

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation targeting transgender youth (HB 68))and urge you to vote against it. As an Ohio resident and a concerned member of the community, I believe that passing this bill would have detrimental effects on our state's economy and the personal liberties of individuals and families, particularly transgender youth.

Firstly, I would like to address the economic concerns associated with this bill. The job market in Ohio is already facing significant challenges, with recruitment and retention becoming increasingly difficult. One concerning trend is the growing number of Ohio companies opting to hire remote workers who never have to set foot in our state. If this bill targeting transgender youth passes, it may further discourage businesses from investing in Ohio, exacerbating the problem and leading to job losses for our residents.

In addition to the economic implications, I strongly believe in the importance of personal liberty and freedom. Every individual, including parents, should have the sacred right to make decisions regarding the care of their children, including transgender youth. By passing this legislation, we would be infringing upon the fundamental rights of parents to choose what they believe is best for their transgender children's well-being. It is crucial to remember that parents have unique insights into their child's needs, and it is not the government's place to intervene in personal medical decisions concerning transgender youth.

As a parent, we all face numerous decisions regarding our children's healthcare. Each decision is made with careful reflection and with the best interest of our children in mind whether it be physical or mental health. These choices are deeply personal and should be guided by love, compassion, and a desire to provide the best possible care for all children, including transgender youth. It is imperative that we protect the rights of parents to make these decisions without unnecessary interference or restrictions targeting transgender youth.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the impact this legislation would have on transgender youth and their families. I have witnessed the challenges and complexities faced by my neighbors, friends, and colleagues who are raising transgender children. These families deserve our support, understanding, and respect. If this bill targeting transgender youth passes, it would add an additional layer of burden and discrimination on these families, potentially jeopardizing the well-being and happiness of transgender youth.

Finally, I urge you to consider the future implications of this legislation targeting transgender youth. My child's best friend is a transgender boy and is an integral part of our family and our child's life. Even though I may not currently have a transgender child, I understand that my next child or grandchild could be impacted by this bill. It is our responsibility to create a safe and inclusive environment for all children, including transgender youth. I implore you to vote against this legislation to ensure that our state remains a welcoming place for all individuals, free from unnecessary barriers and limitations targeting transgender youth.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you vote against this proposed legislation targeting transgender youth. The potential economic repercussions, infringement upon personal liberties, and harm to transgender youth and their families are too significant to overlook. Let us strive to build a society that embraces diversity, protects individual rights, and fosters an inclusive environment for all, including transgender youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sara Snyder
Cincinnati, Ohio