

Questions to Dr. Mehmet Oz from Senator Hawley

1. On your television program, you hosted various transgender advocates as well as a surgeon who performed transgender surgery. You also invited minor children to discuss switching genders and praised parents for helping their children “transition.”¹
 - a. Have your views on this issue changed since you hosted your television show?
 - b. Do you support President Trump’s position that gender transition procedures for minors should be banned?
 - c. Do you support President Trump’s Executive Order barring biological men from competing in women’s sports?
 - d. Do you believe that CMS has a role in promoting or supporting gender transition surgery in any way?
 - e. In line with President Trump’s policies, will you commit never to issue a National Coverage Determination at CMS for “gender reassignment surgery” or equivalent procedures, including the use of hormone and puberty blockers?
 - f. Will you support President Trump’s efforts to halt federal funding to hospitals that provide so-called “gender affirming care” to minors?
2. In the past, you have said you did not want to “interfere” with doctors prescribing puberty blockers for minor children.² Is that still your position?
3. Do you believe the *Dobbs* decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, which every Justice appointed by President Trump supported, was correctly decided?
4. In 2019, you opposed *state* limitations on abortion related to fetal heartbeat by describing the baby’s heartbeat as “little electrical exchanges in the cell that no one would hear or think about as a heart.”³ Is that still your position?
5. When describing a *state* pro-life law in 2019, you predicted that the state would face a “big sucking sound of businesses leaving.”⁴ Can you clarify your comments? As head of CMS, will you allow decisions to be influenced by corporate preferences?

¹ [Fox News](#), “Dr. Oz, now a GOP Senate candidate, had Jazz Jennings, transgender parents, transgender surgeon on his show” (March 14, 2022).

² [Daily Beast](#), “Dr. Oz Reverses Himself on Science for GOP Votes,” (June 17, 2022).

³ [Breakfast Club radio program](#), “Dr. Oz Talks CBD Benefits, Hallucinogens & Why You Shouldn’t Wash Your Chicken” (May 21, 2019).

⁴ [Breakfast Club radio program](#), “Dr. Oz Talks CBD Benefits, Hallucinogens & Why You Shouldn’t Wash Your Chicken” (May 21, 2019).

6. You said in 2022, with regard to abortion, “As a physician, I’ve been in the room when there’s some difficult conversations happening. I don’t want the federal government involved with that, at all.”⁵ You have also said you do not want the federal government impinging on actions the states may make with regard to abortion.⁶ But many federal laws and regulations implicate life issues. President Trump’s administration has opposed federal funding for abortion, for example, at home and abroad. Will you support the President’s position and commit to upholding existing laws that prevent federal funds from being used for abortions?
7. Certain states have *mandated* private insurance coverage for abortion, violating the Weldon Amendment. Will you work with CMS regional offices to withhold funds from states that refuse to comply with Weldon protections?
8. Are you prepared to enforce all relevant federal statutes within CMS jurisdiction that protect conscience rights related to abortion, including the Weldon, Church, and Coats-Snowe Amendments?
9. Under President Trump, CMS approved waivers allowing states to exclude abortion-performing clinics from the Medicaid program. Will you support the President’s policy and back similar waivers, should you be confirmed?
10. Will you support action at the federal level to directly exclude abortion providers from the Medicaid program?
11. The Biden administration issued guidance via CMS suggesting that the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) *required* hospitals to perform abortions, overriding state pro-life laws. Will you return to the Trump policy and clarify that EMTALA does *not* mandate abortions?
12. Under President Trump, CMS required separate billing for plans that covered abortion in ACA marketplace plans. The Biden administration eliminated this requirement. Will you support returning to President Trump’s policy of transparent billing practices and ensure that consumers pay properly-separated charges for abortion?

⁵ [CNN](#), “Dr. Oz’s awful answer on abortion” (October 26, 2022).

⁶ [CNN](#), “Dr. Oz’s awful answer on abortion” (October 26, 2022) (“There should not be involvement from the federal government in how states decide their abortion decisions.”).