

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 68. My name is Anne M. and I am a concerned parent and constituent. I am a resident of the Village of Mariemont in Hamilton County.

I am writing to you today in opposition of House Bill 68. I am sharing my testimony with you, because I do not think you see me or my family and the ways this bill will impact us and the greater community. My children do not require gender affirming care or wish to play sports. One is an adult. My husband and I do not work in gender affirming care. We probably are very much like you, your friends, and your colleagues.

We moved to Ohio 12 years ago when my husband got a position as a neuropathologist with a local University. We love living in Ohio, but are horrified by this bill and the precedent it sets. When our children require medical care or therapy, we carefully research what medical and psychological experts to consult. We look towards specific, established professional associations to see what they recommend. In the area of gender affirming care, those experts and associations are ALL opposed to this bill.

As a family that has dedicated a lot of resources to training a very specialized physician, we have first hand knowledge of the work and sacrifices medical specialists have put in to practice and help guide patients and in this case parents. You do not have that training, and if the state of Ohio is now in the business of legislating medical care over the advice of established, respected guidelines of experts, it makes my family worry that Ohio is not a safe place to practice medicine. This should worry you too. In the 12 years we have lived here, my husband's university has been unable to recruit another candidate like him because they are in short supply. His department is woefully understaffed at all times, and the best recruiting tool has been that Ohio is a great place to live and practice. This changes that, and I'm not sure we will continue to live here. It's also unlikely that he will be easily replaced here. And this conversation is playing out over and over with others we know in medicine. We have options. But the people of Ohio may find their in state healthcare options limited as a result of bills like this.

I implore you to vote no on House Bill 68 and urge you to support policies that uphold the rights of residents of the state of Ohio including transgender individuals, ensure access to necessary healthcare for ALL residents of this state, and allow participation in sports consistent with gender identity.

Thanks you for your time and consideration,
Anne M.