



# PARTNERS FOR ETHICAL CARE

Testimony in Favor

Submitted by Jeannette Cooper  
on behalf of  
Partners for Ethical Care (not-for-profit)  
1658 N. Milwaukee Ave Ste 341, Chicago, IL 60647  
partnersforethicalcare.com  
support@partnersforethicalcare.com

Honorable Representatives of the Great State of Ohio:

My name is Jeannette Cooper, and I am here to state my support of HB 68 on behalf of Partners for Ethical Care, a secular, non-partisan, all-volunteer, nonprofit organization.

Parents are asked:

“Would you rather have a living son, or a dead daughter?”

It is the greatest fear of every parent, to outlive her own child. It makes sense for a parent to choose physically harmful interventions when they are faced with that choice from unethical and misinformed healthcare providers. It makes sense for a mother to choose a sterile, de-sexed child over a dead child. It makes sense for a parent to consent to the removal of healthy breasts rather than the removal of her daughter’s body from the morgue. It makes sense when a parent is surrounded by people repeating the mantra of “life-saving care.” The fear is immense and nearly unbearable.

But this is the suicide myth, which assumes only two options: transition or suicide. It is a false dichotomy; there are ALWAYS more than two options, but stopping normal puberty, administering wrong-sex hormones, and removing healthy body parts should NEVER be an option. No doctor should be removing a healthy finger, healthy leg, or healthy breasts from anyone. Gender dysphoria is a psychological problem that deserves ethical psychological care. It is impossible to be born in the wrong body. The mind is part of the body, not separate from it.



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I help run an online group of thousands of parents who do not affirm their child's transgender identity. Rather, we support our children's social, emotional, and physical needs as human beings in their natural male or female bodies. We let our kids wear what they want and cut their hair however they please. We accept with love our children as lesbian or gay. We are liberal and conservative, we are atheist and religious, we are former Democrats and former Republicans, we are diverse. I am not aware of any children of parents in our group who have committed suicide because they were not affirmed. On the contrary, we observe hundreds of children who recover from gender dysphoria and thrive once they don't need the crutch of a transgender identity, after their underlying mental and physical health issues are addressed with legitimate and **ethical** care. We know how to resolve gender dysphoria without harming healthy bodies, and it works, provided children are not encouraged to believe a falsehood. In other private online groups, sadly we have read accounts from parents who affirmed their child's transgender identity, but their children's mental health still did not improve, and their physical health deteriorated. Some have committed suicide. We have read many, many accounts of this, and I have spoken to some of these parents. The promises of "transition joy" didn't save the lives of these young people. It was snake oil.

I am here, with observations of personal experiences from thousands of parents who have had trans-identifying children, that we know what prevents suicide, and it's not affirmation. We know how to support children who identify as transgender, and it's not affirmation. Using someone's chosen pronouns is not going to save their life, just like using someone's birth name is not going to cause their suicide. That's not how suicide works.

In order to have a completed suicide, according to Jack Klott, a suicidologist with over 45 years of experience, a person will have all four of these:

1. Hopelessness
2. Aloneness, isolation, a feeling of abandonment or rejection
3. Self-hatred
4. Inability to cope



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Suicide is complex; it's not about names and pronouns. Contrary to the popular myth told and retold, pronouns do not "literally save lives."

There's no injection—not wrong-sex hormones or anything else—that can be given to prevent suicide. Suicide prevention is about social and psychological supports, not surgeries. It's about changing your mind, not irreversibly changing your body. "Gender medicine" is the latest miracle drug sold to desperate parents and young people. I wish it was a miracle cure, but it's not. I feel for the parents and young people that have been emotionally coerced into believing this lie. It's not true. No one needs "gender medicine," and no one must kill themselves if they don't get it. This isn't "life-saving care."

We want to tell young people and their parents:

"You can and will survive the psychological and emotional pain you feel at this moment. You and your children deserve ethical care, and we are deeply sorry that you are not getting it from professionals you should be able to trust. We trust that this state will vote to protect the children of Ohio from this multi-billion-dollar, unethical gender industry."

Thank you for your time and support of this bill.