

Dear Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the committee,

HB 68 is a threat to the well-being of LGBTQ+ youth across Ohio. This legislation would take away vital gender-affirming healthcare from minors.

Research has shown that youth who are supported and allowed to transition and have their gender identity respected and affirmed report higher levels of resilience and positive well-being and lower levels of depression, anxiety, gender dysphoria, and suicidality.

Young adults from highly accepting families attempt suicide at significantly reduced rates compared to those in low-accepting families (31% versus 57%) (Ryan et al., 2009)

Every single major medical organization supports age-appropriate, gender-affirming, care for transgender and non-binary youth. This includes the American Academy of Pediatrics, The American Medical Association, and the American Psychiatric Association.

This bill will result in death. It will result in an increase in suicides among LGBTQ+ youth.

Passing this bill is dangerous, and it is bad for Ohioans. Please vote no on HB 68.

Thank you,

Ethan Nichols