

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Cheryl Shaver. I am the owner of a video production company in Westlake, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to HB8 and the harm it does to trans individuals, especially children as well as society as a whole. Suicide often becomes the seemingly only option to those who are ostracized.

At the request of grandparents wanting to understand their grandchildren my production company produced a documentary on an older trans woman. She served in the military, as a police officer and as a missionary. What she suffered as a child as a result of lack of education was inexplicable, but she went on to be a model citizen. She married a female pastor who supported her throughout her transition and they recently celebrated their 39th anniversary. I've never met any Christians more true to their faith and wholeheartedly love their family and serve their community. Rather than be afraid, I would RUN to these people in a time of need.

I met with a wide range of clergy, health professionals and trans individuals and advocates while making our film and consensus was outstandingly clear that these individuals do not CHOSE to be trans, it is natural to their DNA and nature from a very early age.

I also work part time in the Rocky River School system and no issues exist with the trans students - other students are accepting and couldn't care less about an individual's gender. This is an issue that has been manufactured to create chaos and false hatred.

My documentary is available for anyone who would like to educate themselves. Here is a link to the trailer: [Mary. Her Journey From Pain to Purpose. | A courageous transgender story | TRAILER](#)

\*\*Please see attached witness slip.

Cheryl Shaver She/Her

SLA Video Productions

<https://www.youtube.com/@slavideopro/videos>

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