

Dr. Mark McLoney
Ohio Academy of Family Physicians
HB68 Opponent Testimony
Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee
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Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee, my name is Dr. Mark Allen McLoney. I am a board member of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, a second-generation family physician, and a provider of LGBT care in a northeast Ohio clinic. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition in House Bill 68 on behalf of myself and the OAFP.

As I said, I am a second-generation family physician. My father was a family physician who had a practice in my home town. In addition to living in Ohio all my life, I am a First Family of Ohio member, meaning I can trace my family back to their settlement in Ohio before it became a state.

I first obtained my master's degree in human genetics. Then, following 4 years of medical school, and a 3 year residency in family medicine, I began practicing medicine in the Cleveland area and have continued for 30 years.

When I graduated medical school in 1989, I took an oath to serve my patients to the best of my ability. We did not take the Hippocratic oath, but the Oath of Maimonides which includes the following lines:

May the love for my art actuate me at all times; may neither avarice nor miserliness, nor thirst for glory or for a great reputation engage my mind; for the enemies of truth and philanthropy could easily deceive me and make me forgetful of my lofty aim of doing good to Thy children.

Grant me the strength, time and opportunity always to correct what I have acquired, always to extend its domain; for knowledge is immense and the spirit of man can extend indefinitely to enrich itself daily with new requirements. Today he can discover his errors of yesterday and tomorrow he can obtain a new light on what he thinks himself sure of today.

I take my oath VERY seriously.

I, along with the Ohio Academy Family Physicians strongly oppose any legislation that infringes, or has the potential to infringe on the clinical practice of medicine, that interferes with the patient-physician relationship, or that nullifies the professional judgment of physicians by requiring that certain procedures or treatments be delayed without regard to medical condition.

Legislation like House Bill 68 mandates certain physician behavior without regard to the patient's best interest, shows indifference for the patient physician relationship, and disregards standard of care / evidence-based medicine.

Family physicians often serve as the initial point of contact for patients' health concerns. Doctors in this specialty are trained to provide comprehensive health care for patients regardless of

condition, to consider the impact of health on families, to understand social determinants of health, and to assist our patients in navigating the healthcare system including other specialty care. House Bill 68 would not only criminalize best practice medical care for youth that is backed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology (AACE), and every other leading medical authority; it takes away the rights of parents to direct the upbringing and physical and mental health of their children.

Who is best placed to decide how to address the health and safety of individual children? Patients and their families along with their licensed healthcare provider are in the best position to determine what is best for each patient.

House Bill 68 would codify non-scientific standards into individualized clinical decision-making and could prevent the provision of appropriate and potentially lifesaving care.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak against this bill which will set a dangerous precedent in depriving children of individualized care, deprive parents of their right to determine what is best for their own children, and deprive doctors of their ability to practice evidence-based medicine grounded in their professional judgment. I am happy to answer your questions.