

To: Chair Lipps,
Vice-Chair Stewart
Ranking Member Liston
& members of the Public Health Policy Committee

Dear Chair Lipps, Vice-Chair Stewart, Member Liston, and members of the Public Health Policy Committee:

As a doctoral student in the counseling field and an independently licensed clinical counselor, I have personally witnessed the impact that gender-affirming care has on not only my clients, but on our community as a whole. Gender-affirming care, whether it is using the pronouns reflecting the individual's identity, or the ability to access medical knowledge that has been empirically sound for decades, is a necessary aspect of mental and physical wellness.

In not allowing gender-affirming information to be shared, the medical profession is endangered to choices based on opinions versus facts. Restricting the care we can receive, rather than expanding it, will negatively impact all of our lives. Affirming care and the choices associated with it should be discussed by the individual and their support people. I ask that any of you consider whether you have had a discussion with a loved one regarding their health care, and consider the transformative experience when the choice is supported by evidence versus shame and prejudice.

Please – for my clients, for myself, my community, and for my future children, who I want to live in a world where science is reflected in legislation, vote NO on HB 68. This bill supports oppressive views of gender making all of our lives a bit smaller.

Sincerely,

Claire McMahon, LPCC

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