

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 05/22/23

Name: Kelli M. Kurtz

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 6281 Summerville Lane

City: Liberty Township State: OH Zip: 45011

Best Contact Telephone: (513) 616-5503 Email: kellivkurtz@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB68

Specific Issue: Opposing HB 68--WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I strongly urge the Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee to put a stop to HB 68. The Ohio General Assembly should not practice medicine. The care of transgender children should be between a parent and our doctors--not the government. Parental rights in determining what is best for my child should never be removed by legislation. I urge the Public Health Policy Committee to preserve parental rights and put a stop to HB 68.

KELLI M. KURTZ
6281 Summerville Lane - Liberty Township, OH - 45011 - (513) 616-5503

May 22, 2023

Representative Lipps, Chair
Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston and members of the Public Health Policy Committee:

I am providing this written testimony to strongly oppose HB 68.

Parents have a fundamental right to seek medical care for their children—whether they have cancer, broken bones, diseases, or yes, gender dysphoria.

I find it incredibly egregious that many of the members of our state legislature who believe strongly that parents have a right to decide where their children go to school, or that they should not be forced to be vaccinated or wear masks during a pandemic, also believe that our state government has a right to *remove* parental rights for transgender children. Treating this complex medical issue, as well as the mental health needs of transgender children should be a private matter between parents, their children, and medical professionals—and should in no way involve government. **IT IS A PARENT'S RIGHT TO SEEK APPROPRIATE MEDICAL CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN.**

When our oldest son was diagnosed with a severe infection requiring around the clock medical care at Cincinnati Children's, I did not have to testify in front of our state legislature in order to seek medical treatment. When our youngest son was diagnosed with a brain tumor, I did not have to testify in front of our state legislature in order to seek medical treatment. And yet, when our daughter's gender dysphoria threatened to end her life, I am forced to testify and beg for the right to treat her.

If this were your child, could you imagine sharing private, complex, and often sensitive information with total strangers? With the government? If you are honest with yourselves, you also can't imagine such a scenario. And yet, that's exactly what you will force with this legislation.

Without the life-saving, gender affirming medical care provided by Cincinnati Children's Hospital, our daughter would have taken her own life. They saved her and they saved our family. If you let this bill come to a vote and it becomes law, the blood of countless transgender children will be on your hands. I urge you to stop this madness in the name of **FREEDOM**.

Sincerely,

Kelli M. Kurtz
Parent of a transgender child, opposing HB 68