

Protect and Teach Template Letter/E-mail:

TO A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Subject: Health Bill 2026–27 — safeguarding children and protecting privacy and dignity

[Your address if a letter]

[Date]

Dear **Lord/Lady [Name]**,

Subject: Health Bill 2026–27 - safeguarding children and protecting privacy and dignity

I am writing ahead of the House of Lords stages of the Health Bill to ask you to give particular scrutiny to two issues which were debated, but not included in the Bill following its Commons stages: **the use of puberty-suppressing medication in children through the PATHWAYS clinical trial, and single-sex NHS provision for patients and staff.**

At Report Stage on 8 September, MPs rejected New Clause 142 by 108 votes to 357 and New Clause 143 by 106 votes to 302. The defeat of those particular amendments does not, however, resolve the underlying safeguarding, ethical, privacy and dignity questions they raised.

Puberty blockers and the PATHWAYS trial

NC142 would have prevented puberty blockers being prescribed, dispensed or supplied to under-18s for gender dysphoria or gender incongruence and would have required any clinical trial using them for those purposes to receive the express approval of both Houses of Parliament.

I am particularly concerned about the **PATHWAYS trial involving puberty-suppressing medication in children and young people.**

The trial is intended to generate further evidence about an intervention for which significant uncertainties remain. The protocol has already undergone further regulatory scrutiny, with additional safeguards introduced concerning matters including minimum ages, bone health, cognition, vaginal bleeding and information about fertility preservation.

Those safeguards do not remove the underlying ethical question:

Is it compatible with safeguarding children from avoidable harm to expose them to the known physiological effects, identified safety concerns and unresolved uncertainties of puberty suppression in order to obtain further evidence about the intervention?

Protect & Teach CIC opposes the PATHWAYS trial on ethical and safeguarding grounds.

The absence of good evidence for an intervention cannot, by itself, become the ethical justification for exposing children to that intervention in order to obtain it.

Regulatory approval is important, but it should not place this question beyond parliamentary scrutiny.

Single-sex NHS provision

I would also ask you to examine the issue raised by NC143.

The proposed clause went considerably further than hospital wards. It would have required single-sex changing rooms, toilets and washing facilities for NHS staff, together with single-sex wards, toilets and washing facilities for patients, subject to specified clinical exceptions.

NHS England's national same-sex accommodation guidance remains under review following the Supreme Court's judgment in *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers*.

The issue also concerns NHS staff. Questions about changing, washing and toilet facilities engage practical matters of **privacy, dignity and safety**.

There is an important distinction between equality law permitting single-sex provision in appropriate circumstances and Parliament establishing a clear statutory expectation that specified facilities will be single-sex, subject to necessary exceptions.

I therefore ask you to consider

As the Health Bill proceeds through the Lords, I would be grateful if you would:

- scrutinise whether the PATHWAYS puberty-suppression trial is ethically compatible with the safeguarding of children, rather than treating regulatory approval as the end of that question;
- seek clarity about the known effects, identified risks, unresolved uncertainties and anticipated direct benefits for the children participating in PATHWAYS;
- examine whether existing law, NHS guidance and local policies provide sufficient protection for the privacy, dignity and safety of NHS patients and staff requiring single-sex facilities; and
- consider whether either issue requires a new amendment during the Lords stages of the Health Bill.

I recognise that NC142 and NC143 themselves fell in the Commons and cannot simply be voted upon again in the Lords. My request is that the **substantive issues**

they raised receive proper scrutiny, and that peers consider whether a new or revised legislative approach is required.

Protect & Teach CIC has published a detailed analysis setting out the parliamentary history, evidence, safeguarding concerns and primary sources:

“The Lords’ turn: will peers revisit puberty blockers and single-sex NHS provision?” **LINK:**

<https://protectandteach.org/the-lords-turn-will-peers-revisit-puberty-blockers-and-single-sex-nhs-provision/>

The Health Bill receives its House of Lords Second Reading on Tuesday 13 October 2026. I hope you will consider raising these matters as the Bill proceeds through the House. House of Lords Business

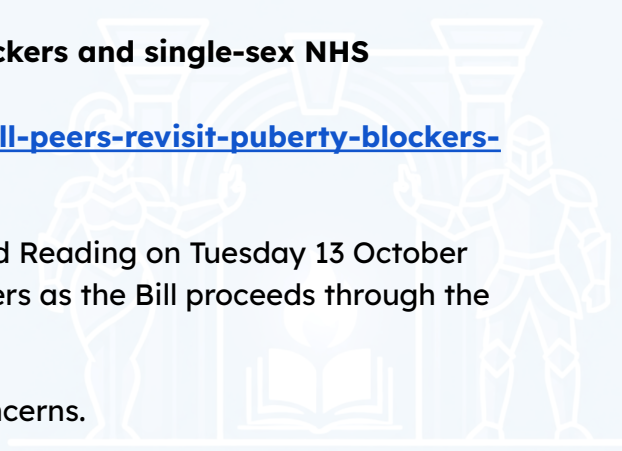
Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[POSTCODE – optional]

[Any relevant role/experience – optional]



Protect and Teach
GUARDIANS AT THE GATE