

Opponent Testimony for HB68
Government Oversight Committee
3 December 2023
Mary Klain

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Government Oversight Committee,

I am grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony to you today. My name is Mary Klain, my pronouns are she/her. I am a lifelong Ohio resident who is extremely concerned about the trajectory legislation in Ohio is currently taking.

Today, I write to voice my vehement opposition to HB68; as I have done in March, May and June of this year already, along this legislation's path through the Ohio Statehouse. This bill is a cruel, harmful attack on Ohio families with gender diverse children. This proposed legislation intentionally makes Ohio inhospitable to anybody who doesn't fall in line within the traditional gender binary. Our job as adults is to keep younger people safe. This bill does not do that. Young Ohioans deserve better than this!

House Bill 68 not only threatens the privacy of transgender and non-binary youth, but also their ability to seek gender-affirming care. This harmful legislation infiltrates a family's right to make important medical decisions that should only involve their medical providers – not the government. Individuals, regardless of their age or gender, should have the right to show up as their full, authentic selves, especially in the presence of their healthcare providers. HB 68 would severely damage the well-being of LGBTQ+ youth, while also jeopardizing the trust between providers and patients, putting physicians' medical practices at risk. Every Ohioan deserves better medical care than this!

Democracy thrives on diversity; this bill undermines diversity, acceptance and inclusion, and it's just plain wrong. For that reason alone, I implore you to vote NO on House Bill 68 to protect critical healthcare for transgender and non-binary youth. ALL Ohioans deserve access to safe, fact-based healthcare as well as the right to keep our individual medical needs private between us and our providers.

Ohio's transgender and non-binary youth deserve to be treated fairly!

Mary Klain