

I am writing to voice my concern about the significant dangers of this bill being heard in the House Public Health Policy Committee. HB 68 will harm the safety and well-being of LGBT and queer youth.

We must protect our children and ensure they have best-practice, evidence-based physical and mental health treatment available, including and in particular LGBT youth. HB 68 will not only risk further the health, but also the lives and safety of LGBT youth and forcibly detransition all transgender youth in Ohio. Forced detransition will make Ohio unsafe for all children, opening them up to violence and hate that they never should need to face. Not only will this bill force many families to flee Ohio to protect their children, but it will also cause further social regression and justify violence against LGBT people of all ages. This bill is nothing but a cruel act on an already vulnerable population.

I am Ohio born and raised; it has been my home from the very beginning. It has been a place I have felt safe and represented true American beliefs. It is personally appalling that something like this could even make it this far and puts nothing but shame on all of us to let it be considered. This bill would hurt children, separate communities, increase hate and violence, and stand in the way of vital healthcare. HB 68 is directly against what everything Ohio stands for.