

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Sid Leister. I am a retired healthcare worker who is also transgender. I'm 65 years old and have a story to share with you. I was born in 1958 and was raised in a loving home by my adoptive parents. They adopted me when I was only 2 months old. As young as 2 years old I knew I was different. Something was wrong. I couldn't express it other than crying every time my mom put a dress on me. I knew I was a boy. But in 1958 it was criminal to be gay or lesbian and I had never heard of transgender. I lived my adult life as a lesbian and was very naïve about transgender still didn't know it existed. In my 30's I attempted suicide. I experienced a depression I can not explain. I was not able to keep any relationship due to my depression and basically hating myself. If I would have had transgender healthcare as a child I know my life would have been totally different. I am opposed to HB 68. This bill will only affect children forcing them to live like I did depressed unhappy and some even suicidal. As a transgender man having the healthcare I desired and deserve I have lived a productive life. I was even on a billboard representing a local healthcare organization based on my career and achievements as a professional. I am just a normal man I am married to my wife Brenda and we are no different than you. Please don't take healthcare away from these children. Let them be who they are supposed to be. Giving them healthcare does not mean adult surgeries or hormones. It means allowing them to be themselves and allowing them to make their own decisions as they come into adulthood.