

Dear Public Health Policy Committee,

My name is Brittany Porch. I am a resident of Columbus where I am a youth minister at a church, I am a parent of two children in CCS, and accessed life saving medical care for my child at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH.

Gender-affirming care is health care not political care. It is beneficial for our children and our community and the research is there to support all of this.

I am a parent of a child who had pediatric cancer. This is the way I think of it. My child is diagnosed with cancer. Our medical team says your child needs life saving drugs called chemotherapy. Our medical team explains that chemotherapy is harsh, harmful, poison, that has life long consequences, but it will save your child's life. Imagine if our government intervened now... and said, "this procedure is too risky and hurts children. We will not allow medical researchers, oncologists and families treat a child with chemotherapy, it will be illegal to do this and we will take your medical license and consider this parental abuse." Medical teams and parents plea to the legislature to allow this medical treatment as it will allow their child to live: attend school, play soccer, eat ice cream, catch fireflies, sled down big hills and live fully and medically cared for.

The same is true of parents of a gender non-binary or trans child. The medical research is clear: this is a medical diagnosis. The doctors know how to treat this, while it may have some side effects, the end result of this care is clear; it will help a child live: attend school, play soccer, eat ice cream, catch fireflies, sled down big hills and live fully and medically cared for.

Gender affirming care is health care not politics. You are elected to serve and protect. I urge you to vote against hb68 and allow all your constituents to access health care.

Brittany Porch  
Resident of Columbus, OH