

Honorable P. Scott Lipps

Chairman

Public Health Policy Committee

Ohio House of representations

RE: HB 68

Dear Mr. Lipps,

I want my email testimony entered into the record at the June 14, 2023, committee meeting.

I vehemently oppose HB 68. Ohioans deserve access to safe, fact-based healthcare, as well as the right to keep their individual medical needs between them and their providers. House Bill 68 threatens not only the privacy of transgender and non-binary youth but also their ability to seek gender-affirming care. This harmful legislation infiltrates a family's right to make critical medical decisions that should only involve their medical providers – not the government.

Individuals, regardless of their age or gender, should have the right to show up as their whole, authentic selves, especially in the presence of their healthcare providers. HB 68 would severely damage the well-being of LGBTQ+ youth, while also jeopardizing the trust between providers and patients, putting physicians' medical practices at risk.

This bill is opposed by The American Academy of Pediatricians, The Endocrine Society, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and The American Psychiatric Association. These are the experts, and along with the child and their parents should choose what is in the child's best interest; the government should have no role. It is the parent's right to decide, not the government's.

Sincerely,
Lynne Mazeika