

Oppose HB 68!

Dear Ohio Senators,

December 5th, 2023

Please vote no to House Bill 68.

I am a Professor & Researcher who writes about gender development. Gender is complicated beyond the appearance of the body, trans people have always been present, and are “coming” out, because they deserve to live autonomously. This bill un-necessarily divides our state and the legislation has litigious ramifications that are not fiscally prudent. The state government should not be making decisions for trans individuals that medical, mental health, and expert psychiatric care supports are qualified to make with utmost respect for the trans, gender-variant, or intersex person themselves!

This bill unfairly targets trans individuals and **ignores all scientific** knowledge about the complexity of in utero-development, intersex conditions, and human gender variance in development. Gender is complex (and more than appearance at birth).

- 6 weeks –the gonadal sex is established based upon chromosomal sex (of the child)
- 7 weeks –based upon the gonadal sex differentiation will lead to hormonal profiles (hormonal cocktail)
- 8 weeks-the somatic sex is established and the cascade of biology continues to the phenotypic sex by 12 weeks (***after this point things get complicated!***)
- Complex process rather than a binary end-point
- While the outer and inner body process is happening a far less understood brain differentiating microclimate is occurring (in utero)
- **Reproductive structures and the brain are often subjected to different microclimates of hormones from the mother, the developing fetus, and the environment. Even Twins get different microclimates of hormonal impact on the body and the brain.**
- **The body (phenotype) may not align with the chromosomal, gonadal, hormonal, or somatic sex.**
- Social climate, environment, and eventual puberty also affect gender-identity
- In addition, while any differences may be due to the developing individual, differences may **also arise due to external factors – environmental presence of endocrine disruptors, or maternal use of hormones or endocrine disrupting chemicals can affect development.**

Intersex conditions, present in some humans are also complicated, and I think people should be allowed to know themselves before their bodies are surgically altered without their autonomous choice.

Between .025 and 2% of individuals are likely to be trans! Intersex variations are also very common!

How will the presiding physician (parents?) make the right choice for a child? Throughout history physicians and parents have been wrong; intersex and trans rights are human rights.

- 1 in 1,666 births (not xx or xy)
- 1 in 13,000 (androgen insensitivity)
- 1 in 66 individuals (late onset adrenal hyperplasia)
- 1 in 83,000 (ovotestes) (***and there*** are at least 3 other types of intersex conditions!)

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