

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

Thank you for your time.

I am writing as a life-long Ohio resident, an Ohio parent and an Ohio Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor who has been licensed and practicing within this state since 2006.

My purpose is to share my strong opposition to HB68 as a resident, parent and mental health therapist.

I continue to be confused as to why a group of people who are not medically trained doctors have decided that they know best about the medical treatment of children. I trust the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association and their support of the provision of age-appropriate, gender-affirming care for transgender and non-binary people. These organizations represent millions of doctors, researchers and mental health professionals in the United States. Gender-affirming care has always existed so I am suspect as to the motives of this intense vitriol and anti-trans rhetoric in current times.

As a parent, I am confused as to why a group of people who are not parents to children in need of gender affirming care, have decided that they know best about the medical treatment of children other than their own. Where is the discussion of parental rights and medical freedom?

As a mental health therapist, I am confused as to why a group of people who are not trained mental health professionals have decided that their discomfort with the idea of transgender children takes priority over the mental health and safety of these children. The American Psychiatric Association supports the provisions of age-appropriate, gender-affirming care for transgender and non-binary people and the research shows that denying this care to children only increases their mental health struggles, with the most concerning issue reflected in the increased risk of suicide in children who can not access the gender affirming care that they need.

As a tax paying Ohio Resident, I resent the amount of time and money taken up with these targeted attacks on transgender youth in our state. Where are the discussions about how to help families in poverty, the lack of funding for our public schools and disparities in healthcare? Those are the children and family conversations I want to see happening on the floor and in the chambers. This anti-transgender bills are a waste of tax payer dollars.

I firmly oppose HB68. Let gender affirming care be the decision of families and medical providers.

Jeanne Daly

Cincinnati, Ohio