

Robin Baradarvar
Oppositional Testimony to House Bill 68
December 6, 2023

Hello, my name is Robin Baradarvar, and I am a 15 year old sophomore at Centennial High School, and an active member in the Columbus LGBTQ+ community. I am here to Oppose House Bill 68, or the SAFE act. In my school community, I play the cello, I am involved in theater, I am on the school's bowling team, and in the wider Columbus community, I frequently attend youth centers in Columbus. I am a transgender male, which is the least important part about me, and is why I have decided to come and testify against the passing of House Bill 68. My gender identity and how my identity is affirmed should not be the debate of something in the government, it should just be of concern to me, my family, and my healthcare providers.

I am a patient at Nationwide Children's Thrive program, which provides gender affirming care to trans minors. I am completely confident that this type of care that Thrive has provided has saved my life, as well as countless others. Every trans kid that I know has been much happier when they receive any sort of gender affirmation or care, and taking this away from trans minors would be a detriment to me and so many others. I love all of my trans friends and I do not want their mental health to be in jeopardy due to no longer receiving the gender affirming care they need.

According to The National Library of Medicine, the regret rate of gender affirming surgeries is ~2%, and approximately half of the population who have regretted their surgeries suffer from minor regret, which means regret due to surgical difficulties, or surgeon error. This is an incredibly miniscule problem that pales in comparison to the real issues that the trans community faces. To address the issue of puberty blockers being banned in this issue, I would like to argue that puberty blockers do not provide permanent changes, and are therefore something that is fairly harmless in the grand scheme of things.

I would also like to argue against the mental-health segment of this bill, which states that mental health providers must test minors for other mental health issues before the testing/diagnosis of gender dysphoria or other related conditions. More often than not, mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, ASD, ADHD, etc. have nothing to do with the condition of gender dysphoria. Personally, I have felt dysphoric about my gender identity before I began to experience any other unrelated mental health conditions. Furthermore, the bill also states that the mental health provider must also screen for emotional, physical, or sexual traumas before screening for gender dysphoria. I will argue that trauma has nothing to do with how someone will truly identify, a lot of the trauma I have experienced in my life has come from pushback against my gender identity and sexuality.

Overall, I believe that House Bill 68 should not be passed, as it would be inconsiderate to the trans kids in Ohio who need to receive, or are already receiving, gender affirming care

Robin Baradarvar (He/Him/His)

Opponent Testimony- Senate Bill 68
Senate Government Oversight Committee
December 4, 2023
Kristina Hill

I am submitting formal testimony in opposition to House Bill 68, known as the Saving Adolescents from Experimentation Act. I am the mother of a transgender male teenager and my family would be irreparably harmed if this bill passes. My child currently benefits from gender affirming care that has truly been life saving and life altering. In the United States of America, government does not get to decide who is deserving of health care and who is not, and politicians don't get to trump physicians, psychiatrists, and medical professionals that provide evidence based care.

I am a graduate of OSU, hold an MBA from Franklin University, and am currently employed as the Director of Shared Services at Gainwell Technologies. My husband is in accounting with the Ohio Education Association. I, along with everyone else in my family, are capable of making informed decisions about the best health care for my child. My child has benefitted from services provided at the Thrive program connected with Nationwide Childrens Hospital. When a child comes out as transgender, as a parent, you naturally seek help from providers specializing in gender related issues and providing care to people experiencing the same. Taking this right away does not "save" my child in any way from experimentation. While his healthcare is not up for disclosure, I will say that treatment is individualized and tailored to each person, and does not always constitute hormones or surgery.

If this were passed, my family could no longer stay in the state of Ohio and would move to another state. The narrative that parents or the healthcare system is somehow "grooming" or convincing people to identify as transgender is patently false. Please do not fall victim to the culture wars being perpetrated against transgender people at this moment in history. Discrimination against anyone based on identity has no place in our country, regardless of whether or not this identity conforms to mainstream culture. Thank you for time and consideration of how passage of this bill would directly harm families by discriminating against them.

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 68
Public Health Policy Committee
April 18, 2023

Kristina Hill

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