



Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 68

Dr. Ben Huelskamp

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and Honorable Members of the House Public Health Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 68, the “Save Adolescents from Experimentation Act.” My name is Dr. Ben Huelskamp, I use he/they pronouns, and I’m the Executive Director of LOVEboldly, an Ohio faith-based nonprofit working to create spaces where LGBTQIA+ people can flourish in Christianity. In my written testimony to this committee, I focused on an argument from my Christian faith and from the immense amount of scientific and medical agreement that gender affirming care for minors is safe and healthy.

Today I want to focus on logic. HB 68 would fully restrict the ability of parents to seek gender affirming care for their children. In fact, the bill would restrict their ability to seek gender affirming care outside of Ohio in states where such care is legal for minors. Ironically, the bill’s sponsor, Representative Gary Click, sits on the House Public and Secondary Education Committee, which is currently considering HB 8, a measure to enshrine MORE parental rights into law. The Ohio House may soon be considering bills expanding and restricting parental rights on the same topic. Maybe you can explain that logic to me.

Ultimately, HB 68 fails from both progressive and conservative arguments—a real feat in today’s political and cultural polarization. For conservatives, HB 68 is excessive government overreach mandating how parents may care for and raise their children, a point that Ann Becker powerfully testified to in her opposition on May 24, 2023. For progressives, HB 68 is harmful to the health and safety of transgender and gender expansive minors. Many other theological, parental, medical, psychological, and scientific perspectives lie between those two generalized positions.

With so great a bipartisan and multilateral opposition with arguments based in so many areas including basic logic, I continue to urge you to reject House Bill 68—the “Save Adolescents from Experimentation Act”—in committee and not allow it to move further.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Z. Huelskamp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Benjamin Z. Huelskamp, EdD
Executive Director
LOVEboldly