

**Statement of Vanessa Sivadge, RN  
Pediatric Nurse and Whistleblower  
before the  
Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government  
April 9, 2025**

Good morning, Chairman Roy, Ranking Member Scanlon, and members of the subcommittee. I am Vanessa Sivadge, a pediatric nurse with ten years of experience caring for the health and wellbeing of children.

I would like to thank the committee for inviting me to testify today, it is a privilege and honor to be before you. My story today is about shining a light on how children are being irreversibly harmed, the egregious overreach and weaponization of the federal government, and what it means to stand for truth no matter the cost.

**Working at Texas Children's Hospital**

In 2018, I accepted a nursing position at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas, the largest and most prestigious pediatric hospital in the United States. For the next three years, I worked in the Cardiology Department with some of the most renowned and globally recognized congenital heart doctors and surgeons. I learned from them and worked alongside them as they took the sickest babies and saved their lives.

Three years later in 2021, I accepted a different position within the hospital system in an outpatient multispecialty clinic. My job description as a clinic nurse included: refilling prescriptions, acting as a liaison between doctor and parents, and obtaining insurance authorization for patient medications.

I was responsible for the care of patients in a variety of medical specialties. One of these areas was endocrinology, where children diagnosed with gender dysphoria were seen by Dr. Richard Roberts. I accepted this job not knowing that children confused about their biological sex were being prescribed cross-sex hormones and puberty blockers in a robust and lucrative transgender program at my workplace.

For the next three years, disturbing trends and concerning practices began to emerge in my workplace. I saw firsthand how providers like Dr. Roberts interacted with children and their parents during outpatient visits. I observed the powerful and irreversible effects of sex change hormones and puberty blockers for children who were convinced this would be lifesaving treatment. I witnessed firsthand how doctors emotionally blackmailed parents by telling them that if they did not affirm their child's false identity, their child would harm themselves. In particular, I was saddened to see young girls suffering from profound mental health struggles like depression and anxiety, many of whom had also suffered sexual abuse or trauma, persuaded by doctors at Texas Children's that a hormone would resolve their gender confusion. History books

will one day write about this emotional blackmail as the greatest lie ever sold by the medical industrial complex to vulnerable parents and confused children.

### **Blowing the Whistle on Texas Children's Hospital**

In May of 2023, I read an article from a whistleblower within the hospital who had come forward with journalist Christopher Rufo to expose the existence of the hospital's secret transgender program. I read about how my employer had erased all traces of their robust sex-change program from lawmakers and from the public after Texas's Attorney General, Ken Paxton, issued a strongly worded opinion a few months prior that any hospital or medical institution providing gender transition interventions could be investigated for child abuse. However, I was working in this supposedly non-existent clinic where children confused about their identity were being seen and initiated down a path of medicalization. I knew I couldn't stay silent, so I decided to anonymously corroborate the testimony of the first whistleblower to affirm what had been reported. I knew that Texas Children's Hospital had engaged in a pattern of deception in which they had lied to the public and to parents. I became the second anonymous whistleblower in Christopher Rufo's subsequent article in which I provided my experience as a nurse working in the endocrine clinic. A few weeks later, Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed SB 14 into law which effectively banned all sex-change interventions for minors under the age of 18. I went back to work, relieved and thankful that my work responsibilities would no longer conflict with my faith and my deeply held beliefs that gender transition treatments cause lifelong regret and irreversible damage to vulnerable children.

### **The Federal Government's Response to My Whistleblowing**

Two months later on July 24, 2023, my husband and I were hosting friends in our home for dinner when there was a knock on the front door. Two agents from Biden's Department of Justice flashed their badges, said they were from the FBI, and asked specifically to speak to me about what they described as "issues at my work." I was stunned, and time seemed to stand still as I reckoned with the terrifying scene unfolding in front of me. FBI Agents Paul Nixon and David McBride proceeded to inform me that they had come to my home because they knew of my views against transgender medicine. Their exact words were, "We know what you believe." What did I believe? In 2022, I had written an op-ed for the Washington Stand at the Family Research Council in which I was publicly critical of the wrecking ball of irreversible damage disguised as gender affirming care, and I condemned the medical profession for abandoning biological realities and putting profits over patients.

These two FBI agents apprised me that they were seeking to uncover the identity of the first whistleblower. Instead of referring to him as a whistleblower, they used the term "leaker," who in their words, had "violated the law by releasing patient information to the public" and broken HIPAA. I knew this was a lie because I had read the article and its contents in which all personally identifiable patient information had been carefully redacted. We now know that this whistleblower was Dr. Eithan Haim, but at the time I had no knowledge of who he was.

Special Agent Nixon effectively asked me to compromise my Christian beliefs and made veiled threats regarding my career and safety if I didn't comply with their demands. He said that someone at my work had given him my name, and they could make life difficult for me if I wasn't willing to collaborate with their efforts. Their manipulative and deceptive language was designed to intimidate me into believing that I had no other choice but to cooperate with their witch hunt. If I did not comply, they hoped that their visit would silence me. Our ring camera captured part of this exchange, now viewed over 6 million times, in which the overreach of the government was on full display.

In the moments following the FBI visit, my husband and I looked at each other with disgust at what we had just witnessed—that the Biden Administration had weaponized the Department of Justice and the FBI to go after the people who had exposed the crime, instead of going after the hospital who had committed the crime. My faith in Jesus informs my belief that men and women are made in the image of God and therefore unique in their biology, anatomy, and function. These distinct identities and roles cannot be socially redefined or medically reassigned. Ephesians 5:11 says, “Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness, but expose them. Everything exposed by the light becomes visible.” Although this encounter with the FBI was intended to silence my voice, I knew that I couldn't stay silent because the lives and the safety of children were at risk.

### **Consequences of My Whistleblowing**

In the months that followed, I noticed some discrepancies in the paperwork. My job consisted of refilling medications and obtaining insurance approval for those medications. I was shocked when I discovered how Medicaid was being billed for cross-sex hormones and puberty blockers in direct violation of Texas law. At great personal and professional risk, I came forward publicly with journalist Christopher Rufo in June of 2024 to expose how the hospital had not only lied about the existence of their sex change program, but were also using taxpayer dollars to fund those gender reassignment interventions. I saw how the hospital had also misdiagnosed patients for the purpose of justifying those treatments, labeling a biological male with an estrogen deficiency in order to justify the prescription of estrogen, and labeling a biological female with a testosterone deficiency in order to justify the prescription of testosterone. I witnessed how the hospital would falsify medical records by listing the preferred gender identity of the patient on the medical record instead of the birth sex, creating a web of confusion and lies making the fraudulent billing difficult to detect. The decision to come forward with my name and my identity was not taken lightly, especially after seeing firsthand how Dr. Haim was targeted and unjustly prosecuted. The reality of exposing the largest children's hospital in the country was daunting and terrifying, but I did so in alignment with my faith in Jesus and my belief that biological truth should be upheld and defended. In August of 2024, Texas Children's Hospital fired me in retaliation for blowing the whistle on Medicaid funded sex-change treatments for minors. I have no doubt that Texas Children's Hospital targeted me because I exposed their

deceptive practices in using taxpayer dollars to fund their radical transgender agenda. I have no regrets.

I am testifying today because I firmly believe that the weaponization of the government to silence political enemies with dissenting voices must end once and for all. Medical professionals possessing a strong moral compass display courage in the midst of cowardice to speak the truth, making their workplace safer and the lives of their patients better. These are qualities that any medical institution should incentivize and reward, not retaliate against.

I would like to once again thank the committee for inviting me to speak with you today. I also want to thank Marcella Burke and the Burke Law Group for their tremendous expertise and representation of me. I am happy to answer questions you may have.