

With their effort to pass HB68, the Ohio legislature is once again moving to deprive transgender citizens of Ohio their right to make decisions about their own lives. In addition, they are interfering with the decisions of parents on behalf of their children, and the ability of medical professionals to provide care according to their education, training, and judgment.

The effects of this legislation would be cruel and destructive toward young people seeking medical care that supports their gender identity and allows them to live fully in that identity. It would be devastating for their parents. It would lead to psychological, and possibly physical, harm. It would violate the right of individuals to make their own choices about how to lead their lives. It would violate the right of doctors, nurses, and counselors to practice their profession and provide appropriate care.

With HB68, Republican members of the legislature who would normally proclaim support for individual freedom and parental rights are happy to vote directly against both of those things. Their hypocrisy is bad enough, but what concerns me most is the harm HB68 would do. Their complete disregard for the suffering they would cause through passage of this bill is matched by their arrogance in proposing to take away the rights of Ohio citizens to live freely and make choices for themselves and their families. I call on every member of this legislature to vote against this bill.

Witness testimony submitted by Amy McCrory