

HB 68 Ohio's Ban on Gender-affirming Care and trans Youth in Sports  
Wednesday, December 6, 3:00 PM  
Ohio Statehouse, South Hearing Room

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee my name is Matt Scaglione and I am submitting written testimony in opposition of House Bill 68.

My name is Matt Scaglione the proud stepfather of 3 amazing kids and I oppose HB68 and ask that you do as well.

From the very beginning of my wife and I meeting each other I have been aware that I was entering a family that was "out of the norm". I have said from the very beginning that as long as the children are happy and healthy that was all that mattered. Little did I know that this was going to be a daily battle to maintain a healthy and happy environment for three amazing kids. We have had experiences that I would not wish on anyone and each day we wake up to do it again, as a family because we support our children for who they are.

As the climates have begun to worsen, we have experienced a school district doing nothing to help or support our transgender children. Our kids have lost friends because they are living their true self and due to an overreach of a school board and an administration that was afraid to do anything supportive that didn't mesh with the views of a few board members and higher administration we as a family decided to leave the district. We didn't have the means, but we had the will because when you are a parent you will do anything and fight for whatever your kids need. None of this was easy on our family and without the help of family and friends we wouldn't have been able to make this happen. Many families are in the same position and are not as lucky. In fact, if HB68 passes there are many families that will be forced to leave the state to do what is right for the well being of their kids. We as a family do not have the ability to flee Ohio. Ohio should be supporting its youth, not trying to alienate and exterminate them because they are different.

As a parent of transgender children, I have seen what not having the proper medical and psychological care having can do to a child. By passing this bill my children would no longer be able to have access to their therapists, Endocrinologists and would be forced to detransition. I want to be selfish and only talk about my children in this testimony however, I cannot. This does not just affect our children but all the children of Ohio of whom would be greatly affected. By ending their ability to get the care they need all these children will be forced to detransition not just medically but socially as well. Leading to bullying in school, depression, dysphoria and suicide. These deaths will be on the hands of anyone voting to pass this bill and anyone who did not stand up against it.

The medical professionals of many major Ohio institutions including Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals have already made the determination of what is appropriate and have created programs to care for our children. It is an inappropriate overreach of the governing body of the state of Ohio to try and step in and determine what is right for my children.

As a concerned parent I urge you to end this and vote against HB68. We need more support for our children.

Thank you  
Matt Scaglione

