to Betray Ourselves**  
By Aaron Kaufman



**VS**



**It's Time to Admit the Truth About the War in Ukraine—and Course Correct**  
By Daniel L. Davis

## Opinion

---

**Look to Minnesota as a Model for a More Supportive Economy**  
By Peggy Flanagan



**The Very Bad Electoral College News for Democrats**  
By David Faris



---

## **Unregulated AI Will Destroy 300 Million Jobs. Only Regulation Can Save Them**

By Oz Rashid



---

## **The Results Are In: Bidenomics Is a Complete Failure**

By Tom Emmer And Randy Feenstra



---

## **Wisconsin Republicans Are Starting to Panic Over Their Crooked Maps**

By Evan Vorpahl And Arn Pearson



---

## **Pro-Lifers Shouldn't Be Afraid To Condemn Trump for Abortion Remarks**

By Patrick T. Brown

---

## **Kamala Harris Should Quit—So Joe Biden Can Retire**

By Gil Troy

---

## **If the GOP and Dems Won't Fix Our Finances, We'll Find Someone Who Will**

By David Walker

---

## **Ukraine Is a Fledgeling United States. To Abandon It Is to Betray Ourselves**

By Aaron Kaufman

---

## **Fighting for the Climate Has Led Me to Give Up on the Two-Party System**

By Katie Mehnert



---

## The West Will Suffer If China Fails

By Simone Gao

---

## The West Must Bring China Down

By Gordon G. Chang

**GET THE BEST OF  
NEWSWEEK VIA EMAIL**

Email address

---

## Editor's Picks

# On The Sidelines Of UN Gathering, Biden Rakes In Campaign Cash For 2024

The fundraising events have given President Biden an opportunity to discuss domestic politics during a busy week of international diplomacy.

By Daniel Bush

**2 MIN READ**

## Donald Trump's Death Announced by Son on Twitter Sparks Speculation

A false announcement about former President Donald Trump's death was posted during a hack of his son's X account.

By Jon Jackson

2 MIN READ

## How Student Loan Repayments Could Impact US Economy

By Giulia Carbonaro  
3 MIN READ

## The Truth about Hybrid Work (Hint: It's Messy—and It's Not Going Away)

By David H. Freedman  
14 MIN READ

## Scientists Discover Path to Treating Pain Without Addictive Opioids

By Robyn White  
3 MIN READ

### Premium Subscription

Digital + Monthly (Ad Free Trial)

- ✓ Newsweek magazine delivered to your door
- ✓ Ad free Newsweek.com experience
- ✓ All newsletters + podcasts
- ✓ Unlimited access to Newsweek.com
- ✓ iOS and Android app access

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

U.S.

World

Tech & Science

Culture

Autos

Rankings

Subscriptions

- Health**                      **Opinion**
- Experts**                    **Better Planet**
- Beauty & Fashion**   **Business**
- Education**                **Fact Check**
- Mightier**                  **My Turn**
- Podcasts**                **Sports**
- Unconventional**      **Vantage**

Digital+ Monthly (Ad Free Trial)

**\$1.00**

Digital+ Yearly \$49.00

Premium Monthly \$9.99

Premium Yearly \$99

---

### Trending

Joe Biden   Vladimir Putin   Russia-Ukraine War  
Donald Trump

---

### Newsletters in your inbox [See all](#)

- The Bulletin (Mondays to Saturdays) [See Sample](#)
- The Debate (Tuesdays)
- The Cover (Wednesdays) [See Sample](#)
- For The Culture (Tuesdays and Thursdays) [See Sample](#)
- The Frontlines (Thursdays) [See Sample](#)
- Infinite Scroll (Tuesdays) [See Sample](#)
- The Josh Hammer
- Better Planet

### In The Magazine

September 29  
2023 Issue

Report (Mondays)

(Wednesdays)

[See Sample](#)

Mightier (Coming soon)

Email address

Sign up now

You can unsubscribe at any time.  
By signing up you are agreeing to our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy

**Company**

About Us

Masthead

Diversity

Announcements

Archive

Policies and Standards

Mission Statement

Leadership

Newsletters

Press Center

**Editions:**

U.S. Edition

日本

Polska

România

**Contact**

Advertise

Careers

Contact Us

Corrections

**Terms of Use**

Cookie Policy

Copyright

Privacy Policy

Terms & Conditions

Terms of Sale

Do Not Sell My Personal Information

© 2023 NEWSWEEK DIGITAL LLC