

Sex-Change: Cosmetic Surgery?

California's transsexual community is up in arms over a recent decision by State Health Department Director Jerome Lackner, excluding sex-change operations from coverage under the State's Medical program. This week a transsexual organization announced stepped-up plans to call for Lackner's removal.

Spokespersons for Eon, a Berkeley-based transsexual rights organization, charge that Lackner is biased against transsexuals, pointing to Lackner's arguments that sex-change operations "are cosmetic and not medical" and "such operations no more liberate a woman from a man's body than bleaching hair liberates a blond from a brunette."

Lackner may dispute Clairol's claim that "Blonds have more fun" but Eon feels he should be aware that transsexual operations are presently covered by welfare in Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey and are "occasionally" granted in New York and other states.

In response, Eon has rechristened the handlebar-mustached Health Director "Larvae Lip Lackner" and is encouraging folks to send mailgrams to Governor Brown protesting Lackner's ruling.