

Dear Chair Roegnar,

I am writing to you today about HB68.

It's really ironic that HB 68's acronym is SAFE - since it really should be called UNSAFE, DEADLY or WRONG. I oppose HB68 because it is not the government's place to make medical decisions that effect individuals - whether children or adults. These are not decisions that effect PUBLIC HEALTH. These decisions are between the patient, the doctor and the family involved. Medical decisions should be based in science not in fear.

As a parent of a trans son, who started Testosterone at the age of 16, I have lived through the years of therapy, gender dysphoria, depression and anxiety related to being a transgender teen. No one wants their child to feel isolated and alone... even suicidal. No one wants to see their child ostracized at school due to lack of understanding and fear. As a parent I will do whatever it takes to get the right treatment for whatever healthcare needs my child has. Going on T was not a rash decision - it happened after years of therapy, mental health medications, parent counseling and many discussions with medical professionals trained in this area. Our son is thriving because of all the medical advice and treatment we were able to obtain. To take away the option of gender affirming care is harmful to those who have already started it and those that greatly need it. These are hard decisions to make but no one knows a child better than their parent. The government should not be making these decisions for parents and transgender individuals. Being trans does not harm anyone. Doctors treating trans children are not harming them-they are helping them LIVE!

I hate to imagine what trans families we will have to do if this bill passes. We are one of the lucky ones because he is now 18. We have always loved living in Columbus but we will not stand by as Ohio takes away our rights. HB68 is government over-reach: making personal decisions for families and individuals that the state has no right to be doing. I ask you to oppose HB68.

Sincerely,

Kelly Chellis

Concerned Parent, Health-care advocate and Registered Ohio Voter