

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

From: Dr. Kate Gillooly

Re: HB 68

Date: June 12, 2023

Dear Chair Lipps and all concerned,

I am outraged that this bill is being considered. Having sat with young people as they struggled with their gender identity, watched as they sought medical help for their suicidal ideation and gender dysphoria, and then observed their blossoming into who they were created to be (once appropriate medical help was provided), I cannot for one minute fathom how you think this bill would keep anyone safe. It does the opposite. It ties the hands of caring professionals (medical and educational) who want to serve young people. It makes school one more unsafe place for kids already facing so much stress. It does not allow parents/guardians, teachers or medical professionals the chance to give the support and help so desperately needed.

I am mystified by the vague term "sexually explicit content." I worry that this will be interpreted to mean whatever the current official (or loudest minority) determines in the moment. This could censor what teachers can teach and discuss in the classroom. Our teachers have enough on their plates without having to second guess the latest controversy/political pawn.

Please, please reject House Bill 68, for the sake of every child, youth, parent, teacher, and medical professional trying to do their job. This will not provide any safety whatsoever. It will make things even less safe for the most vulnerable. I write to you as a mother, as a Christian pastor, and as a human being concerned with the welfare of every person in this state. Please consult science, medicine, and the lived experiences of so many brave people who have already spoken up. Please vote NO on HB 68.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kate Gillooly
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121
lazaruslife2000@aol.com