

1 [Motion to Support SB 201: Medical Procedures Re: Treatment or Intervention: Sex
2 Characteristics of a Minor]

3 **Supplemental Information:**

4 See attached document.
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Youth Commission
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November 18th, 2019

The Hon. Scott Wiener
California State Senator
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

RE: Support for SB 201: Medical procedures: treatment or intervention: sex characteristics of a minor

Dear Senator Wiener,

The San Francisco Youth Commission supports your bill SB 201: Medical procedures: treatment or intervention: sex characteristics of a minor. This bill would ensure that people born with variations in their sex characteristics and genitalia are given the opportunity to provide informed consent before any medical treatments that could irreversibly affect puberty, sexual function, or fertility.

The Youth Commission is a body of 17 youth from San Francisco between the ages of 12 and 23. Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the commission is responsible for advising the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on policies and laws related to young people. The Youth Commission is also charged with providing comment and recommendation on all proposed laws that would primarily affect youth before the Board takes final action.

About 1 in 100 people born in the U.S. are intersex, in which many faced unnecessary medical intervention at an early age. Intersex infants and youth involuntarily undergo surgeries for no reason other than to make their bodies conform to the traditional gender binary of male and female. Evidence shows the harm of these medical interventions when performed without the informed consent of the individual, such as physical pain, sterilization, and mental trauma. These risks violate basic human rights and further stigmatizes the intersex community. Many activists and community organizations have advocated to address the institutional and systemic issues on intersex rights. It's crucial for people born with variations in their sex characteristics have autonomy and self-agency over their own bodies and lives.

The impact that this bill would have on marginalized communities in California would be trailblazing and have a positive impact on generations to come.

For all these reasons, we support SB 201, and we thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josephine Cureton".

Josephine Cureton, Chair
Adopted on November 18, 2019
2019-2020 San Francisco Youth Commission