

Representatives Lipp and Liston, respective Committee members,

My name is Fran Wilson, I use they/them pronouns. I am a non-binary, queer community organizer from Akron, Ohio and I drove 2 hours this morning to offer testimony in opposition to Ohio House Bill 68 (135th), which seeks to strip affirmative health care for trans and gender nonconforming Ohio youth.

This bill joins hundreds of others like it across the country, all aimed at a population of people that have been historically discriminated against, demonized, incarcerated, beaten, and killed at disproportionate rates than their straight and hetero peers for simply existing. Queer Ohioans also disproportionately experience homelessness and attempts at suicide. These factors underscore the necessity for medical and mental health support, not restrictions.

HB 68 restricts mental and medical health services for queer youth. These services are vital.

Stop stripping our rights away.

Do not move forward with HB 68.

Fran Wilson

**Akron, Ohio
June 13, 2023**