

Witness Testimony in Opposition to Ohio House Bill 68

I hereby submit my testimony in opposition to Ohio House Bill 68.

As the mother of a trans individual (now an adult), I cannot adequately express the extent of my opposition to this bill. ALL Ohioans, regardless of age, should have access to safe, fact-based healthcare. The government has no place inserting itself in a family's decision-making when it comes to gender affirming healthcare for trans youth. HIPPA provides privacy protections between a patient and their healthcare provider (along with a parent or guardian where applicable), and HB68's attempt to interfere with these difficult (and often literally lifesaving) FAMILY decisions is unconscionable.

The misinformation and disinformation being disseminated by proponents of this bill is outrageous. The blatant attempts to confuse or mislead our citizens and, in some instances, the outright lying about the nature of gender affirming care actually being provided to trans youth is shameful. Banning gender affirming care to trans youth will not protect them. Research shows it will, in fact, do the opposite. Denying them their privacy rights and/or access to gender affirming care will not only make them targets to those who would seek to do them harm, but will heartbreakingly (as also shown in the research) increase the likelihood that such harm will be self-inflicted, particularly when they are denied needed care.

If this body is truly interested in protecting Ohio's youth, it needs to reject this Bill.
PLEASE VOTE "NO" on HB68.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy M.
Submitted for Equality Ohio