

Opponent Testimony

As a European detrans person (or detransitioner), I have no stake in the right to trans healthcare for minors in Ohio. However, having spent my teens as a vulnerable trans youth, I deeply understand the feelings surrounding inaccessibility to trans healthcare. My name is Lucy, and I am writing this testimony to provide the perspective of someone who passed through the Dutch Protocol (in the Netherlands, no less), medically transitioned a decade ago as a minor, and detransitioned as an adult. Despite assumptions, I am staunchly opposed to this bill that strips the right to adequate gender care for minors in Ohio.

For years prior to my diagnostic phase, I languished on a waitlist. As a young teen, I felt trapped in my body. I gritted my teeth and bore through the pain of needing specific care that was always out of reach - as would be the case for these trans youth in Ohio if this bill passes.

There seems to be misinformation spread about the state of trans healthcare in Europe. Specifically, there is an idea that trans healthcare is being banned across the continent. Firstly, anyone saying "Europe" in this context is generalizing dozens of healthcare systems and should not be taken seriously. There is much more nuance at play. What's more, the main issue here is that our healthcare systems are overloaded. Waitlists abound, and transgender people are forced to turn to private healthcare to receive treatment.

For that reason, I shall focus on my country of residence, the Netherlands. On September 21, 2023, a motion in our parliament was submitted to ban hormonal treatments and puberty blockers for transgender minors. This motion failed: of the 150 members of the House of Representatives, 110 voted against it. To me, that does not sound like "Europe" is banning trans healthcare for minors. Rather, based on the votes, there is support for this healthcare across the political spectrum due to its scientific basis and the benefits it provides to these vulnerable teenagers (as hormones are only allowed aged 16 and up with parental consent).

Next, I would like to address the reality of living with a detransitioned body. As a detrans woman, I cannot stand by and allow others to utilize my body as a straw man argument focused around regret. My body is not a commodity to be weaponized to harm innocent children grappling with pain and dysphoria. My body is one that I have adapted to my needs—a vessel I am content with existing in. Others' understanding of my contentment is not a condition that must be fulfilled.

Statistically speaking, these transgender youths are unlikely to detransition. While listening to detrans stories is important, the takeaway should be how trans healthcare should be improved rather than outright banned. It'll be a cold day in hell before I'll call myself a victim to suit a narrative about evil gender ideologues.

State Representative Gary Click, you have chosen to misrepresent my home country's stance on trans healthcare. Worse yet, you have chosen to misrepresent my life story as a detrans person. With my testimony, I categorically reject the notion that you truly care about saving any children at all. This bill is an exercise in taking cruel control over the lives and bodies of growing humans who seek to feel at one with themselves. Therefore, it should not pass.