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## Inside Track

# Taxpayers Will Pay for Sex-change Surgery for Minors in Vermont



*ADragan/iStock/GettyImagesPlus*

The same state that nearly sent a man who says he's a woman to the governor's mansion has just upped the ante. Vermont's health insurance managers will now require taxpayers, via Medicaid, to pay for "sex reassignment surgery" for minors.

So if a 10-year-old boy on Medicaid in the "Green Mountain State" says he is a girl trapped in a boy's body, if he wants to have the reassignment surgery, and if his parents support having him mutilated, then Vermont will be there, scalpel in hand.

The new rule came down in May. Not only will minors be allowed to get the surgery (with parental consent), the *Burlington Free Press* reported June 12, but Medicaid — meaning taxpayers — will foot the bill.

Noting that the "gender-affirming surgeries include 16 types of genital surgery, as well as breast augmentation or mastectomy, a surgery that removes the whole breast," the newspaper permitted the director of a "transgender health clinic" to explain why the plan is a great idea: "Having young people have to wait until they were 21 just didn't really make any sense."

Another booster noted that a "'staggering percentage' of transgender and non-binary youth have reported considering suicide," which is unremarkable given that such kids are mentally ill and need psychiatric help.

The newspaper's scribe apparently forgot to find someone who might think taxpayer-financed mutilation of children isn't such a bright idea. One critic of the policy worried on Twitter about "woke" parents who might actually permit a doctor to butcher their child.

"So it's within the realm of possibility that one of the toddlers identified as 'trans' by Woke parents and their doctors could be a candidate for genital surgery," tweeted 4thWaveNow. "Why not? If they're 'true trans,' what would be the reason to wait? Cue the next specialty: Preschool SRS surgeons."



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Not surprisingly, the rules say, “Vermont Medicaid does not cover reversal or modification of the surgeries approved under this rule.”

By R. Cort Kirkwood

## China’s Economy Continues to Slow



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When President Donald Trump learned of the dismal performance of the Chinese economy for all of last year, he tweeted in March: “China posts slowest economic numbers since 1990 due to U.S. trade tensions and new policies. Makes so much sense for China to finally do a Real Deal, and stop playing around.”

China’s No. 2 communist, Li Keqiang, admitted as much at the country’s annual news conference on March 15: “It is true that China’s economy has encountered new downward pressure [but] we must take strong measures to cope with [it].”

China’s “strong measures” included cutting taxes modestly for manufacturers, lowering bank lending requirements, reducing capital ratios, and spending still more on infrastructure projects. There was precious little in the way of free market reforms as China, like the U.S. economic establishment, has sold out to the concept of a managed economy, undergirded with Keynesian economic theories and experiments.

One of those experiments is printing money or otherwise expanding the money supply so that the government can spend it on infrastructure projects such as more highways, railroads, and cities.

But here is where the top communist officials run into an irreversible law they cannot repeal: Each yuan of new money buys less and less economic growth, especially now with China’s total national debt exceeding 300 percent of the country’s total annual economic output.

May’s economic data, some from phony “official” sources and the rest from outside communist control, show that China’s slowdown has not only continued, but accelerated. Data on China’s heavy industry, real estate, and construction sectors are all showing weakness. Key construction “inputs” such as crude steel, glass, electricity, and nonferrous metals are all declining. Credit growth, despite lowering bank requirements, hasn’t caused consumers to expand their borrowings.



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The communist Chinese are pushing on a string. Consumers are pulling back, banks aren't lending, imports and exports have both fallen, and infrastructure projects provide only a temporary shot to the economy, while additional deficit spending adds to the country's enormous national debt.

By Bob Adelman

## **Facebook Watching Your Offline Activity to Label You a “Hate Agent”**

Facebook is now collecting information about its users' offline activity so it can label them “hate agents” if they run afoul of the shifting set of rules the social-media giant employs to control speech.

The latest news comes from a source inside Facebook, who spilled the beans to Breitbart's Allum Bokhari, who might himself be labeled a “hate agent” for publishing the truth. Reported Bokhari on June 13:

Facebook monitors the offline behavior of its users to determine if they should be categorized as a “Hate Agent,” according to a document provided exclusively to Breitbart News by a source within the social media giant.

The document, titled “Hate Agent Policy Review,” outlines a series of “signals” that Facebook uses to determine if someone ought to be categorized as a “hate agent” and banned from the platform.

Those signals include a wide range of on- and off-platform behavior. If you praise the wrong individual, interview them, or appear at events alongside them, Facebook may categorize you as a “hate agent.”

Examples of Facebook's labeling? It banned the highly popular Paul Joseph Watson because he praised and interviewed British anti-immigration activist Tommy Robinson. “Star conservative pundit Candace Owens and conservative author and terrorism expert Brigitte Gabriel were also on the list, as were British politicians Carl Benjamin and Anne Marie Waters,” Breitbart reported.

Such is Facebook's totalitarian dragnet that even neutral commentary can invite the label. That's how Benjamin received his, Bokhari reported: “Facebook also accuses Benjamin, a classical liberal and critic of identity politics, as ‘representing the ideology of an ethnostate’ for a post in which he calls out an actual advocate of an ethnostate.”

In May, Facebook banned Alex Jones and his Infowars empire, the flamboyant homosexual provocateur Milos Yiannopoulos, and Nation of Islam crackpot Louis Farrakhan.

By R. Cort Kirkwood

## **Climate Hysterics: “We Owe Al Gore an Apology”**



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*AP Images*

A June 8 story published by NPR had the audacity to claim in its headline that “We all owe Al Gore an apology.” The story goes on to explain the plight of residents along the Mississippi River and how their crisis has changed opinions vis-à-vis climate change.

The 2019 flood season along the Mississippi River has been a horrific one, no doubt. But the Mississippi River has a long history of flooding, going back to the 16th century in man’s recording. And floods — big and small — undoubtedly occurred prior to man’s record keeping.

This is not to say we should not have compassion and send prayers and other assistance to those affected, but residents who live in flood plains aren’t stupid. They understand that such disasters can happen. They’ve happened before and will happen again. That’s the nature of weather; it changes from year to year.

But in 2019, any weather abnormality is treated as an automatic affirmation that man-made climate change is real and is happening right before our eyes. Are the climate hysterics right? Do we really owe Al Gore an apology?

The answer is no. The former vice-president has made over \$300 million peddling junk science as indisputable fact. The real question is whether Al Gore owes us an apology.

Through the years, Gore has warned us of several environmental catastrophes that simply didn’t come to pass. In 2006, Gore claimed that we had only 10 years to save the planet. Gore claimed that summers in the Arctic would be ice-free by the year 2014. In 2006, Gore also warned us that sea levels were likely to rise by as much as 20 feet in the near future. At the current rate, we’ll reach Gore’s 20 feet in approximately 2,000 years.

Where’s our apology, Mr. Gore? You’ve enriched yourself over the past two decades by selling fear and scamming the public, even though every major prediction you’ve made has come up empty.

By James Murphy



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