

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: May 19, 2023

Name: Elizabeth R Bauer

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 2720 Fairfield Ridge Drive

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

## Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB68

Specific Issue: Ban on Gender-Affirming Care

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person  Written-Only

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? N/A

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

To Chair Lipps, Vice-Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston & members of the Public Health Policy Committee:

I am writing to express my OPPOSITION to HB 68. This bill has been presented to Ohio as one that will help "keep kids safe," but I believe it will have just the opposite effect. From seeing transgendered friends, and the children of friends, who have transitioned, I understand just how important gender-affirming care can be to ensure healthy, happy children are able to become thriving, healthy adults. The fear of transgendered individuals as predators is deeply misguided; they are often the victims of bullying, abuse, and often resort to self-harm or suicide when denied access to affirming care, or marginalized by institutions that are supposed to protect them, like their schools.

I believe strongly that medical decisions should be left to parents/guardians, individuals and medical professionals, who are best equipped to make complex medical decisions and together align on the best treatment course for themselves and their children.

Please do not pass this law. It will have a devastating impact on transgendered children in our state, who look to their leaders to protect them and have their best interests in mind.

Sincerely, Elizabeth R Bauer

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*