

Ann Becker

Testimony before Ohio Public Health Policy Committee

Opposition on H. B. 68

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Steward, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the Public Health Policy Committee,

My name is Ann Becker. I stand before you in Strong Opposition to House Bill 68.

I am a lifelong Constitutionalist, co-chair of my county Trump Campaign in 2016 and 2020, Vice-Chair of my county Republican Party Central Committee.

This is not a political issue for me- it's a freedom issue.

We are Catholic. My children have received the Sacraments of Initiation, spending Sunday in the same pew in our parish.

This is not a religious issue for me- it's a freedom issue.

I am an elected official, Township Trustee in the largest Township in Ohio. Today I don't represent my 65,000 constituents, I represent one - my transgender son.

When some people think about the Transgender issue, they have a picture in their head - Transgender story time at the library, the Transgender woman that won the swimming title. They say words like sexualization, indoctrination, grooming - I'm here to testify that Ohio families that have Transgender kids are not reflected by those images. We are every day, law-abiding, taxpaying Ohioans.

And our freedom is under attack.

It saddens me that I must come here to address a legislative body that has done so many good things in the name of freedom for Ohio. As a parent, I have more freedom to protect my home and family's safety with Constitutional carry. This body worked to protect the right to make decisions on vaccination status. You are working to give more freedom in education with the Backpack Bill.

All the good work that you are doing to enshrine the freedom of parents and individuals in the state of Ohio, and then HB68 comes along, attempting to strip away the freedom of parents and doctors to make medical decisions for our children.

The level of care my son receives is unmatched. His pediatrician, his therapist, the team at Cincinnati Children's, myself, my husband, and my son - we are all a team. In my 46 years, it is the best level of medical care I have ever been a part of.

Much of your experience with people like my son may come from the sensationalism of clickbait media - but what we are doing today isn't a political game to score points, it's reality. HB68 will take away the rights and freedom of thousands of Ohio parents and doctors.

Article One Section One, the first line of our Ohio Constitution, our Bill of Rights, says:

*"All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness."*

Our job as elected officials, when we raise our hands and swear to serve, protect, and defend the Constitution, is to uphold these rights. To make sure that the government does not take action that will infringe on these Inalienable Rights.

HB 68 says that transgender parents are not free or independent, HB68 takes parents' rights and turns them over to the state. This is something that should not happen in Ohio.

We as elected officials must be centurions, standing guard at the gate, making sure nothing breaches the freedom of our citizens - even if that breach is coming from our own party. Your opposition to this bill will be a political risk, but it's a risk based on principle. Standing for the freedom and rights of citizens that you might not agree with - but still deserve the right to be free.

This bill will not affect our family - my son is older. But I testify because, like you, I believe in Ohio - a place where we want our children to live, grow, and create with the freedom to live without fear of being who they are.

In March, I got a text message from my son.

Saturday, Mar 25 • 8:47 PM

Mommy I'm scared about the trans genocide. Are they gonna put me in a camp

No.

I know it's a "for you" page but I have been seeing nonstop testimonies from every state on tik tok

The sheer mass of bills is what is really freaking me out

*“Mommy I’m scared about the trans genocide. Are they gonna put me in a camp”*

This cannot be the path that Ohio takes. A path of fear, a path of denying freedom. Ohio is better than this. Rejecting HB68 is your duty, to stand for the Ohio Constitution and freedom.

Mr. Chairman, I close with this. Continue the path this body is on, protecting freedom for all parents in Ohio. Lay this bill on the table and sweep it into the dustbin of history, where it belongs.

Thank you.