**Protecting Children and Families: Support for SB500**

**The Detransitioner Protection Act**

**A Policy & Advocacy Guide**

From the Perspective of the

**New Mexico Family Action Movement (NMFAM)**

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**Purpose of This Document:**

This guide provides an in-depth explanation of Senate Bill 500 (SB500), the Detransitioner Protection Act, from the values and mission of the New Mexico Family Action Movement (NMFAM). It outlines the bill’s key provisions, emphasizes the importance of parental rights, protecting children, and preserving family values, and provides an action plan for advocacy efforts.

Together, we can ensure that New Mexico laws prioritize children’s safety, empower parents, and uphold faith and family values.

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**Introduction**

New Mexico Family Action Movement (NMFAM) stands firmly for the sanctity of life, religious freedom, parental rights, and safeguarding children. Senate Bill 500 (SB500), also known as the Detransitioner Protection Act, embodies these core values. Below we explain SB500’s purpose and key provisions, and why it is a necessary law to protect our children and empower parents in New Mexico. We also provide steps you can take to support this crucial legislation.

**What is SB500? – Purpose and Key Provisions**

SB500 (Detransitioner Protection Act) is a proposed law aimed at protecting minors from irreversible gender transition procedures and strengthening parental rights in medical decisions. In brief, SB500:

* Prohibits gender transition medical procedures for minors: Health care providers and public institutions cannot perform or provide gender transition surgeries, puberty blockers, or cross-sex hormones on minors (individuals under 18)​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,or%20public%20body%20shall%20not). There are limited medical exceptions (for instance, treatment of a physical disorder of sexual development), but in general SB500 bans irreversible gender medical interventions on children.
* Requires informed notice of risks: If a minor or parent seeks information about gender transition, providers must give a mandatory informed notice outlining the serious risks and unknown outcomes of such treatments​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=The%20informed%20notice%20shall%20be,and%20stated%20exactly%20as%20follows) & [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=3,and%20adolescents%20with%20gender%20dysphoria). This notice explains facts such as the lack of evidence that these interventions prevent suicide, the off-label (unapproved) status of puberty blocker and hormone use, and potential long-term harms (detailed below).
* Ensures parental rights and involvement: SB500 makes it illegal to hide information about a child’s gender-related medical information from parents. Providers (or any public body, like a school) must not deny parents access to their minor child’s medical records or information​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=D,information%20of%20that%20parent%27s%20minor). Importantly, the bill clearly states that a parent’s decision not to affirm a child’s gender transition (for example, refusing puberty blockers, or not using new pronouns or names) is *not* abuse or neglect under the law​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=,perceived%20gender%20or%20perceived%20sex). This protects parents from false accusations simply for guiding their child according to their best judgment and values.
* Protects counseling and therapy options: The bill explicitly allows mental health therapy for minors struggling with gender identity that focuses on helping the child feel comfortable in his or her God-given biological sex​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,gender%20or%20perceived%20sex%3B%20or). In other words, talk therapy or faith-based counseling aimed at resolving gender dysphoria (rather than pushing for gender change) cannot be prohibited. SB500 also upholds the right of parents to consent to or refuse any mental health treatment for their child’s gender issues​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,gender%20or%20perceived%20sex%3B%20or), reinforcing parental authority in these sensitive matters.
* Demands transparency from gender clinics: SB500 introduces strong transparency measures. Every gender clinic in New Mexico must report detailed statistics to the state health department for each gender transition procedure or referral they provide​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,The%20statistics%20reported%20shall%20include). These reports include the patient’s age, biological sex, type of intervention, any medications and dosages, and any mental health diagnoses (such as autism, depression, etc.)​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=shall%20include%3A) & [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=,depression%2C%20anxiety%20or%20bipolar%20disorder). The Department of Health will compile this data into a comprehensive annual report for lawmakers and the public, without identifying individual patients​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=D,department%20in%20a%20downloadable%20format). This means New Mexican families will finally know how often and under what circumstances minors are undergoing gender transitions – bringing crucial issues into the light of day.
* Supports detransitioners (those who regret a gender transition): In alignment with our belief that every person matters and deserves compassion, SB500 makes sure that any minor who did undergo a gender transition has support if they later choose to detransition (revert to their biological gender). The bill requires that any clinic or public institution that received state funds for gender transitions must also cover or provide detransition services for that individual​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,provided%20a%20gender%20transition%20procedure).
* Similarly, if an insurance policy covers gender transition procedures, it must equally cover detransition procedures​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=B,this%20state%20for%20detransition%20procedures). SB500 also instructs the state to create an expedited process for restoring the original sex designation on legal documents (like birth certificates or driver’s licenses) for individuals who previously changed those markers but now detransition​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,inconsistent%20with%20the%20individual%27s%20sex). This helps young people reclaim their identity with dignity, without unnecessary red tape.
* Holds medical providers accountable: To ensure true accountability, SB500 establishes that any health provider or institution that violates the law by performing a banned gender transition on a minor faces professional and legal consequences. Doctors who knowingly provide these procedures will be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct and face at least a one-year license suspension​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=provider%20found%20to%20have%20knowingly,Subsection%20A%20of%20this%20section). In addition, parents can sue providers for damages if their child is harmed in violation of the law​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=for%20at%20least%20one%20year%3B,and). Critically, SB500 creates a long-term safety net for affected youths: if a person was transitioned as a minor, the provider is made strictly liable for all costs of that individual’s detransition care for up to 25 years after the transition​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,of%20a%20gender%20transition%20procedure). The individual (once of age) can also bring a lawsuit for physical, psychological or emotional harm that comes to light within 25 years of reaching adulthood​

[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=C,by%20that%20health%20care%20provider), with the possibility of recovering damages for pain and suffering, lost potential (such as loss of fertility), and other losses​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=)

These provisions ensure that medical practitioners are fully accountable for the long-term outcomes of youthful transition procedures. No one should be allowed to permanently alter a child’s body and then walk away without responsibility if that child suffers as a result.

In summary, SB500’s purpose is to safeguard children from unproven and life-altering medical interventions, while empowering parents and ensuring that those who have been hurt by such procedures have recourse and support. It is a comprehensive bill that puts the wellbeing of children and the rights of families first.

**Framing SB500 as Protection for Children and Families**

SB500 is fundamentally about protecting children and preserving families. Today’s culture often pressures parents to accept drastic measures for a gender-confused child, even to the point of encouraging life-changing surgeries or hormone treatments at young ages. NMFAM believes that every child is precious and deserves a chance to grow up healthy and whole – this reflects our commitment to the sanctity of life and protecting children. We also know that strong families are the bedrock of society, and that parents, not schools or bureaucrats, are best positioned to love and guide their children. SB500 is a needed safeguard to keep those principles intact.

**Why is this bill necessary?** Unfortunately, in the absence of such protections, some minors have been fast-tracked into gender transition procedures without sufficient oversight or parental involvement. There are cases around the country of schools keeping parents in the dark about a child’s expressed gender confusion, or doctors affirming a teen as “transgender” after only a brief evaluation, then prescribing powerful hormones or even scheduling surgeries. These interventions can cause irreversible harm – including sterility, loss of healthy body parts, and permanent health complications – to minors who are too young to truly understand the lifelong consequences. SB500 declares that New Mexico will not allow irreversible decisions to be made during childhood. By pausing these high-risk interventions until adulthood, the bill protects kids’ futures. As one of the informed consent warnings in SB500 states: *“The use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for this purpose increases the risk of a child or an adolescent being sterilized, meaning that the child will never be able to have children.”*​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=4,be%20able%20to%20have%20children). No child should lose their God-given ability to one day become a mother or father as a result of hasty medical decisions made when they were minors.

**Framing for families:** SB500 is pro-family. It keeps the decision-making authority with parents, where it belongs. By forbidding public schools or clinics from facilitating gender transitions behind parents’ backs, it prevents the undermining of parental trust. Instead of driving a wedge between children and parents, SB500 respects the family unit and reinforces that parents have the right to raise their children according to their values and faith – a right that is a cornerstone of religious freedom and parental rights. When we say at NMFAM that we are “protecting families”, this is exactly the sort of policy we mean: one that supports parents as the guardians of their children’s well-being.

Moreover, SB500 is about preserving the innocence of childhood. It affirms that children should be free from adult agendas and radical medical experiments. Instead, children who experience confusion or distress deserve compassionate care that does not permanently damage their bodies. The bill encourages help through counseling and patience, rather than rushing to drastic measures. This aligns with our belief in family values – that children thrive best with loving guidance and protection, not adult decisions that could lead to lifelong regret.

**Parental Rights in Medical Decisions – A Core Emphasis**

One of NMFAM’s core values is parental rights, and SB500 places parental rights front and center. Parents have both the right and the responsibility to make medical decisions for their minor children – this is a long-standing principle recognized in law and anchored in our values. SB500 reinforces that principle in multiple ways:

* **No secret treatments or information**: Under SB500, it will be illegal for a health provider or any public entity (including school staff or counselors) to provide gender-transition services or even related information to a minor without parental involvement​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,or%20public%20body%20shall%20not). If a minor approaches a school nurse or doctor about gender transition, that professional must involve the parent by providing the required informed notice. And as noted, SB500 mandates that parents be given full access to any medical records related to their child’s gender identity or health​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=D,information%20of%20that%20parent%27s%20minor). This prevents scenarios where a clinic might start a child on puberty blockers and refuse to share records with mom or dad. With SB500, parents cannot be cut out of the conversation.
* **Protecting parents from false accusations:** Disturbingly, in some states or school districts, parents who hesitate to affirm a child’s new gender identity have been threatened with investigations by child protective services. SB500 explicitly guards against this by stating that a parent’s refusal to consent to gender transition treatment, or refusal to use new pronouns or names, is *not* to be treated as abuse, neglect, or domestic violence​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=,perceived%20gender%20or%20perceived%20sex). Loving parents should never be labeled as “abusive” for wanting to protect their child from harm. This clause is a victory for religious freedom and common sense – it means parents can raise their children according to their faith convictions about sex and gender without fear of government punishment. It preserves the **freedom** of families to uphold biological reality and their values in their own homes.
* **Affirming parental authority in counseling:** SB500 also prevents the government or professional boards from interfering if parents choose standard counseling for their child. The bill ensures that parents can seek therapy for a gender-questioning child that aligns with the family’s beliefs and the child’s long-term health​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,gender%20or%20perceived%20sex%3B%20or). For example, if a 13-year-old girl suddenly believes she is a boy, her parents might want her to speak with a therapist or faith-based counselor to explore what’s underlying that feeling (such as bullying, trauma, or social influence) and to gently affirm that she is wonderful as she is. In some places, such therapy might be banned or disparaged as “conversion therapy.” SB500 protects the right to this approach, stating that no authority shall prohibit mental health therapy to help a minor reconcile with his or her sex​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,gender%20or%20perceived%20sex%3B%20or), and parents are free to consent to or decline any treatment. This is crucial for preserving families’ freedom to choose the care that aligns with their values and faith.

In short, SB500 honors the irreplaceable role of parents. Just as NMFAM champions school choice – giving parents control over education – we also champion parental choice in healthcare. Mothers and fathers know their children best, and SB500 makes sure they remain at the helm of any decision about their child’s body and identity, rather than bureaucrats or activists. This empowerment of parents will strengthen family bonds and lead to better outcomes for children.

**Informed Consent and Accountability for Gender Transitions**

A key concern with current gender transition practices for minors is the lack of true informed consent and virtually no accountability when things go wrong. SB500 addresses these issues head-on, prioritizing truth, transparency, and responsibility.

**Informed consent:** SB500 recognizes that minors are not in a position to give truly informed consent for procedures that could alter their lives forever. As part of protecting families, the bill requires that if any discussion of gender transition for a minor does occur, it must be accompanied by full, factual information about the risks and uncertainties. The bill’s “informed notice” is a robust set of warnings that providers must give to the minor and parent verbatim​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=The%20informed%20notice%20shall%20be,and%20stated%20exactly%20as%20follows). This ensures families hear perspectives they might not otherwise, cutting through any one-sided narratives. Some critical points included in this required notice are:

* *“No reliable studies have shown that these treatments reduce the risk of suicide in children or adolescents with gender dysphoria.”*​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=,or%20adolescents%20with%20gender%20dysphoria) – Families often hear that affirming a child’s gender transition is the only way to prevent suicide. SB500 makes sure they know that claim is not backed by solid evidence​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=,or%20adolescents%20with%20gender%20dysphoria). While every life is precious and we must address a child’s distress, there is no proof that giving puberty blockers or hormones solves underlying mental health issues. In fact, countries with far more experience in this area have found no long-term mental health benefit to these interventions.
* *“The United States Food and Drug Administration has not approved the use of puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones for the purpose of treating gender dysphoria… using these medications… is considered ‘off-label’.”*​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=2,used%20for%20their%20approved%20purposes) – This point alerts parents that key medical agencies have not given approval for these drugs in gender-related cases. In plain terms, it’s experimental. Children should not be experimental subjects for unapproved uses of powerful drugs.
* *“European governments, including the United Kingdom, Sweden and Finland, have concluded there is no reliable evidence showing that the potential benefits of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones… outweigh the risks. Those governments instead recommend psychotherapy as the first line of treatment for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria.”*​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=3,and%20adolescents%20with%20gender%20dysphoria) – This is a powerful testimony to the need for caution. Even socially liberal countries that initially embraced youth gender transitions have pulled back after scientific review​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=3,and%20adolescents%20with%20gender%20dysphoria). SB500’s approach is in line with the best practices now emerging internationally: focus on therapy and support, not drastic medical intervention, for minors.
* It further warns of serious physical risks: possible sterilization (loss of fertility) ​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=4,be%20able%20to%20have%20children), severely decreased bone density, heart disease, stroke, and cancer ​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=5,heart%20disease%2C%20stroke%20and%20cancer), and that impacts on brain development are entirely unknown​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=decreased%20bone%20density%2C%20heart%20disease%2C,stroke%20and%20cancer). These are not trivial side effects – they are life-altering consequences. In keeping with our value of the sanctity of life, NMFAM believes every young person’s long-term health and ability to have a family of their own one day must be safeguarded. SB500’s informed consent provisions equip parents with knowledge of these dangers so they can make wise decisions for their child.

By mandating honest disclosure of these facts, SB500 injects accountability and truthfulness into a process that has often been one-sided. No longer can a clinic downplay the risks or exaggerate benefits; the law will require them to tell the whole truth. This respects families and upholds the dignity of each child’s life, reflecting our commitment to truth and transparency.

**Accountability:** Alongside informed consent, SB500 creates consequences if medical providers act irresponsibly. Right now, if a teenager is harmed by a gender transition – say, suffers osteoporosis at 20 from puberty blockers or regrets a surgery at 25 – it is very difficult to hold the providers accountable. SB500 changes that by establishing clear liability. If a doctor breaks the law and treats a minor, they face professional discipline and can be sued by the parents​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=provider%20found%20to%20have%20knowingly,Subsection%20A%20of%20this%20section) & [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=for%20at%20least%20one%20year%3B,and). Even if the procedure was done legally (e.g., perhaps the provider claims it fell under an exception or was done out-of-state), SB500’s detransitioner protections mean that the individual can later seek damages for harm. Providers will be “strictly liable” for the costs of any detransition care needed up to 25 years later​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,of%20a%20gender%20transition%20procedure). They cannot hide behind consent forms or waivers – SB500 forbids waivers of liability for these treatments​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=F,and%20is%20null%20and%20void).

This level of accountability is necessary and just. It sends a strong message: if you as a doctor or clinic take it upon yourself to alter a child’s body, you will bear responsibility if that child is harmed. No more sweeping complications under the rug. For too long, families have shouldered the burden when things went wrong, financially and emotionally. SB500 shifts the burden back onto those who pushed the interventions. This is in line with our belief in protecting families – we seek to protect families from being left with shattered pieces and medical bills due to unaccountable practices. And it embodies justice, a core component of our family values, by providing a means for injured young people (detransitioners) to seek redress in court if needed.

In summary, SB500 brings both informed consent and accountability to an area of medicine that desperately needs it. It’s about telling the truth and ensuring consequences if that truth is ignored. This will likely have a deterrent effect as well – providers will think twice and perhaps default to safer treatments (like counseling) knowing they can be held liable for harms. Our children deserve nothing less than the highest standard of care and caution, and our parents deserve full knowledge and recourse. SB500 delivers that.

**Transparency in Clinics and Support for Detransitioners**

Another critical aspect of SB500 is how it shines a light on practices and provides help for those who have been hurt. NMFAM believes in truth and compassion – we must know what is really happening with our children, and we must care for those who are suffering. SB500 addresses both by increasing transparency of gender clinics and extending support to detransitioners.

**Transparency in gender clinics:** SB500 will put an end to the secrecy or lack of data surrounding youth gender transitions in New Mexico. Each “gender clinic” (any healthcare facility that provides gender transition services) will be required to submit regular reports to the state detailing every instance of a gender transition procedure or referral, especially for minors​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,The%20statistics%20reported%20shall%20include). These reports include crucial statistics: the date of service, the minor’s age and biological sex, the type of intervention (including specific drugs and dosages or surgery codes), the county of residence, the medical provider’s information, and any other mental health or neurodevelopmental diagnoses the patient has (for example, autism or depression)​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=shall%20include%3A) & [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=,and%20medical). By collecting this data, SB500 ensures that lawmakers, parents, and the public are no longer in the dark.

The Department of Health must compile all the clinics’ data into an annual report to the legislature’s committees and make a summary of the information publicly available on its website in a downloadable format​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=D,department%20in%20a%20downloadable%20format). Importantly, personal identities are protected in these reports – the goal is transparency about practices and outcomes, not exposing individual patient privacy​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=report%20for%20the%20legislative%20finance,department%20in%20a%20downloadable%20format). With these measures, New Mexico will have hard facts: How many minors are receiving puberty blockers? At what ages? How many are also diagnosed with mental health conditions? Such transparency helps identify trends and problems. If, for instance, the data show a sharp rise in 14-year-old girls being referred for hormones in a certain county, that’s something communities and policymakers should know. Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and SB500 provides that sunlight. This aligns with our value of preserving freedom – specifically, the freedom for citizens to have truthful information about matters of public concern. It also supports protecting families, because with transparent data, parents can make more informed choices and communities can respond to emerging issues (like asking why so many kids in X school are being referred to gender clinics).

Furthermore, transparency brings accountability through oversight. State authorities (like the Attorney General or local DAs) are empowered by SB500 to investigate any clinic that fails to report or otherwise violates the law​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=F,enforce%20compliance%20with%20this%20section). Clinics face fines up to $250,000 for non-compliance [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=,at%20least%20one%20year%3B%20and). These strong incentives mean providers must keep honest records and follow the law, or face consequences. NMFAM welcomes this because it means no more hidden numbers or unreported injuries – everything must be above-board. Our commitment to truth and the protection of children demands nothing less.

**Support for detransitioners:** Perhaps the most compassionate part of SB500 is how it looks out for those young people who may have been caught up in the transgender medical trend and later regret it. In our mission to uphold the sanctity of life and value of every person, we cannot forget the victims of a broken system. Detransitioners are individuals – often still very young – who tried to change their gender (usually as teens) and then realized it wasn’t the right path for them. They may be left with scars, both physical and emotional, and sometimes permanent loss of function (such as an inability to bear children or impaired sexual function). These individuals matter, and SB500 ensures they are not left behind.

Key supports in the bill for detransitioners include:

* **Medical coverage parity:** If a healthcare provider or public clinic used taxpayer funds to facilitate a minor’s gender transition, SB500 says that entity must also cover the costs of that individual’s detransition procedures​[nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,provided%20a%20gender%20transition%20procedure). For example, if a clinic prescribed hormones to a 16-year-old using state Medicaid funds, and that person at 21 needs surgery or treatment to reverse the changes, the clinic (or the state, via Medicaid) would be obliged to cover it. This is a matter of basic fairness and compassion. Similarly, any insurance that covered transition must cover detransition​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=B,this%20state%20for%20detransition%20procedures) – no more denying help to someone who regrets the transition. Every mother matters, every father matters, and every child matters – SB500 extends care to those who have been hurt, reflecting our belief that no one should be abandoned.
* **Legal restoration of identity:** SB500 creates an expedited process torestore a detransitioned person’s legal documents to reflect their biological sex and original name​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,inconsistent%20with%20the%20individual%27s%20sex). This means if a young adult had previously changed their gender marker or name on, say, their birth certificate or driver’s license while identifying as transgender, they can quickly and easily revert those changes. The bill even waives the usual requirement for a court order for name changes in this situation​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=the%20individual%27s%20sex), to remove hurdles and delays. In practice, this could spare someone months of waiting and legal fees just to get their correct identity back. Preserving freedom means allowing individuals to correct mistakes and live authentically; SB500 facilitates that freedom by acknowledging detransitioners’ needs.
* **Extended ability to seek justice:** As discussed in the accountability section, SB500 lengthens the timeframe in which a detransitioner can pursue legal action for harm. They have up to 25 years after reaching age 18 (well into adulthood) to file a lawsuit for damages​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=D,court%20of%20competent%20jurisdiction%20for) & [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=%285%29%20attorney%20fees%20and%20costs). This is important because some consequences (like infertility or health issues) might only become fully apparent years later. By giving a long window, SB500 recognizes that healing and understanding one’s experience takes time. It prevents institutions from running out the clock on liability and ensures that detransitioners have a voice whenever they are ready to speak up.

In providing these supports, SB500 shows true compassion and justice. It aligns with our value that every mother matters – consider the mothers whose daughters were given mastectomies as teens or whose sons were put on hormones; those mothers and their children deserve support to heal. It aligns with protecting families – often, detransitioners return to their families for help picking up the pieces, and this bill gives those families tools (insurance coverage, legal remedies) to get that help. It also resonates with religious compassion – our faith teaches us to care for the wounded and seek restoration. SB500 literally creates a path for restoration (both physical and legal) for those who have been led astray in their youth.

**SB500 and NMFAM’s Family Values**

SB500 is more than just a bill; it’s a statement that New Mexico will stand up for children and families amid cultural pressures. It perfectly aligns with NMFAM’s commitment to family values. To illustrate:

* **Sanctity of Life:** We believe every life is a gift from God and deserves protection. SB500 protects young lives from medical harm and preserves their future ability to partake in the gift of life (such as having children of their own). By requiring full disclosure of infertility risks and banning procedures that could sterilize minors​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=4,be%20able%20to%20have%20children), the bill honors the sanctity of each child’s life and fertility. It treats children as persons to be safeguarded, not subjects for experimentation.
* **Religious Freedom:** Faith-based families in New Mexico have felt the intrusion of radical gender ideology into schools and medicine, sometimes conflicting with their beliefs about God’s design of male and female. SB500 upholds religious freedom by protecting a parent’s right to not endorse ideas or practices that violate their faith (like using pronouns contrary to one’s God-given sex)​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=,perceived%20gender%20or%20perceived%20sex). It ensures the state cannot punish those parents. Thus, families can exercise their faith in child-rearing without fear – a freedom our Constitution and NMFAM cherish deeply.
* **Parental Rights:** At the heart of SB500 is the affirmation that parents are the primary guardians of their children’s welfare. This bill fortifies parental rights in areas that had been eroding. From school decisions to healthcare, NMFAM stands for empowering parents, and SB500 does exactly that by giving decision-making back to moms and dads, where it belongs​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=D,information%20of%20that%20parent%27s%20minor). It is a direct response to any attempt to sideline parents, asserting that parents’ voices and values will be respected when it comes to their children.
* **Protecting Children:** “Protect Our Kids” is more than a slogan – it’s a moral duty. SB500 is a protective shield around minors, guarding them from irreversible interventions during vulnerable years. The bill favors proven, safe support (like counseling and parental care) over radical treatments, which is the essence of protecting children. It treats children as children, not adults, recognizing their developmental limits. This protective stance is exactly what NMFAM means by putting children first.
* **Every Mother Matters:** This value speaks to supporting mothers (and fathers) in making life-affirming choices. SB500 ensures every mother and father has the information and authority to make the best medical choices for their child. No mother should be told she has no say while her child is being put on cross-sex hormones. Under SB500, every mother’s voice counts and her role is honored. Additionally, if a mother’s child has been harmed by these procedures, the law provides avenues for help and healing (legal and medical). That is true respect for mothers and their sacrifices.
* **School Choice:** While SB500 is a healthcare law, it complements the philosophy of school choice by removing bureaucratic control and giving it back to families. Just as school choice trusts parents to choose education, SB500 trusts parents to oversee healthcare. It also prevents schools (public bodies) from secretly influencing a child’s gender without parental consent​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,or%20public%20body%20shall%20not). In essence, it ensures that schools focus on education, not medical or ideological decisions, reinforcing a parent’s choice in how their child is raised and cared for.
* **Family Values:** NMFAM upholds traditional family values – love, honesty, responsibility, and faith. SB500 reinforces these by promoting honest communication (informed notice), encouraging families to handle sensitive issues internally with love (rather than cutting parents out), and stressing responsibility (holding those who influence a child’s body accountable). It aligns with the value that families should be the center of a child’s life, and decisions should reflect the family’s morals and hopes for that child. By supporting intact families making prudent choices, SB500 furthers a culture where family values thrive.
* **Protecting Families:** This bill protects not only individual children but the integrity of the family unit. It prevents scenarios that could tear families apart – for example, a scenario where a school transitions a child socially without telling parents could cause enormous family strife and confusion. SB500 says “No, we won’t allow that here.” Instead, it keeps families united in dealing with any gender identity issues, fostering communication and mutual support. It also protects families from financial ruin by making sure detransition medical costs aren’t solely on them​ [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.html#:~:text=A,of%20a%20gender%20transition%20procedure). A family that might have struggled to pay for reversal surgeries or lifelong medical care for complications will have legal recourse. This is a profound protection for family stability and future.
* **Preserving Freedom:** Finally, SB500 is about preserving the fundamental freedoms of New Mexicans. The freedom of parents to raise their kids according to conscience, the freedom of children to grow up without harmful interference, the freedom of doctors to offer cautious care (instead of feeling pressured to affirm quickly), and even the freedom of detransitioners to speak out and seek justice. It pushes back against government overreach and ideological coercion, restoring freedom in personal family matters. As such, it resonates strongly with our mission to preserve freedom in our state.

In aligning with all these values, SB500 is a natural extension of NMFAM’s work. It addresses a pressing contemporary issue through the timeless principles we hold dear. As people of faith and conviction, supporting SB500 is a way to put our values into action and make a positive difference for New Mexico’s children and families.

**Call to Action: How NMFAM Supporters Can Help**

Passing SB500 will not be easy – it faces opposition from those who favor the status quo or extreme ideological agendas. Your voice is needed to ensure this bill becomes law and our children are protected. Here are concrete actions you can take as a supporter of NMFAM and SB500:

1. **Contact Your Legislators:** Reach out to your New Mexico state senator and representative and urge them to support SB500 (Detransitioner Protection Act). Phone calls and personalized emails are very effective. Politely explain why you, as a parent or concerned community member, believe this bill is critical to protecting children. Mention some key points from above – e.g., “I support SB500 because it keeps parents in charge of their children’s health and protects kids from irreversible harm.” If your legislator is already supportive, thank them; if they are undecided or opposed, respectfully urge them to reconsider in light of the bill’s protections for families. *(You can find your legislators’ contact info on the NM Legislature website or via NMFAM’s Action Center.)*
2. **Attend Hearings and Rallies:** SB500 has been referred to the Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee (and then likely the Judiciary Committee)​. Attend the committee hearing if you can, to show support. Hearing dates can be found on the legislative calendar – NMFAM will send alerts when SB500 is scheduled. Wear pro-family attire or buttons if available (or simply blue/pink to represent children), and consider testifying if you have a personal story or professional insight. Even if you don’t speak, a strong presence of supportive parents and community members at the Capitol sends a powerful message. NMFAM may also organize a rally or press conference in support of SB500 – join us to stand together for our kids.
3. **Spread Awareness in Your Community:** Many New Mexicans still do not know these gender transition practices are happening with minors, or they feel alone in their concerns. Share information about SB500 with your friends, family, church, and on social media. You can:
   * Post on Facebook, Twitter, etc. about why you support SB500, using messaging similar to what’s above. Emphasize protecting kids and parental rights – messages that resonate widely.
   * Share NMFAM’s posts and alerts (follow us on social media @nm\_family\_action).
   * Talk to your pastor or faith leaders about this issue – perhaps your church can issue a supportive statement or encourage members to be informed. This aligns with our faith’s call to protect the innocent.
   * Write a letter to the editor or an op-ed for your local newspaper. Even a short letter highlighting “SB500 is a common-sense law to ensure parents are informed and children are safe” can educate the public and put pressure on legislators who read the local papers.
4. **Partner with Other Parents and Groups:** Consider teaming up with other parents, medical professionals, or community groups who share concern. Host a small informational meeting or a Zoom session to discuss SB500 and encourage action. NMFAM can provide talking points or a speaker if needed. Building a coalition amplifies our voice. Every mother and father who cares about children’s health should know about this bill. Help us get the word out at PTA meetings, homeschool groups, Christian schools, and beyond.
5. **Pray and Persevere:** Lastly, if you are a person of faith, pray for the success of SB500 and for wisdom for our lawmakers. Pray for the protection of children who are struggling, that they may find peace and truth. Our movement is grounded in hope and faith – we trust that doing the right thing will bear fruit. Stay encouraged and persevere, even if we face setbacks or opposition. With God’s help and our collective effort, we can create a safer future for New Mexico’s children.

**Conclusion**

SB500 is a vital piece of legislation that upholds the values we cherish – life, family, and freedom. It provides needed protections for minors, respects parental rights, introduces accountability, and offers compassion to those who need healing. This is an opportunity for New Mexico to lead in defending children and supporting families at a time when it’s needed most. NMFAM is proud to support SB500 wholeheartedly, and we ask you to stand with us in advocacy and prayer.

Together, let’s ensure that New Mexico laws put children first, empower every parent, and preserve the freedom of families to raise the next generation in truth and love. Contact your legislators today and urge them to vote YES on SB500 – for the sake of our children and the future of our families in New Mexico.