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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

AMANDA LINCOLN, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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April 1, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Asa Radix, MD, PhD, MPH
President
World Professional Association for Transgender Health
1061 East Main St., Ste. 300
East Dundee, IL 60118

Dear Dr. Radix:

On October 9, 2024, I sent a letter requesting information and documents from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) related to its “Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People, Version 8” (SOC-8) and practice guidelines for treating children and/or adolescents suffering from “gender dysphoria.”

On November 20, 2024, WPATH responded and produced a copy of SOC-8 and enclosures related to several questions. However, WPATH’s response failed to address questions 3, 5, 6, 8 or 9, which sought information regarding WPATH’s partnership with academic institutions and research on adolescent gender transition procedures, conflicting studies or evidence considered in developing SOC-8, WPATH’s organizational structure, records for WPATH board of directors and committee meetings, and other documents and records related to SOC-8.

On February 18, 2025, WPATH’s outside counsel and U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee staff met virtually to discuss those omissions and any additional materials WPATH plans to produce to the Committee. Committee Republican staff also sought information regarding WPATH’s plans to revise or update SOC-8 following issuance of President Trump’s executive order, “Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation,” on January 28, 2025.¹

During that call, WPATH’s counsel advised the Committee that they were unaware of any change in the association’s plans to update SOC-8 but would inquire regarding the status of the information due to the Committee. WPATH’s counsel subsequently advised that the association

¹ Exec. Order No. 14187, 90 Fed. Reg. 8771 (Feb. 3, 2025).

has no updated plans for the release of new standards of care at this time, referring instead to WPATH's statement on the President's EO issued following its release.

On March 5, 2025, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a Quality & Safety Special Alert Memorandum (QSSAM) alerting hospital providers of their obligation to protect children from chemical and surgical mutilation, including interventions that cause sterilization.² CMS noted that the United States is now an "outlier in the treatment of gender dysphoria in children," and "the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Finland have recently issued restrictions on these interventions for children, including the use of puberty blockers and hormone treatments, and now recommend exploratory psychotherapy as a first line of treatment and reserve hormonal interventions only for exceptional cases."³

According to CMS, the agency "may begin taking steps to appropriately update its policies" and "will follow any applicable substantive and procedural requirements in taking any future action."⁴ CMS emphasized that "it is of **utmost importance that all providers follow the highest standards of care** and adhere closely to the foundational principles of medicine, especially as it comes to America's children."⁵ (emphasis added)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) subsequently announced it will review its policies, grants, and programs in light of the concerns discussed in the CMS QSSAM, including its Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Payment Program.⁶ HRSA also stated it may reconsider, delay, or cancel new grants in the future, depending on the nature of the work and any future policy change(s) adopted by the agency.⁷

In light of the President's EO, related agency guidance, and the Cass Report, the ground has shifted significantly for providers. It is critical that medical standards of care for the treatment of children reflect the best scientific evidence available at present, consistent with current regulatory requirements for providers. Providers may be confused by the conflicting provisions of SOC-8 in that regard, as they seek to comply with applicable federal rules and guidelines.

Therefore, please provide a detailed response to the Committee no later than April 15, 2025, including the following: (1) all outstanding information and documents previously requested; and (2) an explanation of the actions WPATH is taking to communicate with providers and professional societies seeking input to comply with the President's EO to protect children from chemical and surgical mutilation.

² Quality & Safety Special Alert Memorandum from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, to Hospital Providers and other Covered Entities (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/QSSAM-25-02-Hospitals.pdf>.

³ *Id.*

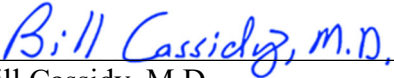
⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Memorandum from the Health Resources and Services Administration to Hospital Administrators, Colleagues, and Grant Recipients (Mar. 6, 2025), <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/grants/march-2025-letter-hospital-admins-grantees.pdf>.

⁷ *Id.*

Sincerely,


Bill Cassidy, M.D.

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

Attachment

cc: Stephanie Carlton, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Thomas J. Engels, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration