

**H.B. 68 “Enact Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act”
Opponent Written Testimony**

December 4, 2023

Dear Government Oversight Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to ask that you please vote “no” on H.B. 68 titled Enact Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act.

Health care decisions should be kept as private matters between medical professionals and their patients. Government officials with no medical training or experience should not be allowed to bar citizens from receiving medically necessary, proven safe, health care from licensed medical professionals. Parents should be allowed to exercise their parental rights to work in conjunction with their children’s medical team to decide what medical treatment is necessary for their children.

A 2022 national survey conducted by The Trevor Project found that transgender youth who have access to gender-affirming spaces have a lower risk of attempting suicide than youth who do not have access to these spaces ^[1]. A 2021 study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health found that transgender youth who receive gender-affirming medical care have lower rates of depression and suicide attempts than youth who do not have access to care ^[2].

Allowing citizens of Ohio to have access to health care, such as gender-affirming care, also helps to ensure that people want to, can, and will live in our state. A 2022 study conducted by the UCLA School of Law found that 56% of parents considered moving out of the state of Florida after anti-LGBTQ laws were passed ^[3], and a study conducted by Indeed, published by the Society for Human Resource Management, found that 52% of job seekers will not apply for positions based in states with anti-LGBTQ laws ^[4]. Companies will not want to invest in our state if they cannot attract and retain talent.

As someone who was born and raised in the state of Ohio, and who decided to move back to the state over 10-years ago after getting my Bachelor’s Degree, I urge you to please vote “no” on harmful H.B. 68.

Thank You,
Kristen Corbett

Sources:

[1] <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/>

[2] [https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(21\)00568-1/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(21)00568-1/fulltext)

[3] <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/impact-dont-say-gay-parents/>

[4] <https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/hr-topics/talent-acquisition/pages/anti-lgbtq-legislation-stops-applying-jobs-states.aspx>