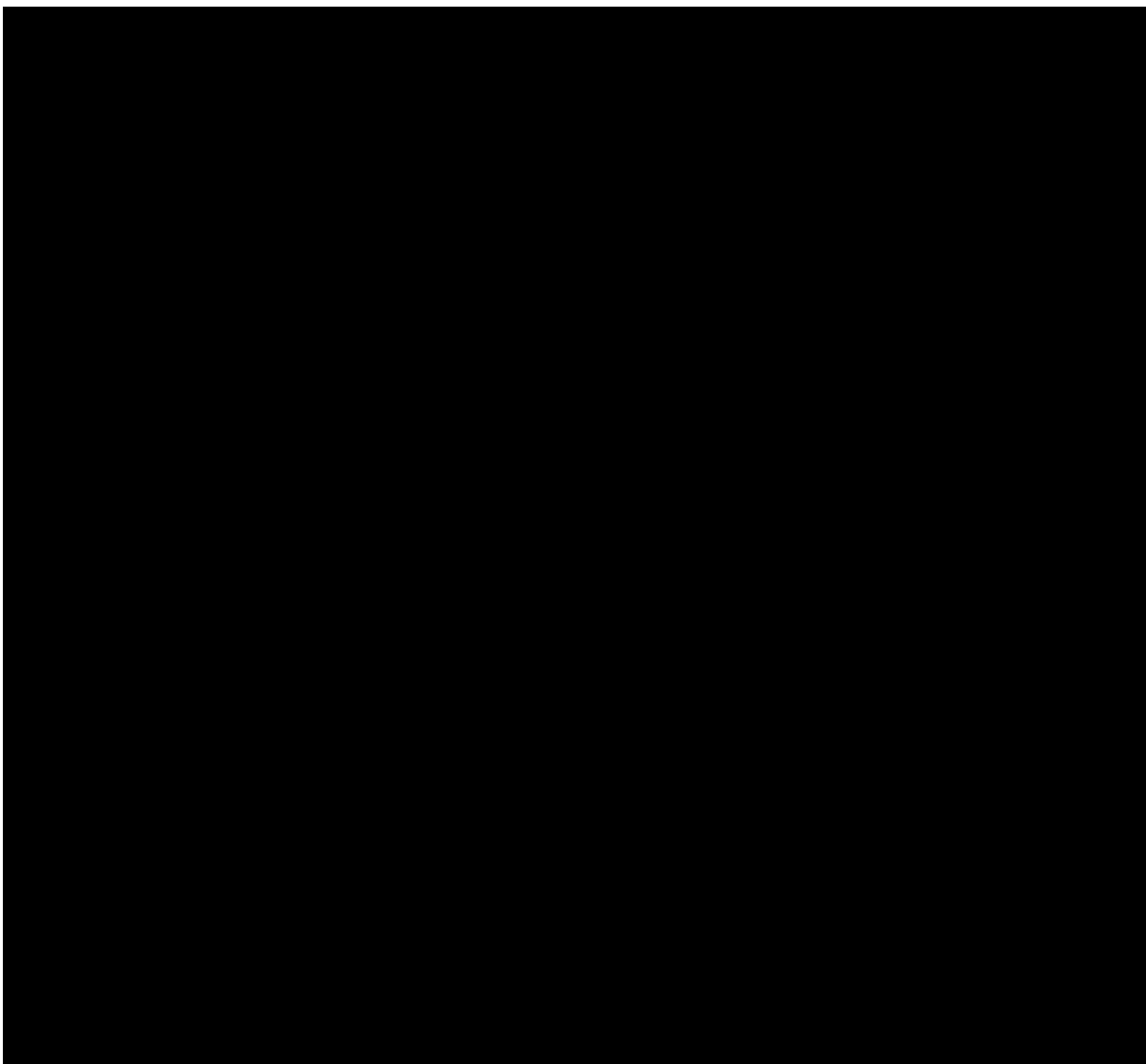
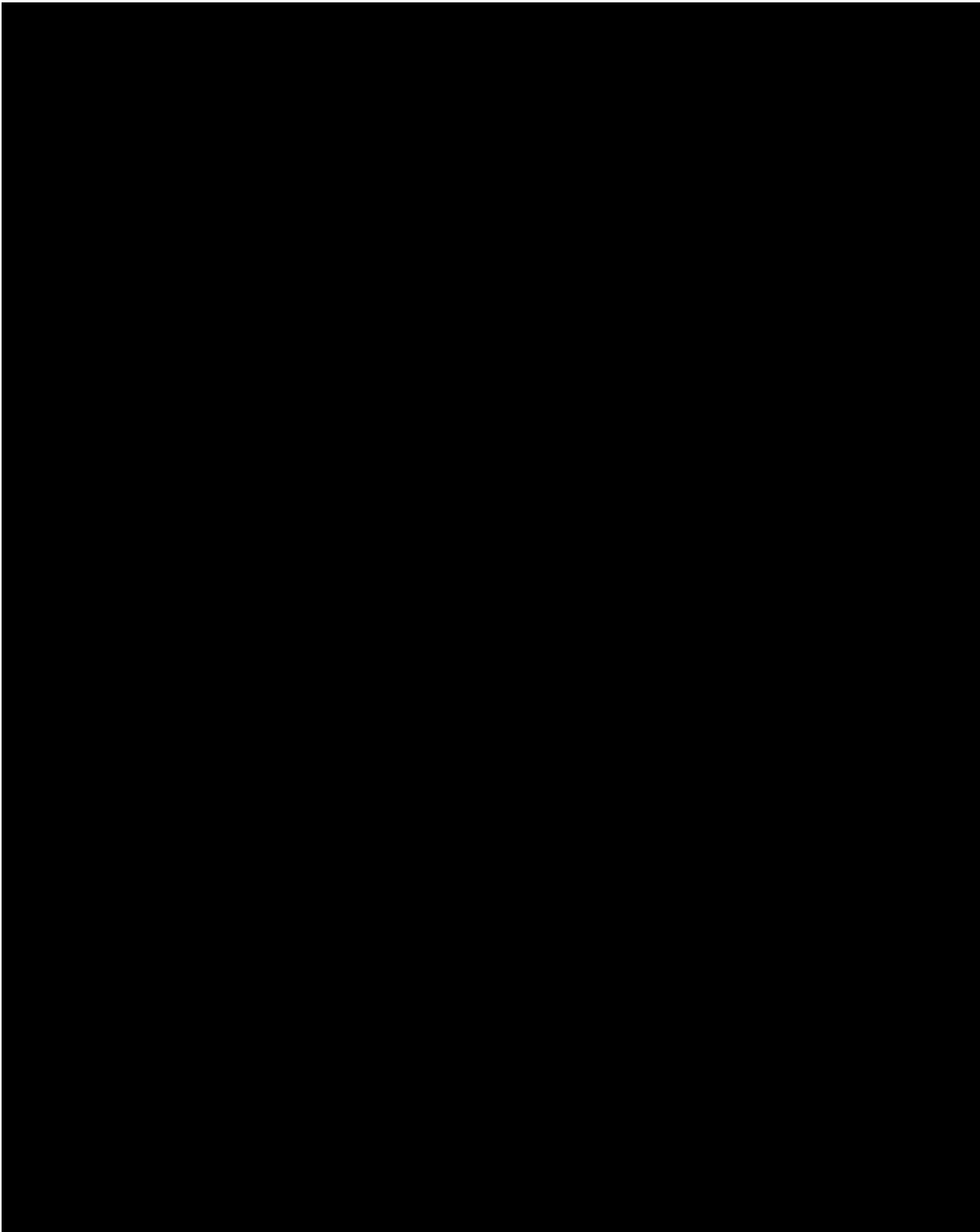


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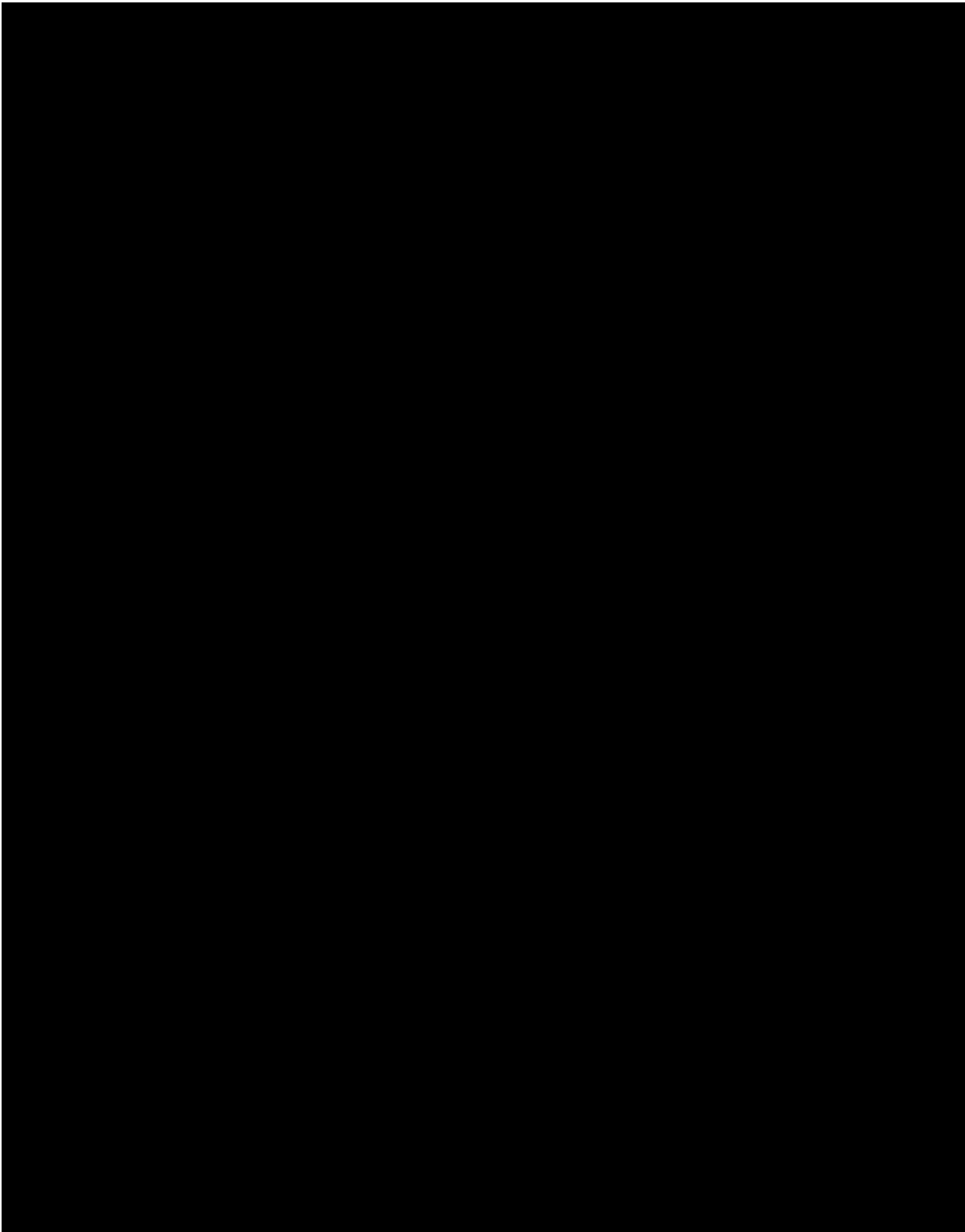
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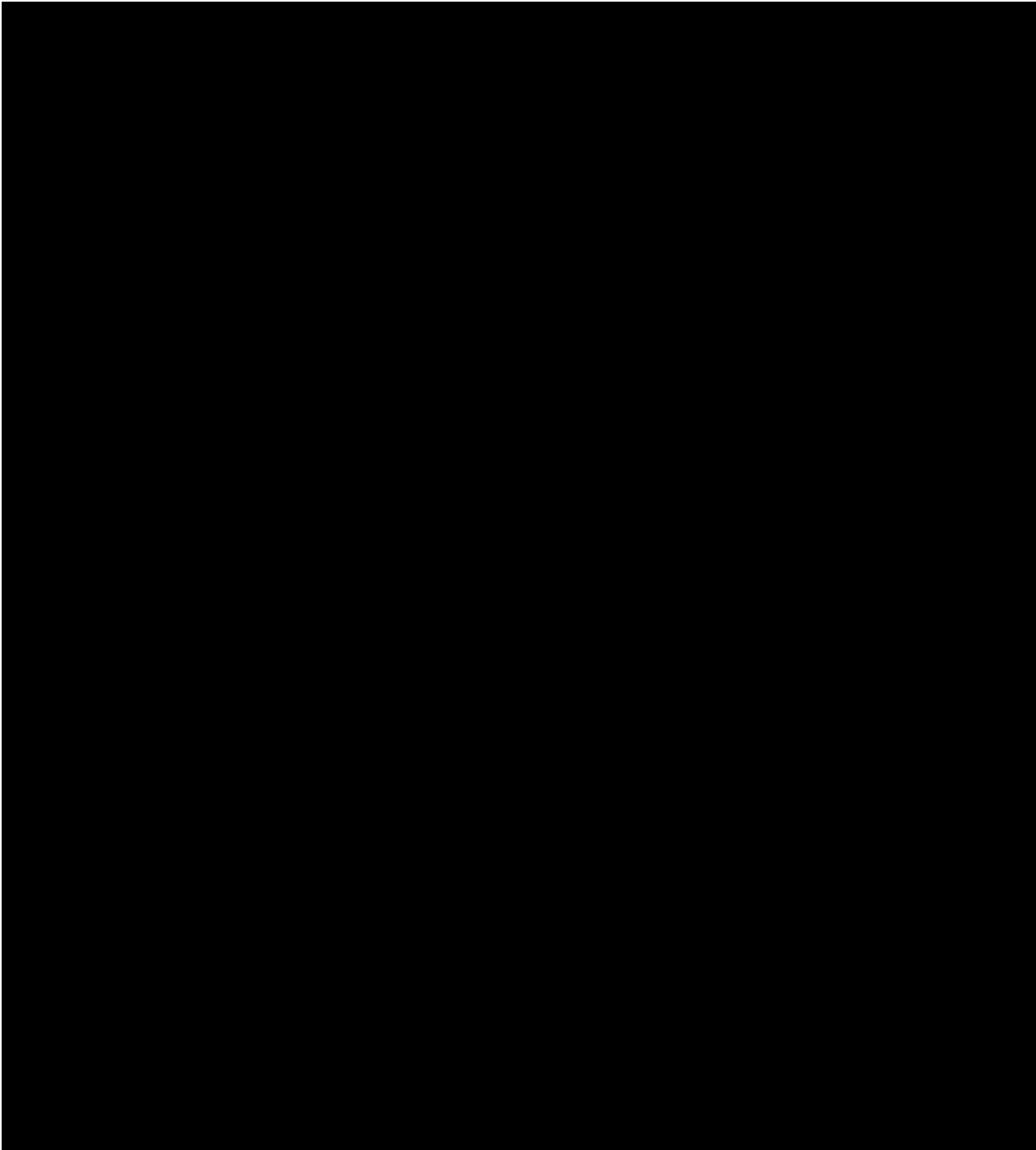
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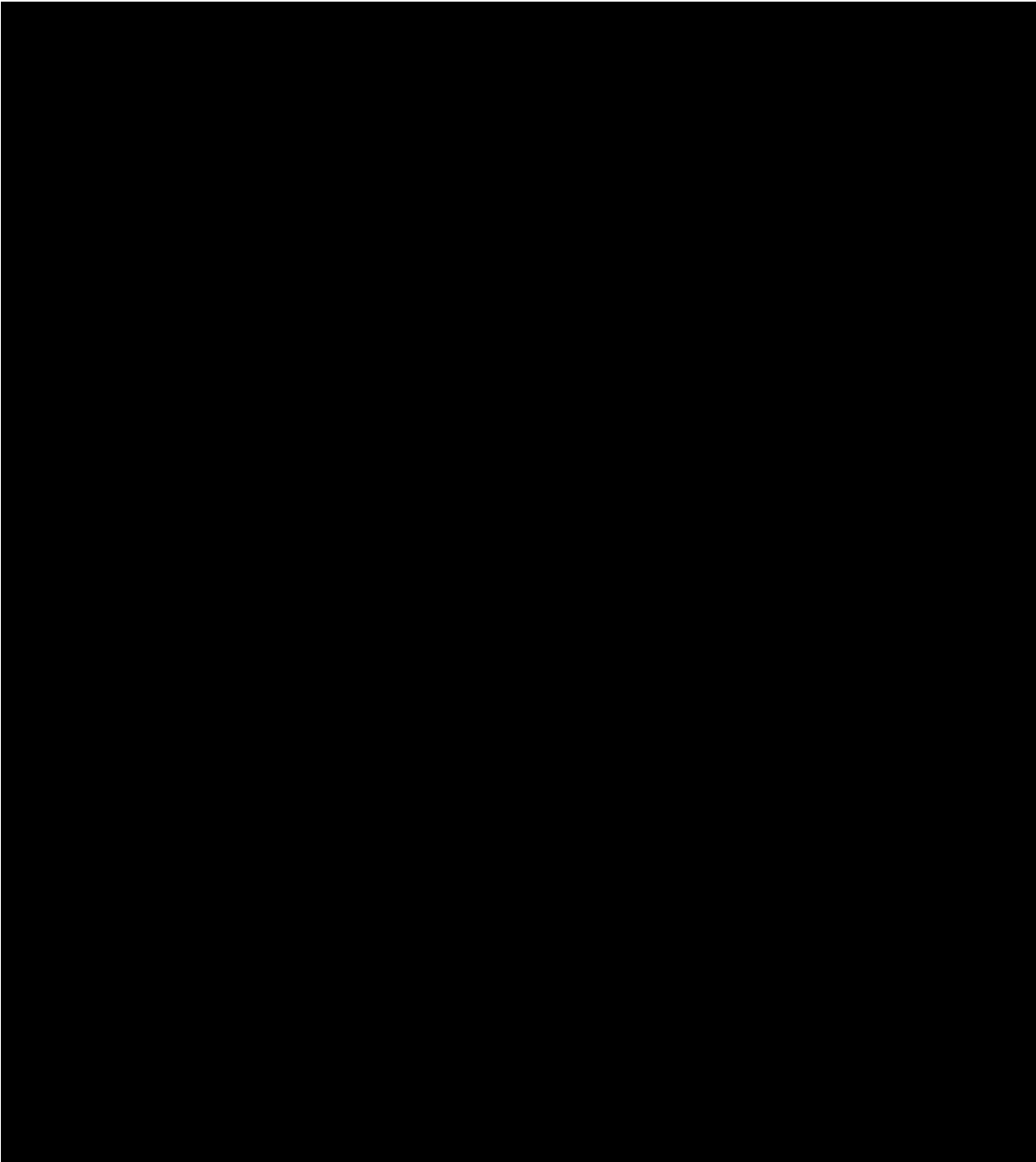
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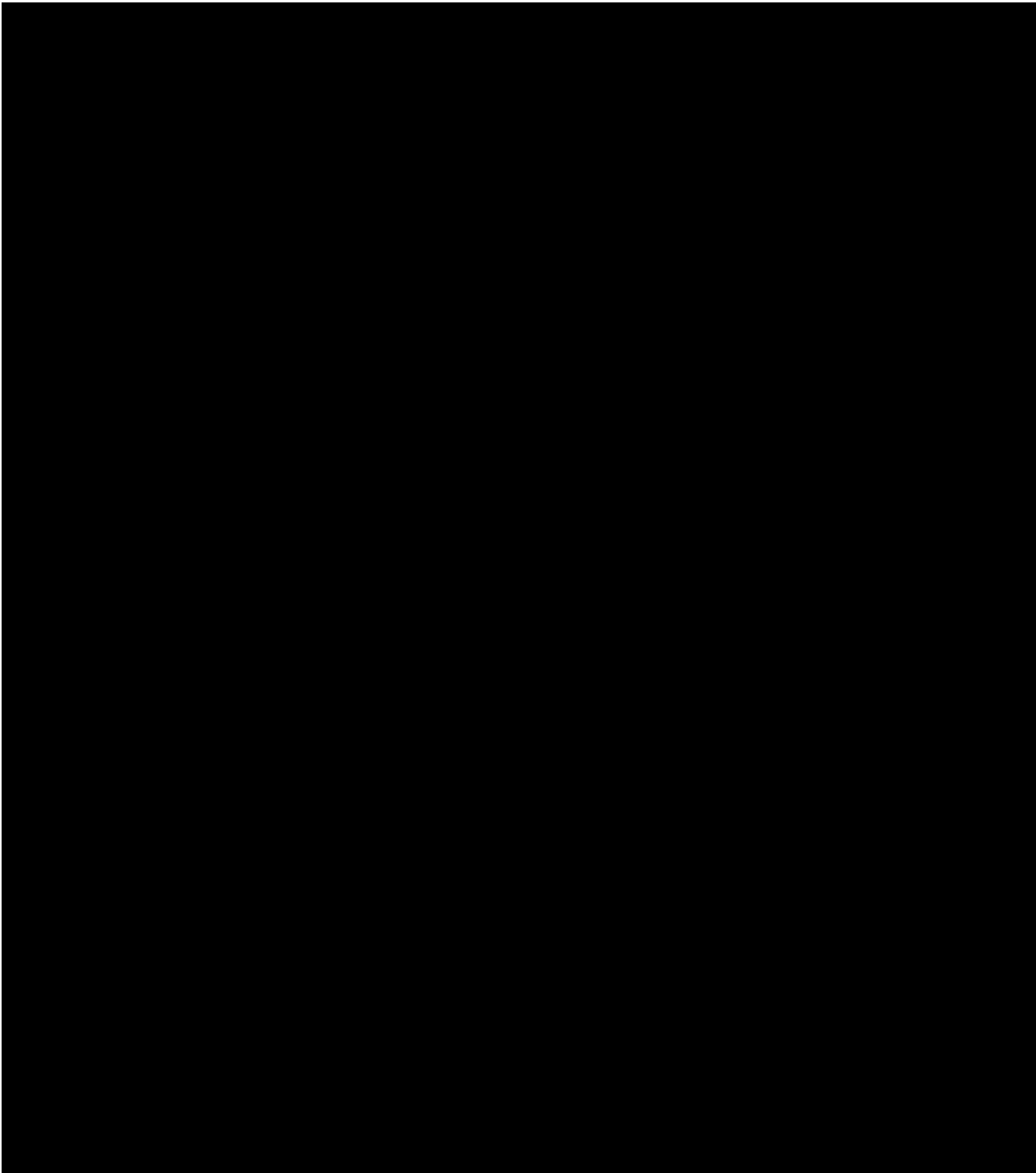
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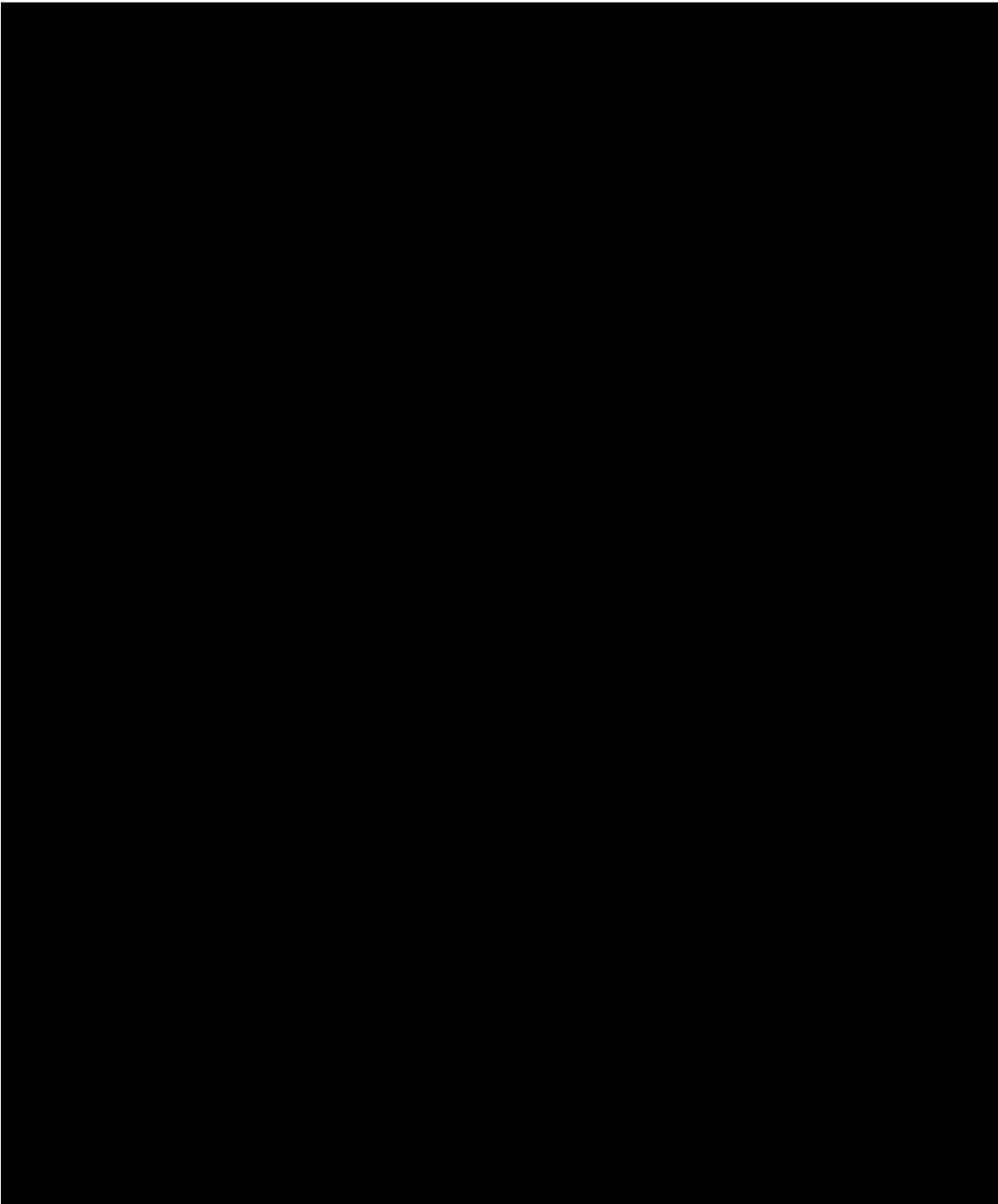


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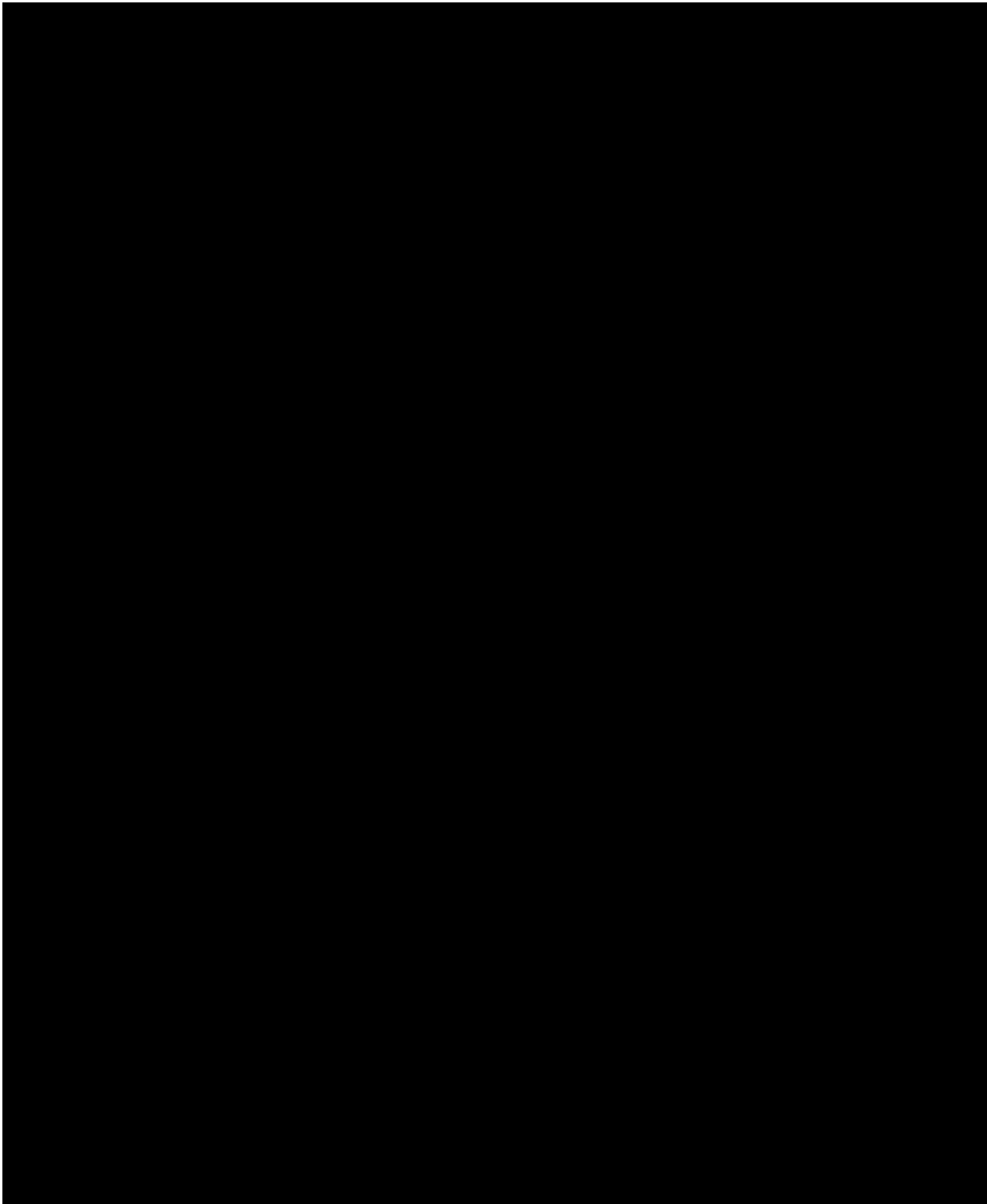
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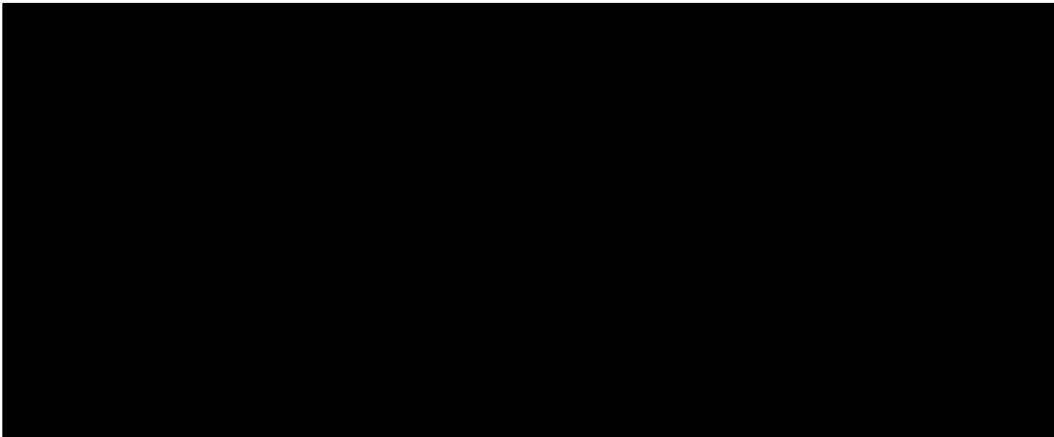
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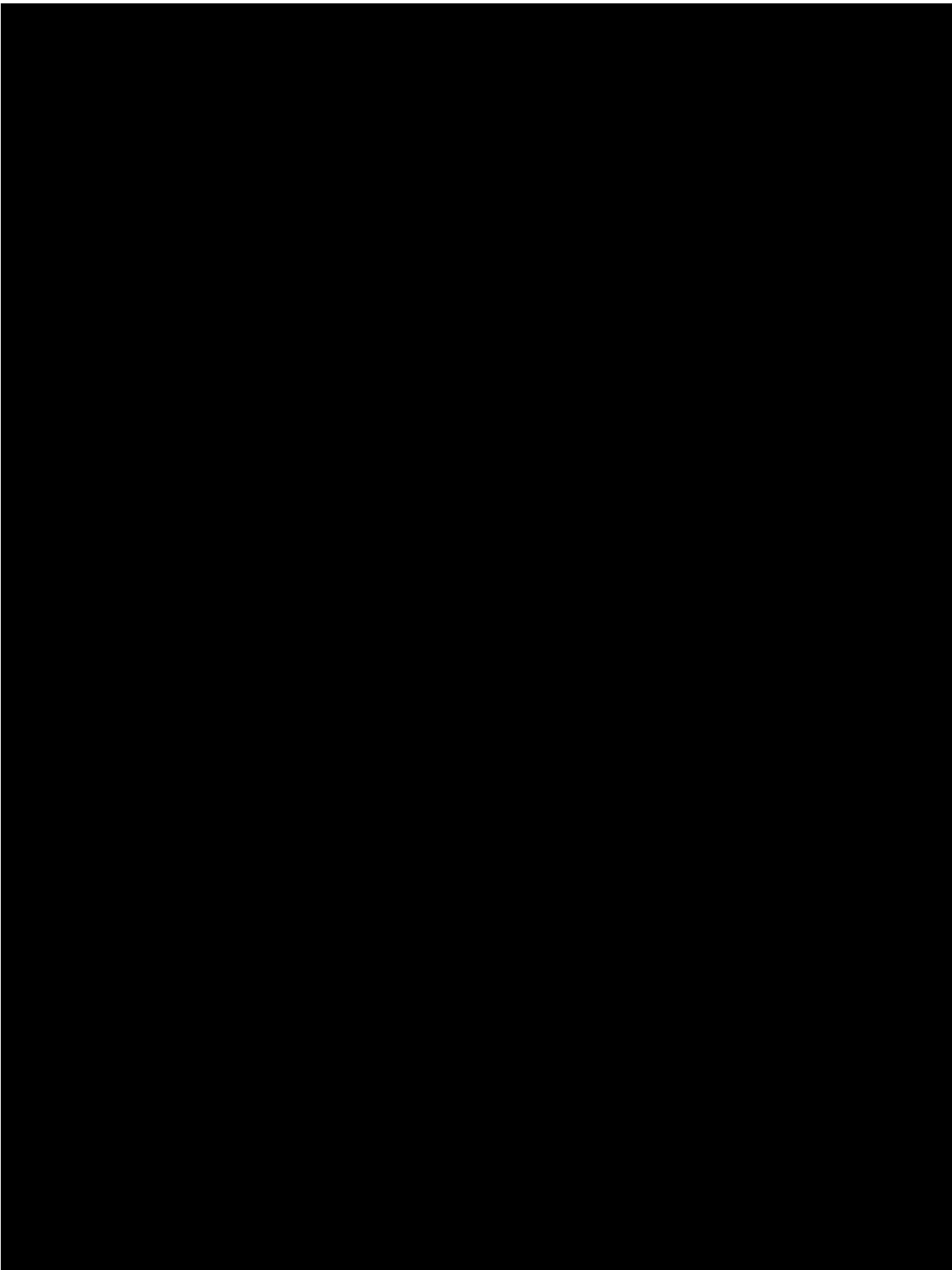
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Re: CONFIDENTIAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] Medscape article with new comments from Dr. Anderson

From: [REDACTED]
To: "madeline.deutsch [REDACTED] <madeline.deutsch [REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 24 Nov 2021 13:31:37 -0500

All I can say is, finally. I am glad to finally hear some sense of concern about the loosening of standards. It should be quite clear that as we have loosened standards and lost some control over the opportunistic nature of medicine in the US that we too started hearing increased concern over de-transition / regret. I am glad that you have concerns over SOC8. I am also alarmed by the call to censure Erica yet again. For what, stating the concerns that Maddie just expressed? The first step in solving a problem is admitting you have one. Everyone, we have a problem. Erica and Marci know it and so does Maddie thankfully. Science is great but medicine is promulgated by Dr Google and the ill informed profiteers taking advantage of troubled youth with little reputable resource. Our organization is at a crossroads. As a Board, frank discussions need to be had.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2021, at 12:54, Deutsch, Madeline <Madeline.Deutsch [REDACTED]> wrote:

To share my own thoughts on these subjects, I do agree with [REDACTED] and would go a step further to say that I do have concerns about how the door has swung away from more rigorous assessments in general over time. The reaction to restricted access and barriers has been a wave of treatment-on-demand clinics and proponents. In my view the ultimate manifestation of this is this paper, written by a law student, a first year medical resident, and a psychologist, in which they basically argue that anything other than hormones on demand is not true informed consent and is a violation of body autonomy. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34133715/> I find this to be very troubling. Also troubling is the out-of-proportion attention paid to the de/re-transition issue because it has become a rally point for "both sides". So indeed these issues require attention, but in a scientific way.

Our best action forward as a Board and organization, in my view, is to undertake a systematic process to develop prompt position statements that include appropriate expertise input beyond what is represented on the Board. I would not expect there to be significant action from the WPATH Board on this in the near term. As it stands the Assessment chapter for SOC8 has removed all pre-surgical assessment and requirements for adults, besides a "suggestion" of 6 months on hormone therapy. In addition to being bad medicine in my view, I think this will add great fuel to the fire we are dealing with and ultimately weaken WPATH and the strength of the SOCs. I don't

know the full story, but I do know that there has been a great deal of pressure placed on that chapter and on the editors by a wing of the community who want to have everything done on demand or it is otherwise transphobic or denying autonomy. I have, in my capacity as Primary Care Chapter Lead, expressed these concerns directly to the SOC editors.

Best,

Maddie

From: Deutsch, Madeline <Madeline.Deutsch@██████████>
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 12:38 PM

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Medscape article with new comments from Dr. Anderson

Thank you for those who have shared your thoughts. I see 3 issues here.

One is that Erica has now given another press interview on this topic, in which she re-affirmed her statements in the Shrier article, without notifying or consulting with the Board, even after her recent letter of reprimand. This requires action by the Board in my view. I will ask ██████████ to weigh in, but I would in the least want to consider removing her from her Past-President role and moving her to a member-at-large position. I am concerned that we have given Erica a reprimand yet she continues to speak to the press, and if we take no action then she has no dis-incentive to continue to do so.

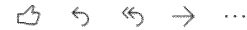
A second is the issue of de/retransitioning, and a third is the issue of insuring quality and safety in trans youth care. I sent the below message with regards to those matters. I am sure that we all have much to contribute to these discussions. What I would like to do with the next Board meeting is after taking care of all a number of administrative matters that will be on the agenda, pivot to starting these processes. It will be important that we remain focused on and actionable and solutions-based approach, that is strategic, addresses the very real medical and psychosocial patient care issues at play as well as the charged political atmosphere, and that has a clear and timely plan of action. I will encourage Board members to have off-line discussions or e-mail exchanges amongst yourselves in advance of this meeting as needed so that we can focus on developing actionable steps to appropriately address this issue at the meeting.

Best,

Maddie



Deutsch, Madeline
Sun 11/7/2021 9:28 PM



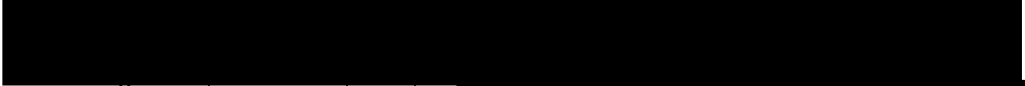
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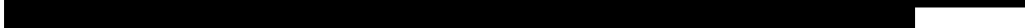
I think we may have succeeded in our tactics for today, the larger issue still looms, and a position statement from USPATH is expected. I would like to create a USPATH task force that will examine this issue by the numbers. We will need to engage impartial experts in the field who are qualified to do this work and have no history of conflict of interest. For example, I would not consider Lisa Littman to be impartial given her recent appearance with Megyn Kelly. Concurrently we should have a separate well qualified and impartial expert task force which will examine qualifications and training considerations, as well as quality assurance and improvement, for those who assess transgender youth for initiation of hormone therapy or blockers.



Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 12:09 PM



Deutsch, Madeline <Madeline.Deutsch@...>



Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Medscape article with new comments from Dr. Anderson

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The thing that I struggle with is that de/retransitioners have always been a part of my community, and to a lesser degree my medical practice. There's some idea that people either essentially are or are not trans that these people are running with, which is so dangerous to people who de/retransition, and not the idea that different genders fit people better at different times and those things are fluid. I'd really like to focus our response on this on the idea that de/retransition doesn't make someone "not trans," but is a normal part of life. I'd like to do something to promote the idea that de/retransition isn't "failure" on the part of medical providers, but a normal part of having trans people around, and emphasize that we should welcome de/retransitioners into our practice, because they do have unique health needs that are best addressed by someone familiar with trans medicine.

There's so much stigma out there for de/retransitioners – I just had a surgeon cancel a routine vaginoplasty repair and request a psych eval because they patient detransitioned.

So do we want to make some sort of statement? Or start working with WPATH to have this addressed at next year's conference?

[REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 12:24 PM

[REDACTED]

Maddie Deutsch

<Madeline.Deutsch@ [REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Medscape article with new comments from Dr. Anderson

I would like to go on a retreat in the woods, with campfires and marshmallows!

[REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 7:13 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Maddie Deutsch

<Madeline.Deutsch@ [REDACTED]>

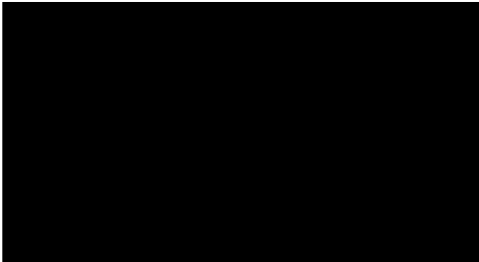
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Medscape article with new comments from Dr. Anderson (EXTERNAL EMAIL)

CAUTION: BE CAREFUL WITH THIS MESSAGE
[REDACTED]

going on "what the children say," as Erica put it, and on what we/parents/teachers observe in their behavior...there's no litmus test. And there's no assessment tool that captures all the ways internal signals can sometimes be misread as related to gender when they're not, or not completely, as can happen with borderline personality and other identity-related conditions, and which is occurring more often (in my observation) as trans/nonbinary identities are more visible, available, and (yay) accepted. We're just beginning to see responsible, trans-led investigations on some of this (see this lit review on psychosis in trans folks by Sebastian Barr et al.: [CONFIDENTIAL – SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1Vy3VDNyPrSa2LmP-Lamce6lJH9UR12zTR4GnfWydMvni7EewunzZ4kHJSL5FirXA_yoC2nuj98qL9PiTZ_AeeslUsRY2N9xrH2jqciegZnlpjCA6_8MUIZNNQHT6q2TYEWrF4mhNpRtGuUw7iRbB_PFDyz7ek2F5JvjvgprpxthSgPcxxqZT_6tws4pySLb1wsudyj2sg2Y64yWeQWJ2VI8qeEmMGaz8a7A6WHbeJn8nDprUx6HKkg2NtWI5t1IXJbw4rD4pnSJ6pXIUxRpQLfKH6gnRH25wigM90iyeMVWfDQ26Vafza-tVZeM-CKRHuKDuUmgp8WjIkY1v3oP-WZBeZhQRnfx2zyWWW9UHBaZLysBETIXQqEYoBRNw9o51pg05sKyHGxYTarbuw7QYFLxTIUcafPPCwxSVZ_C-e32lgsde4uudQ0KoCrAHCO3ET4FBBfWy1v8vc0mHNol3rpg/https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sciencedir</p></div>
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ect.com%2Fscience%2Farticle%2Fpii%2FS0165178121005679%3Fdgcid%3Dauthor) but nothing yet to my knowledge that specifically addresses this weird moment we're in with kids/pandemic/social media. I've heard shrill voices on both sides, and in my view, this shouldn't be a "sides" kind of thing. As in politics, polarization occurs when each "side" doesn't really listen to the other. But to present a more nuanced discussion invites weaponization by the TERFy ROGD people, and their "side" is more comprehensible to scared parents (and probably most of the cis-het masses, to be honest), even when we're talking about a tiny minority of people who retransition/regret/think they made a mistake. Right now I'm really wishing we could all go on a think-tank retreat somewhere (preferably with a campfire)...this feels so big for an email discussion or even a board meeting.



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On Nov 23, 2021, at 8:47 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Has anyone yet listened to the Genspect conference? It's available on YouTube and I'm about halfway through. The first half has been about the same things we've heard over and over, "3000% increase in transmasculine individuals" (although they are all referred to as female), poor understanding of Cecilia DeJehne's work, complaining about lack of data to substantiate the need for timely care, etc. I don't know why some people are susceptible to the small but loud minority voice and am deeply grieved by community members who are as well. Perhaps we should discuss amongst our Board? [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2021, at 4:42 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

CAUTION: BE CAREFUL WITH THIS MESSAGE



At Endocrine Society, we have had a lot of difficulty with the publications coming from Medscape on this topic (and have had to involve our legal group). William Malone (an endocrinologist from Idaho) heads up one of these fringe societies and frequently is

interviewed in their articles, and frequently disrupts sessions on this topic at ES meetings.

Unfortunately speaking to Medscape is about the equivalent to speaking to Shrier in my opinion.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On November 22, 2021 at 22:54:57 CST, Deutsch, Madeline
<Madeline.Deutsch [REDACTED]> wrote:

A new article with remarks from Dr. Anderson in which she defends her comments to Abigail Shrier. Limiting the discussion to Board members who will be continuing after the election and present at the next meeting.

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Transgender Docs Warn About Gender-Affirmative Care for Youth

Some of America's leading experts on transgender medicine say their concerns about the quality of the evaluations of adolescents and young adults with gender dysphoria are being stifled by activists who are worried that open discussions will further stigmatize trans youth and add fuel to the conflagration of anti-trans legislation sweeping across the nation.

The clinicians who have raised warning flags say the health of young people is their primary concern.

Others agree that it is time to take a closer look at the widely backed "gender-affirmative care" model and the quality of care being delivered, but they believe it should be done in the halls of academia, not through the lay press or on social media.

The latest skirmish was set off by comments made by Marci Bowers, MD, president-elect of the World Professional Association for Transgender

Health (WPATH), and Erica Anderson, PhD, president of the US Professional Association for Transgender Health (USPATH) and USPATH representative to the WPATH board.

The comments come from an interview with Abigail Shrier, author of the book entitled, *Irreversible Damage*, which has drawn controversy because of its assertion that some adolescents are experiencing what has been dubbed "rapid-onset" gender dysphoria (ROGD). The term was first coined in 2018 by researcher Lisa Littman, MD, MPH, president of The Institute for Comprehensive Gender Dysphoria Research (ICGDR), but is not officially accepted.

However, many researchers in the field acknowledge the phenomenon that it describes: a huge increase in the Western world of teenagers and young adults suddenly expressing a transgender identity seemingly out of the blue, when previously there had been no indication that they were uncomfortable with their biological sex. This phenomenon has also variously been termed late- or adolescent-onset gender dysphoria, and differs from prior descriptions of gender dysphoria, which was primarily observed in younger children.

"We're Going to Have More Young Adults Who Regret...This Process"

Dr Erica Anderson

In the Shrier substack article, published on October 4, Bowers and Anderson (both of whom are transgender) lament the state of assessments and care for children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria.

Anderson, a clinical psychologist, told Shrier, that "due to some of the I'll call it just 'sloppy' healthcare work that we're going to have more young adults who will regret having gone through this process."

Now, in an interview with Medscape Medical News, Anderson says she stands by the comments she made to Schrier. "I'm concerned that there are some...providers of mental health [care] and medical providers who are not observing WPATH standards of care and who may be less fully qualified to deliver care."

One of the "sloppy" things she says she's witnessed is providers "believing that the gender-affirmative approach is simply taking what the children say and running with it."

The "gender affirmative" approach for children with gender dysphoria means different things at different ages. In the case of kids who have not yet entered puberty associated with their birth sex, this might include prescribing so-called "puberty blockers" to delay natural puberty —

gonadotrophin-releasing hormone analogs that are licensed for use in precocious puberty in children. They have not been licensed for use in children with gender dysphoria, so such use is off-label.

Following puberty blockade, or in cases where adolescents have already undergone natural puberty, the next step is to begin "cross-sex" hormones. So, for a girl (female) who wants to transition to male (FTM), that would be lifelong testosterone, and for a male who wants to be female (MTF), it involves lifelong estrogen. Again, use of such hormones in transgender individuals is off-label.

Many of these individuals also decide to access surgery, although this usually happens when they are legally adults (at age 18 and older). In the case of FTM, surgery involves a double mastectomy, euphemistically called "top surgery", to remove the breasts and give the chest the appearance of a male. Boys wishing to transition to female may get breast implants, although in many cases, estrogen causes enough breast tissue to grow. So-called "bottom surgery" is more complex. For MTF, it involves removal of the testicles and penile inversion to form a "neo-vagina". And for FTM, it may involve a hysterectomy, removal of the ovaries, and a phalloplasty, a complex and multistaged procedure to create a penis.

An evaluation for gender dysphoria requires a comprehensive picture of every young person, their journey, and a medical and psychological profile, Anderson stresses.

"To simply act as if a child is a reliable reporter about this area but not nearly every other area is preposterous," she explains.

Anderson says she's not criticizing all providers or all transgender care.

But she's concerned "that in the haste which some, in my opinion, have exercised to provide gender care to youth...some providers are either ignoring what they know about adolescents, or they're setting it aside for the time being in the service of expediting care that's gender-affirming."

"It disturbs me a great deal, which is why I'm speaking out, even though I've incurred the ire of some people who think that just by speaking out I am causing problems," says Anderson.

Bowers, a gynecologic surgeon, has felt similar pressure. She told Shrier: "There are definitely people who are trying to keep out anyone who doesn't absolutely buy the party line that everything should be affirming and that there's no room for dissent."

She also told Shrier she was "not a fan" of administering puberty blockers at Tanner Two stage of puberty.

Puberty blockers inhibit genital tissue growth, which can make affirmation surgeries more difficult for children who do eventually transition and choose to opt for gender-reassignment surgery, said Bowers.

She is also worried that puberty blockers, combined with cross-sex hormones afterward, may impact children's "sexual health later and ability to find intimacy."

Bowers did not respond to requests from Medscape Medical News for additional comment.

Discussions Should Be in Academia, Not on Social Media or in Lay Press

Dr Jason Rafferty

Some 8 days after the Shrier article was published, USPATH and WPATH issued a joint statement that it stood behind "the appropriate care of transgender and gender diverse youth, which includes, when indicated, the use of 'puberty blockers,'" and "the use of gender-affirming hormones such as estrogen or testosterone."

The two organizations also say they "oppose the use of the lay press, either impartial or of any political slant or viewpoint, as a forum for scientific debate of these issues, or the politicization of these issues in any way."

Jason Rafferty, MD, MPH, EdM, lead author of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2018 policy statement on caring for transgender and gender-diverse children and adolescents, said he agrees that discussions about the gender-affirmative care model should be held mainly among professionals.

He also acknowledged that "parents are coming to us with a lot of fear and trepidation about what's ahead."

Shrier's article "played on some of those fears — that the future after gender-affirmative care is really scary," says Rafferty, a pediatrician and child psychiatrist at the gender and sexuality clinic and Adolescent Healthcare Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island.

Nevertheless, he told Medscape Medical News that concerns voiced by Bowers and Anderson are "legitimate."

Lone Voices or a Growing Chorus?

Anderson says that she and another psychologist, Laura Edwards-Leeper, PhD, are among the few willing to speak out.

"Others have dubbed Dr Edwards-Leeper and I the 'brave ones' because we're willing to talk about these issues," she says.

Anderson was, until October, a clinical psychologist at the Child and Adolescent Gender Clinic at the University of California at San Francisco. She told Medscape Medical News that she resigned "to pursue other opportunities."

Edwards-Leeper is professor emeritus in the School of Graduate Psychology at Pacific University in Hillsboro, Oregon, and was on the American Psychological Association (APA) Task Force that developed practice guidelines for working with transgender individuals.

She is currently chair of the child and adolescent committee for WPATH.

Dr Laura Edwards-Leeper

Anderson and Edwards-Leeper have been criticized for speaking about their concerns, whether in a 60 Minutes broadcast in May that focused on detransitioners (individuals who transition to the opposite sex but then change their minds and 'detransition'), to Shrier, or in other forums.

The two psychologists recently submitted an op-ed to The New York Times but were turned down, a fact mentioned by Anderson in the Shrier article and confirmed to Medscape Medical News.

Even that was fodder for critics. "Please don't talk to anti-trans journalists because you're mad the NYT rejected your op-ed," tweeted Jack Turban, MD, a few weeks after the Shrier substack article appeared.

Turban is a child psychiatry fellow at Stanford University School of Medicine, California, who specializes in the mental health of transgender youth, and he also writes op-eds for The New York Times. He did not appear to tweet directly at anyone, but his target seemed clear.

Young Adults Are Vulnerable: Gender Not Exempt From Peer Influence

Edwards-Leeper tells Medscape Medical News: "We're not going to be helping any youth if we're not trying to look critically at the practices that are happening and try to improve upon things that maybe need to be changed."

She worries, for instance, that 18-to-25-year-olds are often treated as "small adults" — that is, they can give informed consent but are not given a complete mental health evaluation. There's a portion who "are developmentally much younger" than adults, Edwards-Leeper says.

She agrees, too, that some minors are getting "sloppy" care. Adolescents' psychological development is complex and not always fully understood, she stresses.

"There's this idea that if a person says they're trans, they're trans, and that the person knows who they are better than anyone else," says Edwards-Leeper.

"There is truth to that from my perspective, but it is a lot more complicated when we're talking about an adolescent who is trying to figure out their identity and is influenced by a lot of factors."

Anderson also sees this as an issue. Teenagers influence each other, so it should not come as a surprise that peer influence is a factor for sexual or gender identity, she says.

"It's not the one area that's exempt from peer influence," she emphasizes, although she is also conversely certain "that a persistent, true trans identity is not caused by peer influence."

It's also a positive that more young people are expressing gender-variant identities because it indicates a more open and accepting society, Anderson believes.

But the issue is: "How do we determine which of these kids are going to fit into an identity different than cis?" she explains. "Honestly I'm not sure we have the data yet to be certain."

"Nobody who has been doing this work for a long time does presume that every child who at some point says they're trans will persist as being trans," Anderson insists.

"What Is Occurring Is an Unregulated Experiment on Children"

Anderson, Bowers, and Edwards-Leeper are not alone.

Finland issued new treatment guidelines in mid-2020 emphasizing that psychotherapy should be the first line of treatment for gender dysphoria for adolescents, as detailed in a Medscape Medical News feature in April.

And in May of this year, Sweden's Karolinska University Hospital, along with other gender clinics in the country, stopped prescribing puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to individuals under age 18. And even more recently, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists also said that mental health evaluations by competent providers are essential before any medical treatments are offered to young people.

Some individuals — it's unclear how many — have transitioned back to their natal sex and are described as "detransitioners".

Medscape Medical News recently reported on a survey of 100 detransitioners by Littman, who coined the phrase ROGD, which found

that half of those who detransitioned felt they did not receive an adequate evaluation from a clinician or mental health provider before transitioning.

Dr William Malone

William Malone, MD, an advisor to the Society for Evidence-Based Gender Medicine, who has spoken out and written critically about what he views as the serious harms of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and gender-affirming surgery, told Medscape Medical News: "What is occurring is an unregulated experiment on children, and frequently clinics are not even properly collecting long-term outcomes."

"Even with COVID-19 and clear life-and-death outcomes, we are running randomized controlled trials to figure out which treatments work," stresses Malone, an endocrinologist based in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Malone says Anderson and Bowers are likely both concerned about the health of young people and equally worried about US state laws that are issuing blanket prohibitions against hormonal and surgical interventions for gender-variant youth.

"Medicine is part science, part art," he says.

"Perhaps these clinicians want to preserve the 'art,' which they may fear will be taken away if the field does not start policing itself by starting to acknowledge the lack of solid evidence foundations for much of what's happening today in the field."

Introducing Genspect: Parents Are Pushing Back

Edwards-Leeper says more and more parents are organizing and expressing concern about the speed of medical transitions. Increasingly, they are complaining that they "can't find a therapist who will actually engage in exploring the kid's gender and what might be going on related to their dysphoria to make sure it's the right thing," she says.

"They're almost all liberal, progressive, left-leaning, supportive of LGBTQ people, very smart, very resourceful parents," she notes.

One of those groups is Genspect, an international organization that advocates for "neutral space" for children to explore their gender identity and opposes medical transition for children.

It has recently launched a page where parents can leave a short, 4-minute audio testimonial that details how their lives have been impacted by their child suddenly declaring a transgender identity.

And this Saturday, November 20, Genspect is organizing the first-ever webinar about ROGD, which will feature Littman, David Bell — a

psychiatrist who used to work at the foremost gender clinic for children in the UK, the Tavistock clinic — and one of Genspect's founders, psychotherapist Stella O'Malley.

In an interview published in the wake of the Shrier substack article, O'Malley told The Australian: "The big names associated with this vast experiment seem to be re-positioning themselves from being fervent advocates to now seeking caution —sadly for thousands of families this is too little, too late."

Rafferty, the AAP guideline author, told Medscape Medical News that he also hears concerns from parents that things may be moving too quickly. "That is something we need to listen to," he says.

Is Gender-Affirmative Care Reversible?

But Rafferty also believes that transitioning is not a "one-time decision," where "once they start, they're on this train that's left the station and they can't turn back, they can't change anything." He tells parents, "That's not the gender-affirmative care model."

The model dictates that with every visit the care is affirming, he says. "And if something doesn't feel affirming, to slow down, to explore it," Rafferty emphasizes.

Puberty blockers may be the right approach initially, but they can always be stopped if it's no longer the right tactic, he explains.

"At the end of the day, it's not about people being transgender, it's about people being really confident and comfortable in their body and their identity," he says.

The Endocrine Society issued a statement to Medscape Medical News in which it says that its 2017 clinical practice guideline on the hormonal treatment of gender-dysphoric/gender incongruent persons emphasizes that a thorough mental health evaluation is essential. In the case of children, a diagnosis of gender dysphoria or gender incongruence should be made by a mental health professional who has training or experience in child and adolescent gender development, as well as child and adolescent psychopathology, it notes.

"It is important that mental health care is available before, during, and sometimes also after transitioning," added the Endocrine Society, in its statement.

The Society also noted that the American Medical Association, the APA, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the European Society of Endocrinology, the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology, and the AAP "are in

alignment with us on the importance of gender-affirming care," which includes puberty blockers.

"Being forced to experience puberty consistent with the sex recorded at birth is extremely distressing for many transgender and gender-diverse individuals," the Endocrine Society adds. That, in turn, can "result in higher psychological problem scores and can raise the person's risk of committing suicide or other acts of self-harm," noted the statement. "Further, undergoing puberty that does not match a person's gender identity can create the need for more medical procedures as an adult," it adds.

It is, however, widely accepted that most children who take puberty blockers will progress to transition with cross-sex hormones. Figures for this vary by study but are — even at the lower limit — upwards of 87%, and in many cases, closer to 97%-99%. Therefore, far from being reversible, puberty blockers appear to be a "one-way path" to transition, say Malone and other critics.

The WPATH Standards of Care, 8th revision, is due to be published by the end of 2021. Both Anderson and Edwards-Leeper are involved in those new guidelines and cannot comment on how they might change, if at all.

Malone says he has been following the process "with interest," but "what I have seen to date is not reassuring." For instance, he says that a systematic review of evidence commissioned by WPATH on cross-sex hormones is "very weak" in that it concludes that hormones are "likely beneficial." In addition, the review does not discuss potential harms, he says.

Demand Outstrips Supply: Proper Evaluation Isn't "Conversion Therapy"

More gender-variant and transgender teens have been turning to online services and Planned Parenthood clinics (in the United States) for puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones.

In most states, Planned Parenthood, formerly a provider of just contraception and abortion services, administers cross-sex hormones to anyone over age 18 with informed consent, and in some states, to those aged 16 or 17 with parental consent. A mental health evaluation is not required.

Anderson says she's concerned about this lack of mental health evaluation.

"I'm worried that they're not getting what they should get in preparation for such a life-changing decision," she tells Medscape Medical News.

She acknowledges, however, that demand for transgender care is outstripping the supply of qualified providers. "Many of the better clinics have waiting lists and it takes months to get in for an initial appointment," she says, noting that some parents and young people understandably don't want to wait.

WPATH's Global Education Institute has trained some 5000 clinicians worldwide on transgender care.

But most US practicing mental health professionals "had no training in transgender healthcare," says Anderson. "So now they're trying to play catch-up."

"We need more and better care for trans youth," she emphasizes.

That's echoed by Edwards-Leeper.

Providers should be "properly and comprehensively assessing the individual young person and figuring out an individualized treatment plan for them, which may or may not involve medical interventions, but they should always be done before any medical intervention per the standards of care, but especially before hormones," she tells Medscape Medical News.

This is "not conversion therapy, you're not trying to change their gender, you're just trying to help them sort out where this all came from and what it is that's actually going to help them feel better," stresses Edwards-Leeper.

Rafferty agrees on the need for a thorough individualized assessment — preferably by a multidisciplinary team, as recommended in the AAP guidelines. But he also says those assessments should not be delayed.

It's a fine line for clinicians, children, and families to tread, and they all must work in concert, he says. "Kids are often focused on the here and now, the distress and the dysphoria they are feeling today, which is very legitimate, and I think what the research tells us is important to recognize."

Making them "watch and wait" is not appropriate, he says. But, "on the flip side, we do need to be thinking long term, we do need to be thinking about side effects," and that often is the purview of the parents, he adds, noting, "I welcome parents challenging me with things they are really worried about."

Anderson continues to lobby for caution.

"In my opinion, there is nothing as significant as a gender change," she says, noting that it transforms the individual "biologically, psychologically, and socially."

"If we try to make patients make good decisions about anything at all, we should redouble our efforts when it comes to gender care," she concludes.

Alicia Ault is a Lutherville, Maryland-based freelance journalist whose work has appeared in publications including JAMA, [Smithsonian.com](https://www.smithsonian.com), The New York Times, and The Washington Post. You can find her on Twitter: @aliciaault.

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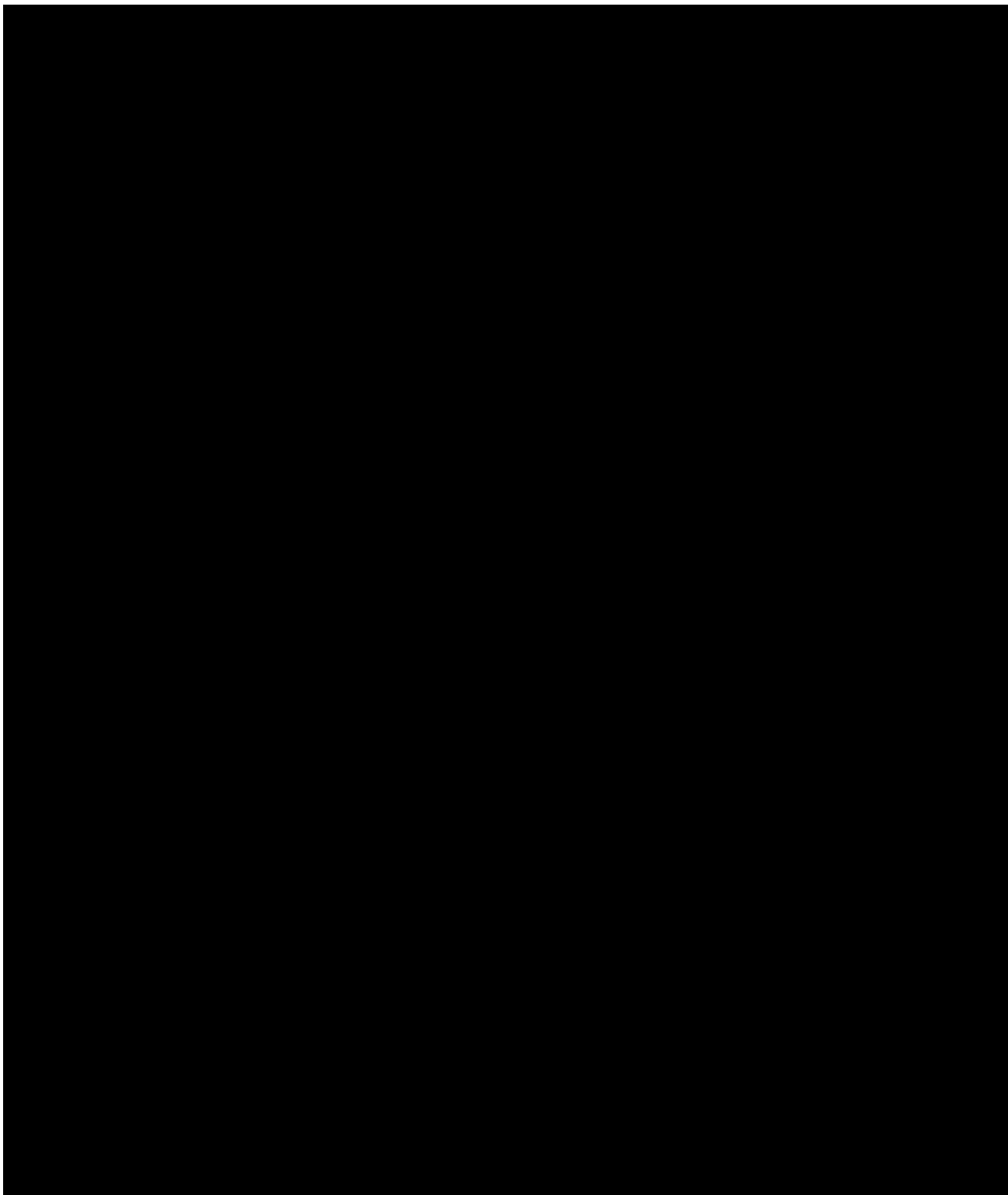
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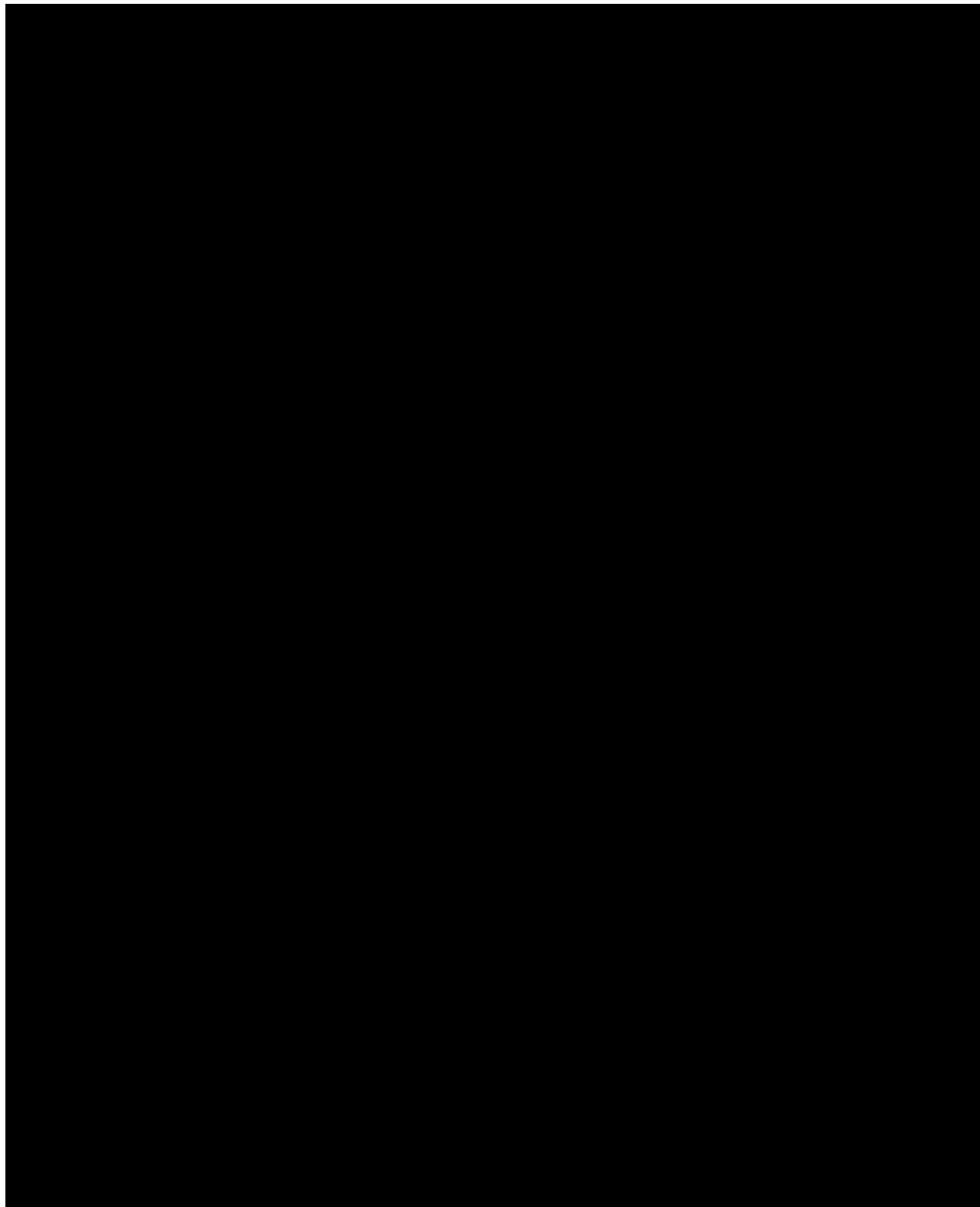
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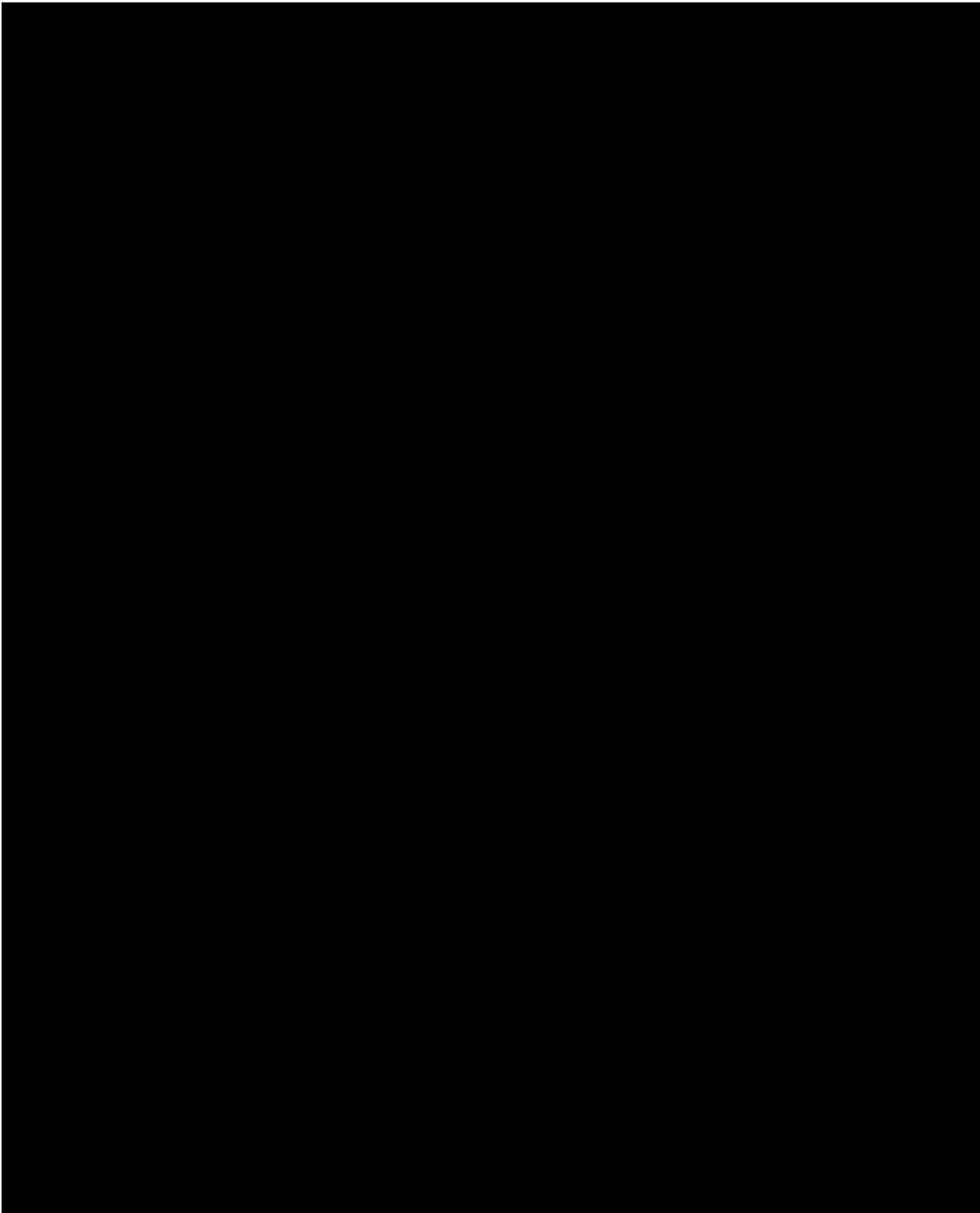
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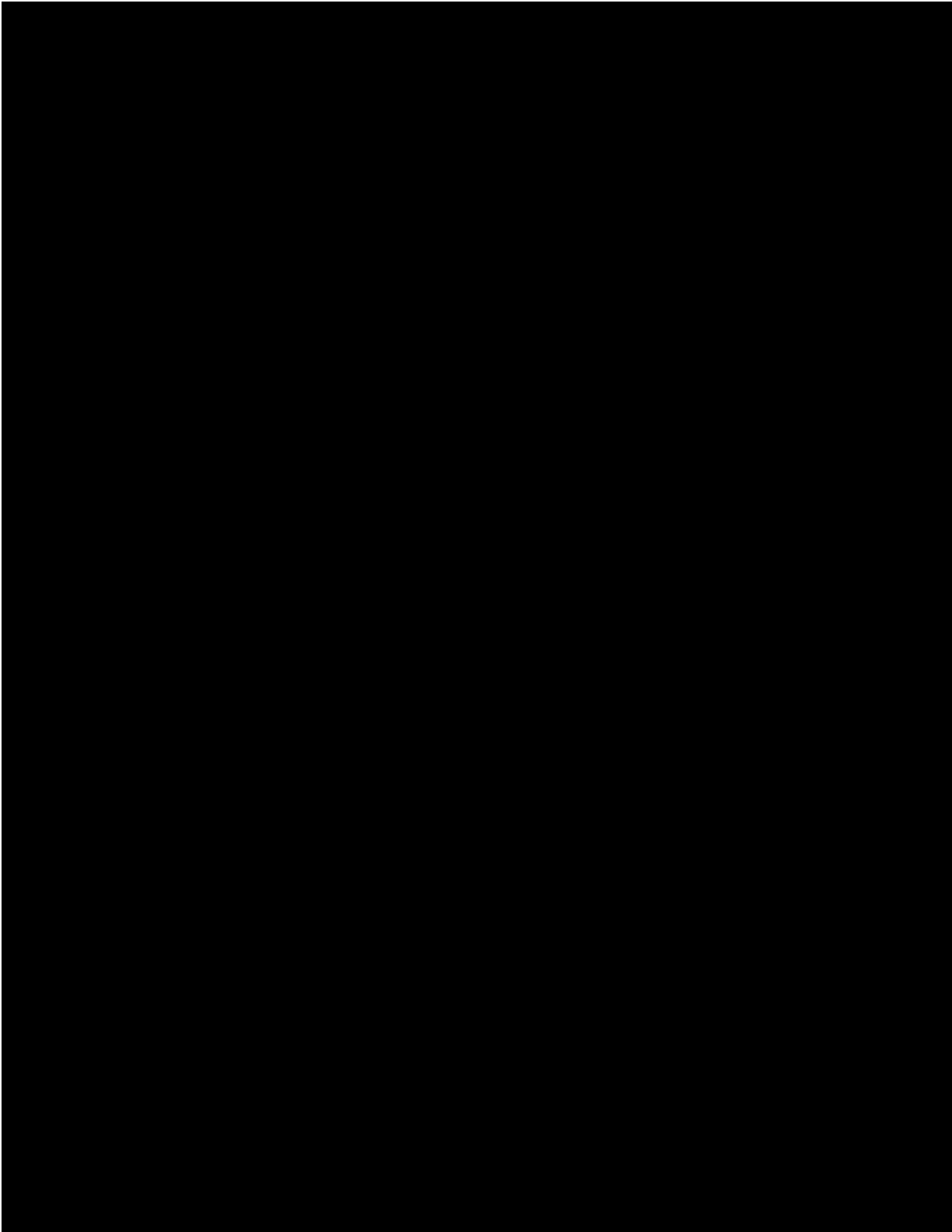






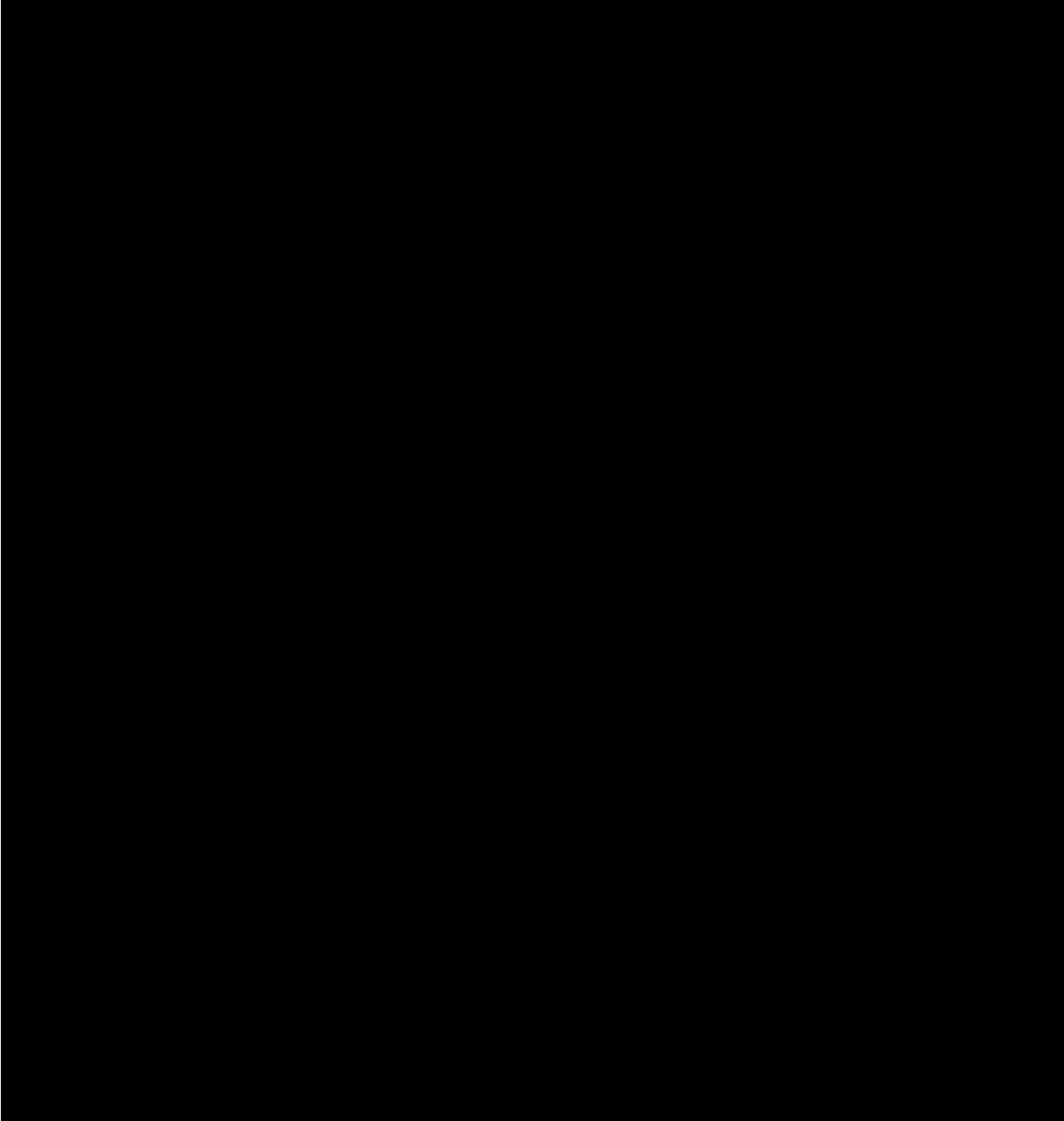
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Re: Adolescent SOC8 next steps- SAVE EMAIL

From: Dr. Laura Edwards-Leeper [REDACTED]
To: "jstrang" [REDACTED]
Cc: Scott Leibowitz [REDACTED]
Adolescent SOC8 <adolescentsoc8@wpath.org>, "Vries, A.L.C. de" [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, 03 Jan 2022 13:23:44 -0500
Attachments: Amicus-Curiae-Brief_EPPC_Tingley-v.-Ferguson.pdf (323.32 kB)

I stumbled on the attached yesterday but have only had a chance to skim it. The gender exploring vs affirming topic is becoming huge and it is a major problem, which isn't a huge surprise to me (or probably to you, Scott). While I agree with John that I've had many youth over the years who are upset when I use the words "exploring" as it relates to their gender, I do think it actually captures exactly what many, if not most, of the youth presenting these days need. The focus needs to be (imo) helping a young person understand the source of their dysphoria and whether socially and/or medically transitioning is in their best interest - all done collaboratively and with the parents. I've made the point over and over in the last couple of months that "gender exploration" has ALWAYS been a part of the way many of us approach affirmative work. I've read some good arguments about why "affirming" is not really the best term to use but I won't get into that, or the history of how we started using that term, right now. So, bottom line, my vote is with Scott - to keep the language in there and just define it the way we mean it.

And I agree about the school piece 100%. I tweeted something related to this and it's popping up everywhere. Crazy, but at least I stand by it. I actually have a lot of thoughts/opinions about the school piece that I'd love to discuss at some point, but the SOC isn't really getting into the weeds with all of that. It's hitting close to home right now b/c [REDACTED] teacher sent an email to parents last night saying they were going to be reading a book about nonbinary identities and discussing this and identity development this week. I emailed back immediately asking for more details about what exactly they are going to be covering. More on that later.

Happy New Year to all of you!
Laura

Link for Remote Video Sessions: [REDACTED]
(Google Chrome works best)!

PLEASE NOTE ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE BEING CONDUCTED REMOTELY (VIA VIDEO OR PHONE) UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID19. WHEN WE RESUME IN PERSON, PLEASE NOTE MY NEW OFFICE ADDRESS AND FAX NUMBER (as of March 1, 2020)!!

Laura Edwards-Leeper, PhD (she/her/hers)
[REDACTED]

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On Mon, Jan 3, 2022 at 5:52 AM Strang, John [REDACTED] wrote:

I would like to add that the term "gender exploration" is incredibly unpopular with the young people I have worked with over the years. Although some of them would benefit from "gender exploration" almost 0% of them would endorse that term for it. I am not endorsing any term here, but we talk about consideration of gender-related needs and goals over time as the activity of "gender exploration". That language of considering gender-related needs and goals over time has been acceptable.

I think that "gender exploration" seems like an attack against an identity and is therefore often experienced as "something I've already done".

From: Scott Leibowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 8:28 AM
To: Ren Massey [REDACTED]
Cc: adolescentsoc8@wpath.org <adolescentsoc8@wpath.org>; Vries, A.L.C. de [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Adolescent SOC8 next steps- SAVE EMAIL

Hi Ren,


Thanks for putting this out there, Ren. I will share my thoughts and invite others to do the same. Personally, I use the term gender exploration all the time. I think that in this field terms are often co-opted to suit the agenda of those co-opting the term. It feels like some of those frustrated by the term *gender exploration* believe it is code for "we don't accept your gender and our mission is to make you cisgender." I believe that some have co-opted the term *gender affirming* to mean a rushed process towards medical pathways only, however we use the term gender affirming. So therefore, while I do appreciate your really incredible verbiage, Ren, I do agree that it feels clunky. What I'd rather do is take a moment to define gender exploration in the context of adolescent identity development, stating clearly that gender exploration is not anti-medical interventions inherently. I'd also review Statement 2 (which I haven't looked at in a while) to see if we are clear about that, since I'm pretty sure that's the statement that addresses this. It may be helpful to reference Statement 2 in Statement 4, if you think that is important to do.

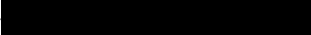
I do think being more explicit about schools and parents working collaboratively- unless either entity poses significant harm to the adolescent- is a good idea.

Thanks,
Scott

Scott Leibowitz, MD

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist | Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH
Medical Director of Behavioral Health | THRIVE (gender and sex development) program | he/him/his
Associate Clinical Professor | The Ohio State University College of Medicine



On Fri, Dec 31, 2021 at 2:28 PM Ren Massey  wrote:

Hey Y'all,

Since we're not meeting till Feb 2, I'm looking for input before our Jan 19 deadline to revise our statements, please.

The following came from Statement 4 (Encouraging social support across relationships and domains) public comments. I became aware that the term Gender Exploration has been co-opted by some folks against medical interventions with youth (e.g., GETA at genderexploratory.com). As a result, I'm trying out the phrase: collaborative consideration of needs around gender expression, identity, and embodiment.

Very clunky, and I'd be open to others and thought we might want to find a common term/synonym for Exploration we could all use. Gender Examination? Reflection? Consideration?

Also, some people stated we should urge parents and schools to work together. Some of these comments sounded reasonable, while others sounded outraged and against even social transition steps. I'm not thinking we need to make any more comments, but I'm interested in hearing what y'all think.

Wishing you all a health and happy 2022!

Ren

Ren Massey, Ph.D.


(He, him, his)

Co-Chair/Mental Health Chair, WPATH Global Education Institute

Past President, Georgia Psychological Association

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Emory University, School of Medicine,

Dept. of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences



On 12/23/2021 8:05 AM Scott Leibowitz

 wrote:

Adolescent SOC8 team,

Hello and happy holidays (if that applies to you)!

First off, congratulations to all of us for a job well done! As you know, we are in the public comment period for the SOC8, and if you have scrolled through some of the initial feedback, you are likely aware that there are some colorful opinions across the board regarding our chapter draft. Annelou and I have met with the SOC8 Chairs as well as with each other to discuss our next steps, and we first want to acknowledge and appreciate all of you and the hard work/dedication you have put into this document over the last several years. We should be very proud as a committee for the work that we have done. Clearly the chapter raises a fair amount of emotions for many from all sides of the debates, and so we want to let you know that- despite the emotional tone that is reflected in many of the comments- for many people our chapter was received extremely well! Your hard work and dedication is recognized and appreciated- please know that!

How do we approach next steps? While the public comment review period is still open, and will be open through mid-January, we do have a good amount of feedback to start looking at. **The statements themselves are not changing** as they went through Delphi. However, there may be opportunities to strengthen the chapter even more by adjusting the text to provide better clarity, add important citations that were inadvertently missed in our review, etc.

Process:

- We are asking for each of you to start reviewing the initial comments in the feedback *as they relate to your specific statement*.
- We are aware of some of the hotspots for feedback: for example, the statement on duration of the experience is certainly controversial (John, this is your statement).
- Feel free to review all of the feedback for that statement, keeping in mind that we are only going to be responding to *constructive comments*. The Chairs have color-coded the initial feedback for us (attached and the guide to that color coding is below).
- Make suggestions to Annelou/Scott about how to incorporate constructive feedback in the track changes.
 - Use the following document in the FINAL VERSION folder of the Drop Box:
 - **USE THIS DOCUMENT SOC 8 Adolescent Chapter- SUGGESTIONS FOR FEEDBACK INCORPORATION AFTER PUBLIC REVIEW- January 2022**
 - Use our Whatsapp group chat to indicate when you are in the document so we do not add track changes simultaneously.
 - The feedback excel spreadsheet that you already received from Jon Arcelus is re-attached here and also in that folder
 - Suggestions should be limited to:
 - Literature that may have been inadvertently not included that should have been
 - Wording that was not clear enough

- Areas where order of the text could change in order to be more clear.
- Areas where description of nuance behind the intention of the statement was missed, and thus potentially mis-interpreted, and therefore could be clarified.
- Deadline for this would be by **1/19/22**. We are under the impression that additional feedback- if constructive and not repetitive- will be sent to us prior to that and can be incorporated.
- Scott and Annelou will review your suggestions and incorporate them and will send the document out in advance of a meeting with all of you.
- Meeting for **2 hours on February 2nd, 2022 from 10 AM to noon EST** to discuss as a committee.

Color coded guide to Comments:

- Yellow: these are comments that you may want to focus on and could be useful (if you feel appropriate) if you want to consider modifying your chapter.
- Orange: these are comments that we believe have been addressed, but you may want to double check. We also used this colour if comments were repetitious or belonged in another chapter.
- Green: positive comments and compliments. They are nice to read - there are many of them.
- Blue: there are people who have provided their own personal stories, but the

comments are unlikely to result in changes to the chapters.
- Red: Not actionable. These are comments that usually don't agree with Delphi approved statements and are unlikely to add or change anything to your chapter. They are helpful to read as they highlight some of the criticism. However, you might want to prioritize looking at comments that might be helpful.

Reminder:

Do not talk with the media about the content or process of the SOC8. We know that there is a lot of interest in the chapter, how it has evolved, areas of agreement/disagreement, etc. The document is still in draft form and so it is important that you do not speak with the media (or outside entities) about the chapter. There will be a coordinated media effort upon publication.

WPATH Staff: please send our chapter members an invite for 2/2/22 for 2 hours from 10 AM to noon EST. We hope you are all able to amend your schedules to be able to meet at this time.

Again, congratulations on the incredible job you have done with this important document. Know that your work is highly appreciated!

Thanks,

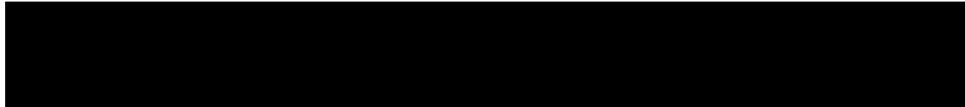
Annelou & Scott

Scott Leibowitz, MD

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist | Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH

Medical Director of Behavioral Health | THRIVE (gender and sex development) program | he/him/his

Associate Clinical Professor | The Ohio State University College of Medicine



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Re: The American Academy of Pediatrics' Dubious Transgender Science - The Wall Street Journal.

From: Eli Coleman <[REDACTED]>
To: marcib[REDACTED]
Cc: Scott Leibowitz <[REDACTED]>, "Vries, A.L.G. de"
[REDACTED], walterbouman [REDACTED]
asa.radix [REDACTED], vin.tangpricha [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2022 09:40:18 -0400

Getting the facts and nuance correct for the media is critically important but I don't feel we have made much progress on preparing a much needed Q & A.

In addition I think we need a more detailed defense that we can use that can respond to academic critics and that can be used in the many court cases that will be coming up that will be trying to restrict access to TG care - especially around adolescence. For example we know that some of the studies we have cited in support of our recommendations will be torn about by organizations such as the Society for Evidence Based Gender Medicine. I feel that WPATH should have same level of funding to support position papers, powerpoint presentations as this well funded organization.

Eli

On Sat, Aug 20, 2022 at 9:21 PM Dr. Marci Bowers <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thanks all for broadening the discussion— this is exactly what I will need to hear from all of you as it allows me to draw from the nuance that will allow a more articulate response to media— which we are wise to answer to. The questions are difficult and the answers complex but crucial— and need to be explained not to our proponents but to those for whom gender diverse realities are foreign. WPATH serves as a steady arbiter of truth—as we know it—while expansion of gender insight by our community pushes us all to be better.

I would be very interested in how we can better safeguard our clientele— from lack of access, to opportunism by inexperienced and sometimes dangerous providers to exuberant immediacy which has apparently highlighted rare but important instances of regret.

Kindly.....

Marci Bowers MD
WPATH President-elect
Trevor Project Board of Directors

[REDACTED]

Standing tall in times of darkness

On Aug 20, 2022, at 4:44 PM, Scott Leibowitz <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Agree wholeheartedly! As do many of my *very own adolescent patients* who feel that going through an assessment- as frustrating as it may be from a time-perspective for them- actually *prefer* it since it strengthens the integrity of the decision-making process for something very important to them.

On Sun, Aug 21, 2022 at 12:41 AM Eli Coleman <[REDACTED]> wrote:

PS I think if you don't say that there may for some vulnerable young people that social factors could be a factor in increased requests for care - I think that diminishes the credibility of the value for others - and that is why we need careful assessments of these adolescents.

On Sat, Aug 20, 2022 at 5:36 PM Scott Leibowitz <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi all,

I couldn't agree with Annelou more. We cannot outright dismiss the fact that social factors (also don't like the word contagion) impact identity development and decision making in adolescents. It's not a one-size-fits-all explanation as to why there are more kids presenting seeking treatment. Yes, it's about the healthy/natural expansion of the definition of gender roles/identities as Marci mentioned. However, it's *also* related to many things such as social factors. Some adolescents - who have certain psychological vulnerabilities- feel comfortable within a marginalized community space and come to feel it's a safe space for them. For others, gender serves a different function, not necessarily one that is about their gender identity even though they may feel it is about their identity in the moment. I would even argue that the horrific political situation- and the bans on care themselves- may have a natural impact that pushes *more, not less* young people to seek out care that they are being told they cannot have. So in the end, I think we can't run away from these politically sensitive issues by resorting to one-size-fits-all narratives to explain trends that we do not fully understand scientifically. Rather, we should be emphasizing a cautious-discerning-and-affirming approach that best understands all the factors impacting a particular young person's ability to approach long-term decisions as it relates to gender treatments with lifelong treatment implications.

I'm hoping to appeal to the audience in Montreal with this type of framing, since I realize that many believe the assessment is purely a gatekeeping tactic used by providers to get their patients to "prove their transness" in order to access care, which is just not the case.

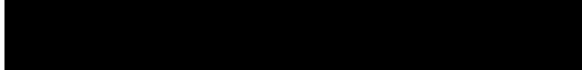
Scott

On Fri, Aug 19, 2022 at 6:44 PM Dr. Marci Bowers <[REDACTED]> wrote:

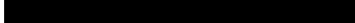
Well said, Annelou and for taking the time to comment.

Kindly.....

Marci Bowers MD
WPATH President-elect
Trevor Project Board of Directors



Standing tall in times of darkness

On Aug 19, 2022, at 2:58 AM, Vries, A.L.C. de
 wrote:

hi all

Nuance is warranted, and that's increasingly missing; there are many methodological challenges in determining prevalence increases of (adolescent) gender diverse identity experience (terminology changing over time being one important one), so whether a true increase is at stake is really difficult or impossible to answer. For sure is that increasing numbers are asking for medical affirming treatment.

What the explanation for this increase is, is unknown and also methodologically challenging to study; social factors likely play a role.. I do not like the word contagion, but these factors could also be recognition and increased social awareness... helping young people to recognize and express their gender diversity at earlier ages. Anyone who tries to make challenging issues 'simple' is not helpful, including researchers and clinicians.

What is important in transgender adolescent care, is not just evidence, but also ethics (not providing care is not a neutral option), transgender and children's rights all need to be acknowledged!

This we have expressed earlier in our editorial regarding the Tavistock case.

Annelou

Annelou L.C. de Vries, MD, PhD
Child and adolescent psychiatrist
Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Emma Pediatric Hospital, G8-136
Center of Expertise on Gender Dysphoria, VUmc, Poli N
Center of Academic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, LeveL, San Remo
Amsterdam University Medical Centers



Van: Dr. Marci Bowers <[REDACTED]>
Verzonden: vrijdag 19 augustus 2022 01:29
Aan: Eli Coleman <[REDACTED]>
CC: Waulter Bouman <[REDACTED]>, Asa Radix <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED], Vries, A.L.C. de <[REDACTED]>
Scott Leibowitz <[REDACTED]>, Vin Langpricha <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]

Onderwerp: Re: The American Academy of Pediatrics' Dubious Transgender Science - The Wall Street Journal.

Hi all—
The rise in absolute numbers is real and can be explained, not as social contagion but by a generational recognition that gender identity cannot be fully described by only 2 choices. THIS should be the foundation for our approach to skeptics.

There is overlap in the distribution of estrogen/testosterone and bodies that arise from the same primordial soup. Why is it so difficult for the world to accept a broadening of the definitions of gender? This should be our fight and nothing we need to recoil from.

Marci Bowers, MD
WPATH President-elect
Trevor Project Board of Directors

Pronouns: She/her
[REDACTED]

On Aug 18, 2022, at 6:55 AM, Eli Coleman <[REDACTED]> wrote:
<Mason et al_2022_AAP dubious transgender science_WSJ.pdf>

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AMC disclaimer : www.amc.nl/disclaimer

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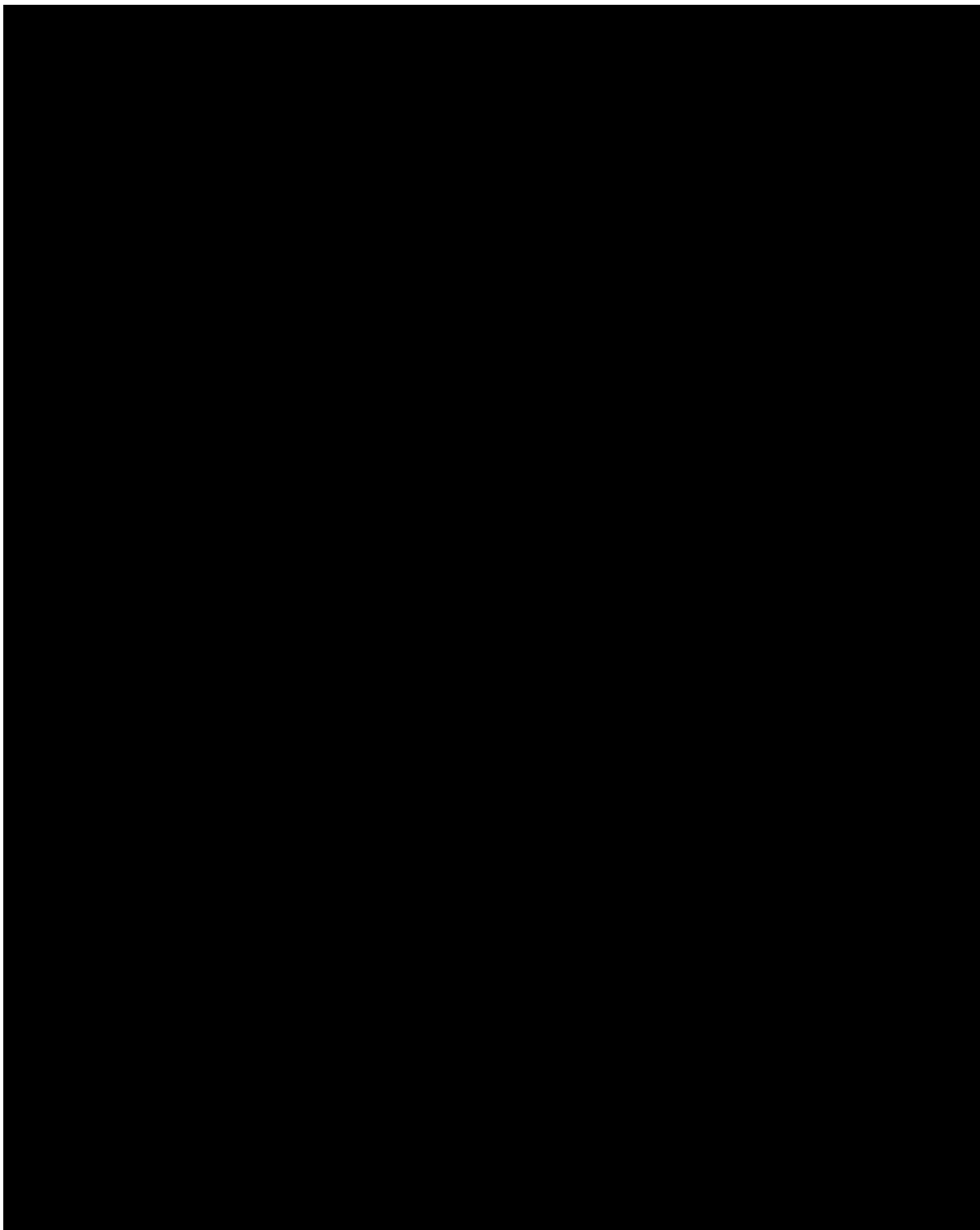


Eli Coleman, PhD.
Academic Chair in Sexual Health
Professor and Director
The Institute for Sexual and Gender Health
University of Minnesota Medical School
Family Medicine and Community Health
sexualhealth.umn.edu

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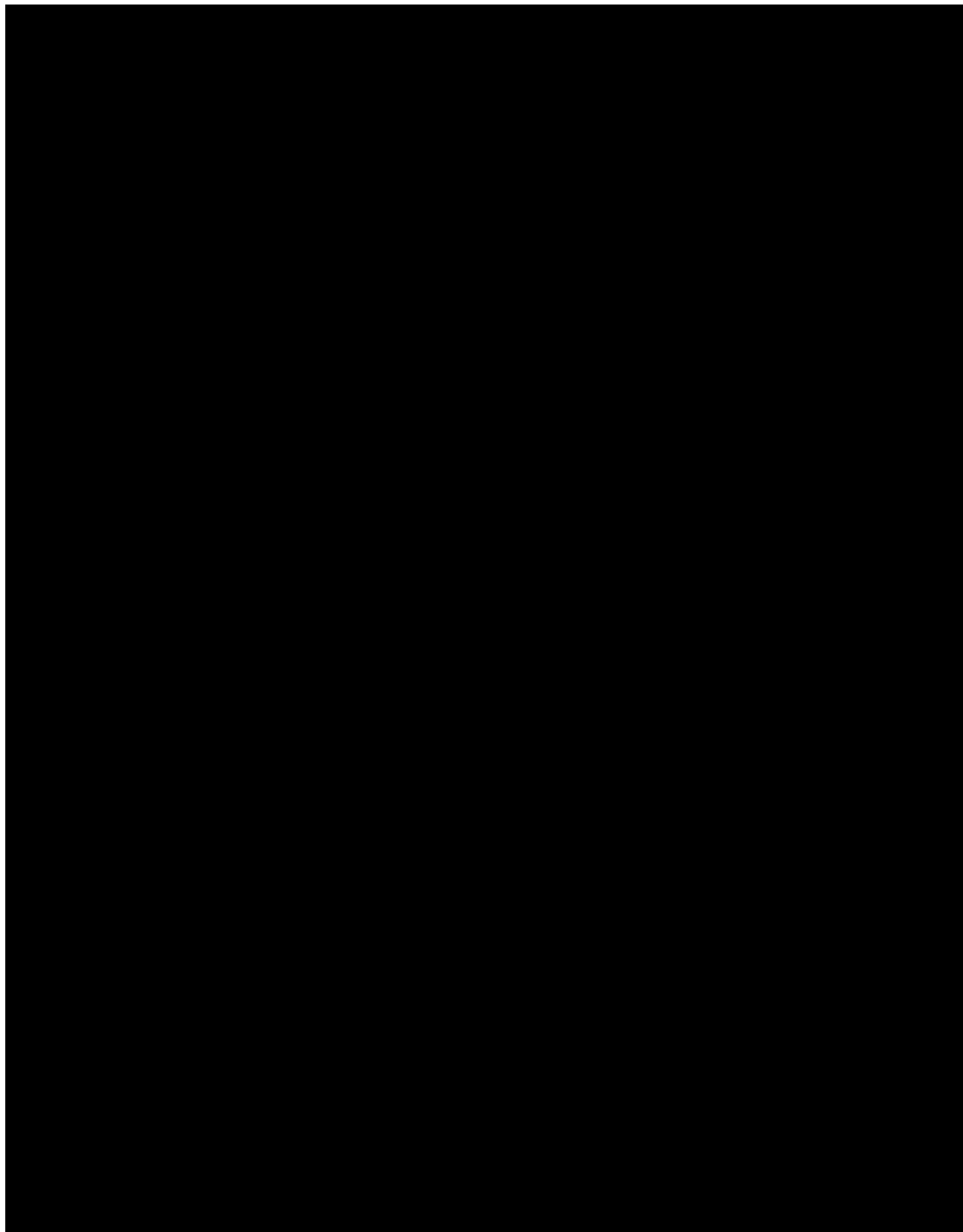


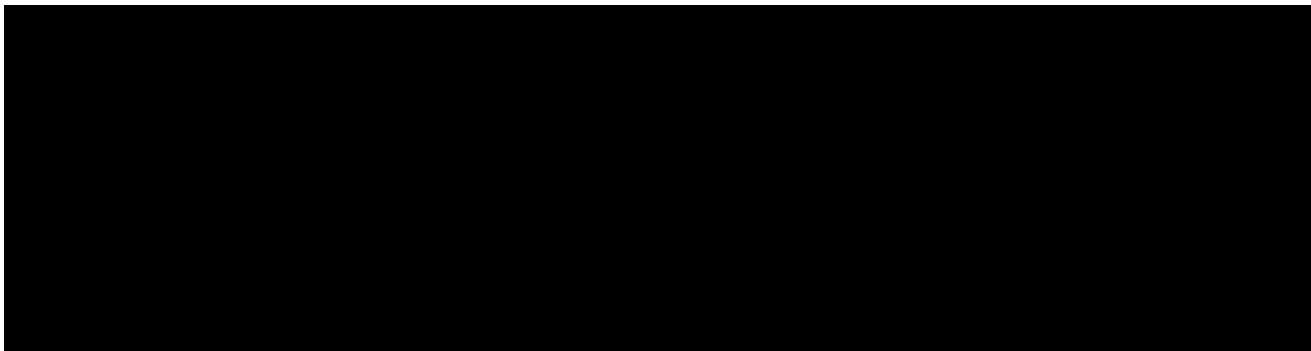
Eli Coleman, PhD.
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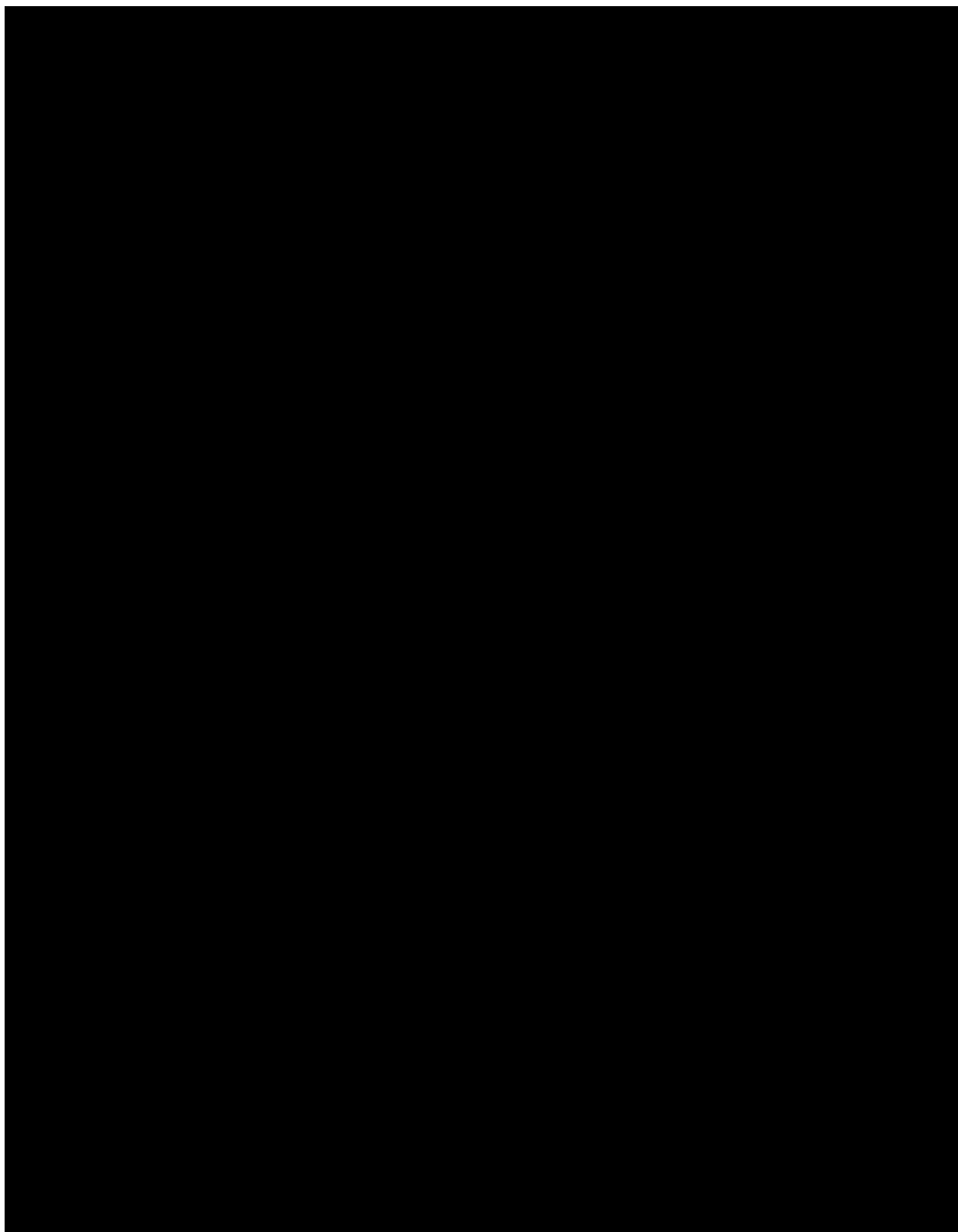


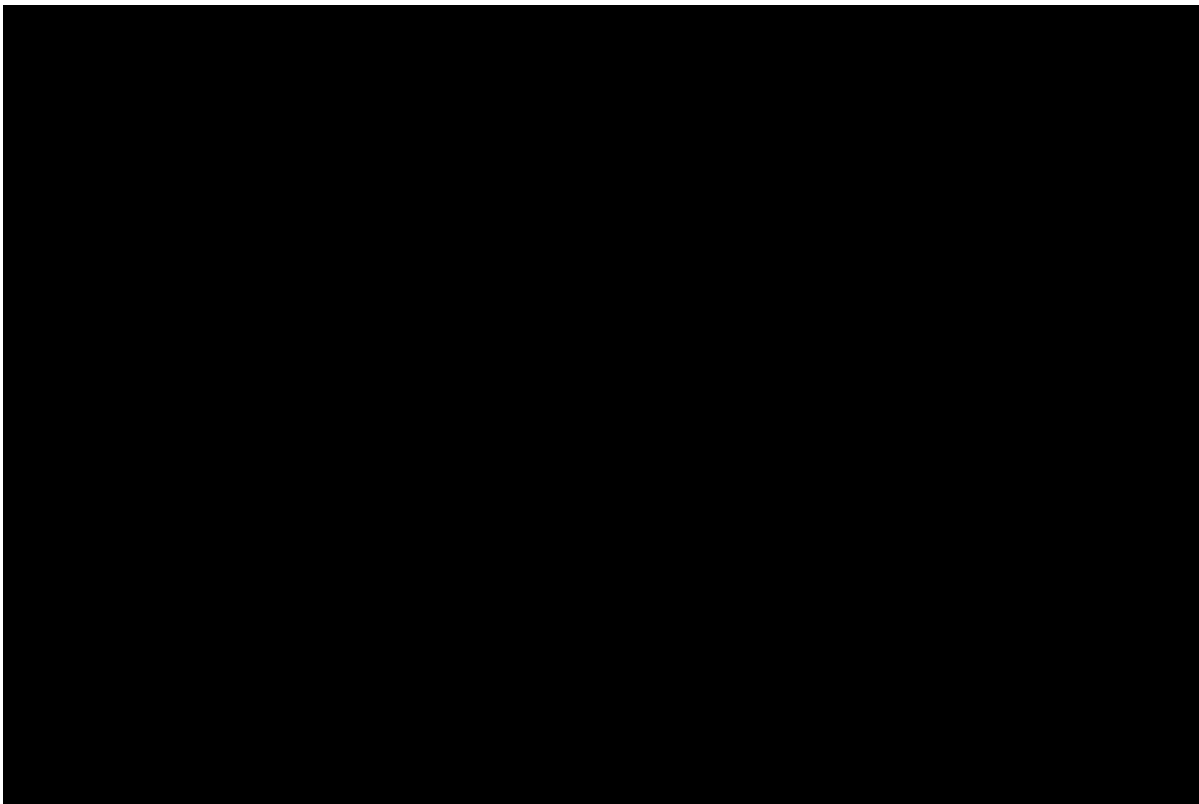
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