

**Opponent Testimony Against HB 68
December 4, 2023
ALM**

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I am an Emergency Medicine Physician and the parent of a transgender teenager.

Our child's gender identity was obvious even to his preschool teacher and has never waivered. He is an excellent student, an outstanding athlete on his middle school basketball team, and a delightful person. He officially transitioned in middle school, but it was a surprise to nobody that knew him. He was met with only support from his community and his family, but he is aware that there are people out there that don't know him but despise, fear, and vilify him for who he is.

HB 68 would end the care he receives at a nationally recognized multi-disciplinary clinic. There, with the support of an entire medical team, he is given the tools to support his identity and allow him to live the life he envisioned for himself. HB 68 would endanger children like my son, and it would place Ohio on the wrong side of the medical establishment and the wrong side of history.

Families like mine are a part of all communities. You don't look at my son and know his birth gender and that is exactly the way he wants it. Please vote no on HB 68 and allow my child to live his life. His health care decisions belong in his doctor's office with the providers that know him, not the government that is seeking to expose him and block his path towards adulthood.