

**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 68  
House Public Health Policy Committee  
May 24, 2023**

**Wayne McCormick Foresman**

Chairman P. Scott Lipps, Representative Gary Click, Ranking member Representative Beth Liston, and members of the Public Health Policy Committee

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Wayne McCormick Foresman.

While I am a resident of North Carolina, I have family and friends who are residents of the State of Ohio. I wish to express concern about this bill and how it may affect them and other citizens of the State of Ohio.

I would first like to point you toward what is going on in the State of Florida on this topic of gender identity and how it is playing out there. Disney has canceled a \$1 billion project because of the stance of the State of Florida. Other companies are reconsidering their investment in Florida, and some their possible future investment. Do you wish the same repercussions in Ohio?

If you proceed with this (and similar bills) I am concerned how this will affect my family and friends as the companies they work for may choose to move business out of Ohio. I am concerned about how it will affect them when there is a sudden drain of talent leaving the state, and fewer people willing to be recruited into Ohio.

Many people will cite Christian ethics to support this Bill. But I challenge you with the words of Jesus himself. Jesus frequently tells us to love everyone irrespective of who they are. In John 4 we hear the story of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, who, in spite of having 5 husbands, is still offered living water by Jesus. In John 8 we hear the story of the woman caught in adultery. After Jesus utters his famous line "Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone", all the accusers leave, and she is left with no one to condemn her. Jesus says "Neither do I condemn you". True Christian ethics call each of us to extend that grace, love and mercy to everyone.

I hope Ohio does not want to follow the example of Florida and incur the brain drain and business financial loss this Bill may well bring; and with that, the effect on my family and friends.

I ask you to vote NO on this Bill

Thank you for your consideration.