

December 4, 2023

Chairperson Roegner and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide written opponent testimony for House Bill 68.

My name is Susan H. and I am a resident of Columbus, Ohio. I am testifying today as the parent of a transgender child. We went to the Thrive Clinic at Nationwide Children's Hospital a couple of months after my child had turned 16. I was not forced or coerced into doing anything, and nothing was done without my written permission. Parents have the right to say no to treatment, so this legislation is completely unnecessary. There was no "experimentation" going on with my child. All decisions were made with my involvement and consent. No surgery or "mutilation" was ever offered or considered. I was able to sit in on counseling sessions and always felt like I was in control of my child's treatment. Everything was done with my knowledge and took into account the best of interest of MY child.

My child was not influenced by social media, and is still not much of a social media user. Recent studies have shown that "social contagion" is not causing adolescents to come out as transgender. Here is a link to one study:

<https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/21888/Study-finds-no-evidence-of-social-contagion-among?autologincheck=redirected>

This bill will cause a great deal of harm. Believe it or not, children have the capability of knowing WHO they are. Today, my child is 23 years old, thriving and the **happiest** they have been in their **entire life**. We have a wonderful, close relationship because I listened to them and believed them.

I am also opposed to banning transgender youth from participating in sports. There are currently very few transgender athletes participating, and the OHSSA and NCAA already have policies in place to ensure fairness for ALL athletes. This is a "solution" in search of a problem that does not exist.

Please do not allow this unnecessary, reckless and dangerous legislation to go any further. Thank you again for allowing me to express my opposition to this bill.