

**Opponent Testimony for HB68**  
**House Public Health Policy Committee**  
**05/24/2023**

**Ms. Rose Page**  
**Concerned Citizen and Public Library Worker**

Chairman Scott Lips, Representative Gary Click, and members of the House Public Health Policy Committee:

I am a public library employee born and raised in Cincinnati, OH, and I am extremely concerned about the proposed HB68 - specifically, its near-total ban on gender affirming care for trans youth.

I am a cisgender woman - I identify with the gender I was assigned at birth. However, I have the wonderful privilege of being close friends with multiple trans individuals. I am terrified of the precedent this bill would set for their safety and continued medical care within the state of Ohio.

I understand concerns regarding the safety of children regarding medical care. However, gender affirming care has been found to be safe and effective. I could quote statistics and studies, but I am certain there are people far more qualified than I on that subject already sharing those points with you all today.

What I can share is that the medicine I take to manage my Multiple Sclerosis began development in 2017 and was approved by the FDA in 2019. I had the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of taking this medication with my doctors. Treatments used in gender affirming care are far more researched than the medicine I take, and yet, this bill would take what should be a medical decision away from patients and doctors.

I can also share that, as someone working in a public library, I see Ohio's kids every day, and there are far more pressing concerns in this state and the country than what the bill's own proposed language states is a "tiny percentage of the American population". We see hungry kids, kids who have nowhere to go, kids who are scared to go home. These are the issues that affect our youth; these are the issues that need to garner our attention.

I implore you to consider the flawed logic behind and harmful implications of this bill. I ask that you please vote no on HB68.

Thank you.