

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 5-23-2023

Name: Nicole Duncan

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): NA

Position/Title: I AM A PARENT OF A TRANSGENDER youth

Address: 3583 Parfore Ct.

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

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 68

Specific Issue: SAFE ACT

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 Only

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I oppose HB 68. It will harm youth.

*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.*

# Dear Chairman Lipps, and Members of the OHR Public Health Policy Committee,

Please accept my written testimony in opposition to HB 68.

I have the absolute privilege of being the mother of a transgender son. Loving my son for exactly who he is is the easiest thing I've ever done.

When my son was three weeks old, he spiked a high fever. I rushed him to Cincinnati Children's to seek treatment. It was determined that a spinal tap would need to be performed to rule out more serious infection. I was told of all of the possible complications and risks vs. benefits of the procedure. I gave my informed consent to allow the procedure. I was frightened for my sweet baby, but I put my trust in the doctors, nurses, and technicians at Children's. They determined the cause of the infection and treatment plan. My son healed and thrived under their care.

There has been a disturbing amount of lies and misinformation in these hearings about gender affirming treatment, how it is rushed, secretive, given without parental consent—once again, all misinformation. I want to share our journey, in hopes to dispel some of those myths.

When my son began exhibiting signs of gender dysphoria at age 9, he was persistent and consistent in his words and behavior. He began his social transition by cutting his hair and wearing gender neutral clothing.

In middle school he began having anxiety. After meeting 3 therapists, we found one that he could actually relate to. He made good progress and continued his social transition with his chosen name. We began using his name and pronouns and after a learning curve we adapted as a family.

Following many months of therapy, his dysphoria began to interfere with his ability to attend school. As a family, we decided it was time to make an appointment for the transgender clinic at Children's to talk options in continuing his gender affirming care.

The first available appointment was 3 months away. At the initial appointment, the doctor, nurses, and social worker spent a couple of hours counseling us on treatment plans, providing resources for support, and answering all of our questions. Children's staff evaluated documentation from my son's therapist, and verified that he was currently in and would continue with his therapy.

It was determined, that our son's path on was to start testosterone at 15, because puberty blockers were not an option at that point.

We then began discussing the risks of the treatment and common side effects, possible complications of the treatment and specific details of the treatment. Children's obtained informed consent from me and ordered a battery of lab tests for my son. After an agreed upon waiting period, in which labs were evaluated, insurance approval received, another 3 months had passed and my son continued his gender affirming care journey by giving himself his first shot of testosterone.

He be continues to thrive under the care of Children's hospital just as he did as an infant. I continue to put my trust in them now, as I did then. There are regular follow up appointments, with lab work and verification of ongoing therapy.

His journey has not been rushed, nor have we been coerced into treatment.

HB 68 is cruel. I continue to ask myself why this legislative body is choosing to focus on a very small minority, instead of the larger problems facing our youth today.

I can't fathom why I am being "demonized" for loving, accepting, and caring for my child. I recently read a piece from a far right media "personality" that parents of trans youth should be shot and strung up publicly. This is the hate being fueled by this bill.

This bill does nothing to keep our children safe. HB 68 endangers their lives, by taking away this life saving care. The sponsors of this bill are using them as pawns in this disturbing political game of chess played by Ohio's GOP.

But, whether this bill passes, or you find enough empathy and tolerance in your hearts to vote against it, I will continue to love, accept and support my son in every way possible.

This bill will not erase who he is now, nor will it erase his future potential.

He knows who he is.

Sincerely,

Nicole Duncan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Duncan", written over the printed name.