

3 December 2023

Hello,

My name is Vanessa Joy. I am the Executive Producer and lead host of the Transcending Humanity podcast, as well as a potential candidate for the Ohio House of Representatives in District 50. Additionally, I am a 42 year old out Transgender Woman.

I urge a NO vote on HB 68. The transgender community has become the focal point of the Republican party over the past few years. We are a very small portion of the human population, making up only around 1%. We have always existed and always will exist.

Being transgender is not a choice. We are born this way, no different than people being born with blue or brown eyes. It is part of the genetic shuffle. The only choice in being trans is the choice to come out. This can be exceedingly dangerous in the US, especially with a major political party seeking our eradication.

What we are seeing with HB68 is a legislative body focused solely on bullying kids. Our bodies are our own - that goes for every human, be they cis or trans. It is NOT the responsibility of the legislature to make medical decisions, and especially not to override the expertise of doctors. While I am sure that a few legislators are medical doctors, the rest do not have the legal ability to practice medicine. By blocking access to life saving gender affirming care, these legislators are practicing medicine without a license.

The WPATH standards of care are clear, and are followed by medical professionals. All major medical professional organizations in the US agree that gender affirming care is of vital importance.

What we are seeing here is the attempt to create a group of second class citizens through fear mongering and discrimination. Legislators have no right to decide what people do with their own bodies. This is as ludicrous as banning Viagra.

It has been proven time and time again that bills that target the Transgender population are unpopular. They are frequently deemed unconstitutional, yet here we are with an absolutely horrible one in Ohio.

These legislators should be ashamed of themselves. They are not working for the People, they are working AGAINST the people.

I recognize that these bills come from lobbyist organizations. I urge the legislation to remember that they work for WE THE PEOPLE, not lobbyists. They work for the PEOPLE, not their own personal religious beliefs.

Should I get elected, I will do everything in my power to encourage Ohioans to vote out these hateful politicians.

We must not cave to bigotry.

We are humans. We bleed. We laugh. We love. We cry. Our gender identities are the least interesting part of ourselves, yet here we are... fighting for our lives.

Leave the kids alone. Work to fix actual problems in Ohio. While you are focused on trying to kill children, there are thousands of homeless people in the state. People are suffering... why must you compound that?

Mark my words, if this bill passes, the "Pro Life" party will be directly responsible for the deaths that come from it.

The blood will be on your hands. History will remember you as such.

Stop this madness.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Joy