



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REPRESENTATIVE TOM BRINKMAN, DISTRICT 27  
REPRESENTATIVE PAUL ZELTWANGER, DISTRICT 54

Chairman Ginter, Vice Chair LaTourette, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on House Bill 658, which clarifies the rights of parents in cases where a child exhibits symptoms of gender dysphoria.

HB 658 codifies into the law what we've always known: parents have a fundamental right to decide what is best for their children. Ohio has a strong precedent of protecting the rights of parents from unnecessary or invasive government involvement. HB 658 strengthens that precedent of protecting the rights of parents.

This legislation is timely as more people are being diagnosed with gender dysphoria. According to a survey of over 80,000 Minnesota teens conducted by the University of Minnesota, up to 3% of adolescents self-describe as transgender or gender-nonconforming and, in a recent court case, the director of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Transgender Program testified that 100% of the patients who come in for transgender care are considered appropriate candidates for treatment.

According to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), as many as 70% to 98% of gender dysphoric boys and as many as 50% to 88% of gender dysphoric girls eventually accept their chromosomal sex. Hence, the APA handbook goes on to say that, "Premature labeling of gender identity should be avoided." (2014, APA Handbook, p. 744). This provides parents with a sufficiently reasonable basis to refuse to allow these treatments until a child has reached adulthood.

Our legislation makes clear that all government entities—including schools, courts, hospitals, and child placement agencies—must inform all parents or guardians when a child expresses symptoms of gender dysphoria and obtain permission before engaging in any gender dysphoria treatment, program, or therapy. We have also included penalties for government agents who violate these requirements to emphasize the importance of parental involvement in life-altering gender dysphoria treatment.

Additionally, a parent's refusal to engage in some forms of treatment may not be used against the parent in determining the allocation of parental rights in child custody disputes.

Thank you again for giving Rep. Zeltwanger and me the opportunity to testify and I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.