

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 68  
Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee  
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Good morning, Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and Committee Members. My name is Alfred Davis. I am the pastor of the Bible Baptist Church in Richfield, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony in support of House Bill 68, *Enact Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act*.

Recently, I had a two-hour conversation with a doctor who was fired from the hospital where he worked due to his refusal to engage in transgender procedures. He expressed his concern that we are endangering children through unproven, risky hormone therapies, puberty blockers, and irreversible surgeries. His words to me: "I am a doctor, not a butcher." As a biology major myself in college, I can understand the doctor's frustration with being forced to perform what are ultimately futile medical procedures that carry great risk of chronic infections, permanent disfigurement, and as yet unknown long-term adverse mental and physical side effects.

I say ultimately futile because no amount of hormonal treatment, puberty blockers, or surgical intervention can change the underlying genetic condition. All human beings possess, from the moment of conception, either an XX or and XY sex gene pair. XX is the female gene pair. XY is the male gene pair. No amount of hormonal treatment, puberty blockers, or surgical intervention can change that. Consequently, it makes no sense to drastically alter and maim healthy bodies to remedy what is essentially a mental, not physical, disorder called gender dysphoria. This also helps explain why children who undergo transgender procedures are 19 times more likely to commit suicide than those who do not and 85-95% of those who do not undergo transgender procedures eventually identify with their biological sex.

As a pastor I have been asked for guidance and advice in dealing with the frustration and confusion of parents and children affected by gender dysphoria. My advice is guided by the Bible's statement in Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Since, biology reflects this biblical truth by showing that we are all either genetically female (XX) or genetically male (XY), my understanding is that gender dysphoria is not a physical problem but a spiritual, mental, and/or emotional problem. Consequently, treatment should address the underlying spiritual, mental, and emotional problems causing gender dysphoria rather than seeking to maim or alter a healthy body or interfere with the natural physiological development that a child goes through during puberty.

Consequently, I respectfully urge the Members of the Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee to vote in favor of House Bill 68, *Enact Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act*, to protect parents and children dealing with gender dysphoria from being coerced, forced, or pressured to undergo unproven, risky hormone therapies, puberty blockers, and irreversible surgeries and to allow them to seek treatments which address the underlying spiritual, mental, and emotional issues that are the true cause of gender dysphoria.

Thank you and may God bless you in your efforts here today.

Pastor Alfred B. Davis