

Opponent Testimony on HB 68

G. Marie

June 12, 2023

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the Public Health Policy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 68, a bill that would ban health care for transgender youth.

My name is G. Marie, and I have lived in Ohio for over 30 years. I am a wife, teacher, Christian, and the proud parent of a cis gender son and transgender daughter. I am also the mother of a cis gender daughter who died by suicide two years ago.

I have personally seen the struggle my transgender daughter has been through over the years. Gender affirming care was and continues to be life saving care for my daughter. Knowing this, as well as knowing the devastation of losing a child to suicide, I am very aware of the serious risks this committee is taking with the lives of trans youth. My trans daughter was also suicidal before she started receiving gender affirming care, and I am so grateful she was able to receive mental and medical health care which literally saved her life.

My adult transgender daughter also is a cancer survivor – and when she first visited the oncologist after diagnosis, she was prepared to refuse treatment if it meant she had to stop taking hormones. That is how absolutely vital gender affirming care truly is. Thankfully, her type of treatment meant she could continue to receive gender affirming care, as well as the life-saving cancer treatment drugs, and she is now cured from her previous cancer diagnosis, as well as living a happy, fulfilled life as a transgender woman. Or, as I like to call her, a woman – my daughter.

Thinking about the pain my family continues to experience as the result of losing a child to suicide, I know far too well the likelihood of trans youth considering ending their lives should this bill pass into law. Medical decisions should ONLY be made between a patient, their doctor, and their legal guardian. You cannot and should not vote to violate parental rights where transgender children are concerned, while upholding parents rights in other areas!

I respectfully request that you consider my testimony as the parent of a daughter lost to suicide, as well as the parent of a transgender daughter, and vote NO on HB68. This bill does not keep children safe, it does the absolute opposite. Thank you for your time and consideration.