

Krystina Taylor

Regarding Ohio's Ban on Gender Affirming Care and Trans Youth in Sports

02 December 2023

My name is Krystina Taylor and I am a deeply concerned citizen residing in Cuyahoga County. I am testifying about the impact House Bill 68 will have on the lives and futures of trans youth in the state of Ohio.

I am submitting testimony on this issue because as a Black woman living in the United States of America, I am intimately aware of how power structures can and do impact all our lives. I am a queer, Black woman and so much of my experience in the United States is shaped by the body I occupy. My blackness has, unfortunately, been enough for some to treat me with disdain and anger for simply existing, and in that way I am deeply familiar with the plight of my trans and non-binary peers. It is the everyday indignities that come with living in a marginalized body that go ignored that inform the larger acts of violence that are enacted upon vast groups of people.

I felt the need to submit testimony not just because I identify as Black and queer, but also because there are trans and non-binary people that I care about right now and who will be affected by this legislation. These beautiful people run the gamut in terms of age, life experience, and socioeconomic class. These beautiful beings care about others, regardless of if they are in community with them. They are proof that no matter what this legislative body decides, trans folks will continue to exist in our communities and lives, whether you know them for who they are or not.

I would urge this committee to vote down legislation that will be nothing more than a state bullying apparatus - I am asking you to vote against passing House Bill 68. We claim to be a nation and state that care about the lives of our youth while actively ostracizing the most vulnerable among us. A vote against this measure is a vote to ensure that *no child* in Ohio is ever made to feel like their existence is a burden or barrier.

I want to thank everyone on this committee for their time and attention in reading this testimony and taking it into consideration.

Sincerely,

Krystina M. Taylor  
Cuyahoga County