

Members of the **Senate Government Oversight Committee** –

I am submitting written testimony today in support of the trans community, and against House Bill 68 and all other anti-trans legislation. I honestly don't know whether I am disgusted more than I am saddened, or saddened more than I am disgusted when I see legislative attacks on the trans community. Our friends and family in the trans community have been bullied, harassed, and picked on their whole lives – they shouldn't have to endure bullying, harassment, and being picked on by their elected representatives, who are supposed to be representing all of their constituents rather than pandering to a bigoted minority.

House Bill 68 is particularly cruel because it attempts to deny our trans friends and family the gender affirming care they need to simply be who they are. In addition, it is an egregious violation of parental rights for the state government to try and deny parents who are seeking gender affirming care for their children.

Please abandon all of these mean-spirited, hateful, and frankly un-Christian legislative attacks on the trans community. House Bill 68 is one of many legislative attempts to deny the humanity and dignity of our trans friends and family. I would ask that each of you would act with respect, compassion, and empathy for a population of Ohioans who have known far too much persecution in their lives as it is.

Choose love. Choose respect. Choose compassion. And choose to put an end to the legislative hate being directed at some of the most oppressed and vulnerable among us.

Thank you,

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