

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 6/12/23

Name: Ben Foley

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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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: Gender Affirming Care ban testimony

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person  Written-Only

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? N/A—WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

*Summarize your position here and attach your written testimony on the following page.*

I strongly oppose the HB 68 Bill that would ban gender affirming care. This ban would significantly infringe on parents' rights and the government should have absolutely no power in making these decisions.

*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.*

June 12, 2023

TO: Chair Lipps  
Vice Chair Stewart  
Ranking Member Liston  
Members of the Public Health Policy Committee

RE: Opposition to HB 68

I strongly opposed the HB 68 bill and urge that you vote NO. I trust parents to make the right decisions for their children and I trust doctors to make the best evidence based decisions for their patients. This bill grossly infringes on parents' rights to provide care to their children and on medical experts rights to provide the best possible treatment for their patients that will serve them in both the short and long term future. This bill is the latest example of government politicians selectively choosing their biases over data driven facts and practices. It continues to serve the politicians and the power that they hold instead of serving the safety and well-being of the citizens of the state of Ohio. Gender Affirming Care is evidence based practice and this bill would limit doctors, psychologists, social workers, and many other professionals from performing their jobs the best way they can. This bill also would negatively impact an already at risk population for suicide attempts and suicide ideation. Transgender children are eight times as likely to be suicidal and this bill would create more barriers for this population to receive the mental and physical care they need.

It is not appropriate for elected officials to attempt to practice medicine or override evidence based medical decision making that would lead to extremely harmful effects for the population that it is claiming to protect. People have a right to make decisions about their healthcare and Gender Affirming Care has a positive impact on the mental health and well-being of trans and gender dysphoric people.

This so called SAFE Act is not safe and will cause a lot of harm if enacted. Vote NO to HB 68.

Ben Foley