

Opposition Testimony HB68  
Government Oversight Committee  
December 6, 2023  
Submitted by: Shannon Gallagher

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to present my testimony in opposition to House Bill 68. My name is Shannon Gallagher and I lived in Dublin, Ohio from 2011-2021 and Grandview Ohio from 2021-2023. As of September 2023, I now live in Brooklyn, NYC.

I have sat in on and testified in opposition to countless anti-trans and anti-gender affirming care bills in Ohio over the last few years. I have heard too many committee members say during these hearings that they don't know why Trans youth should feel victimized in any way because of these hearings. As the mom of a Trans 17 year old, I can say that is a false narrative. If you need me to bring in my child's therapist, psychiatrist, family and friends to explain, let me know and they will come. The hate and fear mongering that representatives like Click, Schmidt, Williams, etc have spewed has driven my family out of Ohio. All of my four young adult children ages 17-26 are politically and socially engaged and actually pay attention to what is going on at the Statehouse. They encourage their friends to get more involved, they volunteer in the community and they sincerely try to make the world a better place. All 6 members of my family have called Ohio our home and your repeated attacks on marginalized people have driven us out. I need you to know that you lost an amazing family. I am a middle school teacher and have helped launch and support many Columbus based nonprofits. I have spent countless hours volunteering in Linden where I helped reduce the violence in that community. My husband was a top level employee at Bath & Body Works for nearly 20 years. He coached all four of our kids in rec sports and was even booster president at Dublin Jerome High School. We lived a very nice life in Dublin, Ohio and paid a lot in taxes and spent a lot of our disposable income in Columbus. My three oldest kids graduated from Dublin Jerome High School, where all three were top of their class. They are all successful and have no plans of ever living in Ohio, only because of the continual attacks this legislative body has wielded against basic fundamental human rights. Our youngest, who is Trans, is the most amazing human being you will ever meet! They are empathetic, artistic, driven and smart. You drove our family out of a state that we loved and were invested in because we needed to find a state where our Trans child could get the gender affirming care they deserved. Your constant attacks on my parental rights to get my child the services they needed to live and thrive is a sinful abomination and you should be ashamed! The Christ I know and love and follow would never support bills like HB68. Satan is using you to do his work by sowing division, hatred and fear. I am a God-fearing Catholic-Christian woman, so I do not make those statements lightly. I have to believe that in the quiet of your home when you are on your knees praying, that you spend a moment sincerely listening to how He wants you to proceed. I am humbled that I have been blessed to have felt His spirit many times in my life and I know with every cell in my body that He is not on your side on this issue. Choose life and vote no on HB68.