

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 22 May 2023

Name: Sunni L Sparks

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 85B Central Avenue

City: Athens State: OH Zip: 45701

Best Contact Telephone: 7402702233 Email: sleighsparks@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): House Bill 68

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person Written-Only

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? n/a

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Chair Lipps, Vice-Chair Steward, Ranking Member Liston and members of the Public Health Policy committee, my name is Sunni Sparks and I am a constituent from Athens, Ohio. I am testifying against HB68. This bill is dangerous- it will not keep children safe; in fact it will further danger their lives. Many studies, including one from the National Institute of Health, state a reduction in depression and suicidality in children who receive gender affirming care. If we want to protect children, we need to give them access to

literal life-saving medicine.

On top of this, the government should not be involved in anyone's healthcare decisions. This is government overreach. Parents and doctors should be working in tandem with these children to make the best health decisions. As a person with a uterus I can not emphasize enough how much the government needs to stay out of decisions about people's bodies.

I do not have children, but I am a member of the Trans community and can not emphasize enough how much damage passing this bill will do to our- the LGBTQIA community's- future.

As government employees it is your duty to act in accordance with the constituents you represent. Remember that these children are not only living, breathing humans who you will potentially be denying life saving care to, but they will also one day be your constituents, and they will remember this for the rest of their lives.

Thank you for your time.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.