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Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee
Attn: Senator Kristina D. Roegner
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
1st Floor, 142
Columbus, OH 43215
roegner@ohiosenate.gov
614.466.4823

Dear Senator Roegner and Members of the Government Oversight Committee,

My name is Michael J. Morris, and I have been a citizen of Ohio since 2008. I hold a PhD from The Ohio State University, and for six years, I taught in the Women's and Gender Studies program at Denison University. I am writing to submit written testimony regarding House Bill 68.

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 68. This legislation presumes to interfere with healthcare decisions that should be made by medical professionals in consultation with their patients and their patients' families. By prohibiting healthcare providers from prescribing gender-affirming care for transgender minors, the state would be compromising the lives and livability of transgender people in Ohio. Healthcare for transgender people—including transgender youth—is mainstream medical practice supported by every major medical association and leading world health authorities. According to a resolution passed by the American Medical Association in June 2023—the widespread misinformation and bans on care “do not reflect the research landscape. More than 2,000 scientific studies have examined aspects of gender-affirming care since 1975, including more than 260 studies cited in the Endocrine Society's Clinical Practice Guideline.” This resolution was co-sponsored by:

- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- The American Urological Association
- The American Society for Reproductive Medicine
- The American College of Physicians
- The American Association of Clinical Endocrinology
- GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality
- the American Medical Association's Medical Student Section

It is incontrovertible that gender-affirming healthcare that is prescribed and overseen by medical professionals is not only safe but in the best interests of transgender patients seeking such care.

HB 68 as it was passed by the House is composed of misinformation regarding healthcare practices for transgender youth, as well as misrepresentations of the nature of gender and biological sex. It has been advanced under the title of “Saving Ohio Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE)”, but the

medical practices addressed by this legislation are not considered experimental by any major medical association, nor are these procedures prescribed in ways that threaten the safety of transgender youth. In fact, it has been established by medical authorities that such practices are in the best interests of patients seeking transition-related care. The authors and proponents of this legislation are not medical professionals, nor do they hold any advanced education in the study of gender, sex, and sexuality. The state legislature is not qualified to be dictating medical practices for the people of Ohio—especially when their proposed legislation is in opposition to expert knowledge regarding medical care for transgender people that is affirmed by every major medical association and leading world health authorities. This bill must not advance beyond the senate committee.

Thank you for your time,
-Michael J. Morris, PhD