

Health Public Policy Committee  
Karin Goetz  
HB 68 Opponent Testimony  
5/22/23

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

Vote NO on HB68

I oppose this bill for many reasons. The first is the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This was supposed to be a guarantee for all Americans. Bill HB 68 restricts the rights of not only the trans minor, but also the rights of the parent to care for their child in a safe, medically approved way.

Gender affirming care is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatricians and the Endocrine Society and is viewed by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Psychiatric Association as evidence-based patient care. It is unconscionable to take away the right of a parent to provide their child with the best care possible. And it is ridiculous to ignore the guidance of professional medical associations.

I know and love a trans child. I know and appreciate trans co-workers. I have met people that did not get needed care when they were young. They are strong and wonderful and would have benefited so much from earlier support and medical care. I have met parents that have supported their trans kids and those kids are thriving. Every day I read more stories/articles about children that could not live in a world that did not support them. They took their own lives because of abuse, pressure, lack of care, lack of acceptance etc. Is this the desired outcome? Is taking away a simple, reversible hormonal treatment doing anything to help Ohio's kids? Forcing someone to live in a way they do not want to live will only lead to depression and self-harm. The loss of a child's life is a tragedy I do not wish on anyone. This bill will kill children.

I also oppose this bill for economic reasons. Ohio is home to large corporations that employ a significant amount of people. If this bill passes, it is another mark against our state in terms of personal freedoms (as legislature has already impeded on women's bodily autonomy). Why would the best and brightest people come to Ohio for work if they cannot make choices for themselves or their children? I am employed at Procter & Gamble, going on 23 years. They support all employees bringing their whole selves to work – including trans persons, the disabled, the neurodivergent and so on. They know supporting everyone creates an environment where they can perform to the best of their ability, bringing innovation and profit. Why can't we do this for the state of Ohio? Inclusive and supportive people working together to improve the state sounds wonderful to me.

Thank you for your time  
Karin Goetz