

## Congressional Testimony

Dear P. Scott Lipps et. Al,

My name is Charles Hyden and I am a life time resident of Ohio. My wife and I have two beautiful children. As a father, I would do anything for them. When our eldest came to us and said that they were transgendered I did what I felt was best for my child and our family. I told her that I loved her and I accepted her as she is. I cannot tell you that I understood it. I don't know what it's like to be her. All I can say is that she is important to me and I love her very much.

We recognized that we have no idea where to go from there, so we saw doctors, both physician and mental health professional. With their advice and the wishes of our child we started gender affirming care for her. We are simply following the guidelines of numerous professional medical organizations with training and experience in these issues. We are parents doing what is best for our family. Since starting treatment our child has started to feel better and our relationship with her has improved. I have no doubt that affirming my child's identity was the right call. HB 68 takes away our rights as parents, the rights of doctors, and the rights of trans youth to get the medically recognized correct treatment. These are not issues that should be legislated. We cannot treat transgendered people as boogiemen. Most professional medical organizations recognize that the problems caused by being transgendered largely come from feelings of isolation and lack of acceptance from people and the world around them. This bill only serves to teach trans kids that they are bad.

For my family HB 68 isn't some sort of inconvenience. It serves to alienate us from our community and this state we have lived in all of our lives. It suggests to us that we aren't welcome here. It sends the signal that our child is not welcome here. We are a family making private choices with doctors. I am not asking you to understand. I am not telling others how to raise their children. I am only asking that you not prohibit our family from making necessary medical choices. I am asking that you not tread on parental rights. I am asking that you not use your soap box to demonize my child and my family. I am asking you as a father of a bright and caring teen not to move forward with HB 68.