

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: May 24th, 2023

Name: Jocelyn Decker

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 2825 Short Vine St, Apt 1503

City: Cincinnati State: OH Zip: 45219

Best Contact Telephone: 614-357-0602 Email: josiedecker@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): House Bill 68

Specific Issue: _____

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? 5ish minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Representative Click's proposed bill is a disservice to the children of Ohio and the people that he represents. The House must vote this bill down.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Nearly 20% of children in Ohio live in poverty. That number has not changed since 2019. Of those 20%, half of them live in extreme poverty, and most of them are less than six-years-old. We have the 14th highest rate of child hunger in the US. We have the 5th highest rate of child abuse. We have the 10th highest infant mortality rate.

Our children are poorer and hungrier than the average American child. They are more likely to be unhoused or facing abuse. They are dying sooner.

Instead of focusing on these problems, Representative Click is asking you to support a bill that all major medical associations have condemned. He is asking you to look past the hordes of hungry and hurting children, and focus on just a few: a disgruntled student athlete. A child who decided that transitioning wasn't for them. Some upset parents. Representative Click would have you turn away from the hungry, the homeless, the hurting to focus on a problem that doesn't exist.

Is the government going to set up in every Claire's across the state to make sure that children getting their ears pierced know that it's an irreversible body modification? Is the government going to start enforcing mandated haircuts assigned by gender? Does the state get a say in whether or not a child has their tonsils removed?

Transgender people exist. Transgender people have always existed. You cannot legislate them out of existence and you cannot shove them down where no one can see or hear them.

No one is asking you to come out and march in the Pride parade with a trans flag (although we'd be happy to have you). But the state has no business trying to regulate the private decisions of a child, their family, and their doctor. It is *not* the state's job to police how children dress, how they cut their hair, what names they prefer to use, what pronouns they'd like to go by. It is *not* the state's job to police what vitamins a child takes, what elective surgeries they choose to pursue, which of their doctor's recommendations they take.

Did you know that there's no law in Ohio about how old you have to be to get a boob job? As long as a parent signs off on it, you can walk your ten-year-old in and have it done by any plastic surgeon.

Imagine all of the time, energy, and money that has been spent on this proposed bill. Do you think passing this bill will help house our homeless children? Is it going to fill hungry bellies? At the end of the day, when you look back on what you've done for the people of Ohio - will you be proud to say, "I postponed some kids getting hormone treatment and made their teenage years more miserable than they already are?" Or do you want to say that you fed the hungry. That you built homes for kids without them. That you helped make an actual positive difference.

You are the voice of the people. We're asking you to vote No to HB68.