

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

Ohio's HB68 ban on gender affirming care is a completely unacceptable overreach of government dictating medical care. As a nurse for 18 years, I do not believe the government should decide what is right for patients. Patients, parents, and doctors should be making medical decisions without restrictions from the government.

The bill's title Saving Adolescents from Experimentation shows extreme bias and bigotry. Any true experimentation involves through approvals from an institutional review board and informed consent. Whereas this name is aimed to scare and isolate the public and to cast transgendered individuals as something to fear and isolate.

Health care professionals and mental health professionals are bound by guidelines, ethics, and the pledge to do no harm. These professionals should be allowed to treat patients with up to date research, input from patients, and their guardians to determine the best possible care. Allowing the government and radical religious groups to dictate what care should be allowed is unethical and irresponsible. Transgendered individuals have a right to self determination and the government should never be allowed to dictate the rights for individuals to decide what can be done to their own bodies. The people who should be involved in making health care decisions includes patients, parents, health care professionals and mental health professionals.

Respectfully,

Candace Miller BSN, RN

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