

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee,

We are writing to express our opposition to House Bill 68, also known as the SAFE Act. As parents of a vibrant and wonderful 13-year-old trans daughter, we have witnessed first hand the positive impact of love and acceptance on her well-being.

Our daughter is surrounded by a supportive network of family, friends, teachers, and community members who support and love her. She is flourishing academically and socially, participating in many school activities such as choir, acapella, and the school musical. She is, in every way, a normal child living her best life. It is deeply distressing that HB 68 threatens to interfere with her thriving development.

The proposed legislation contradicts the guidance provided by reputable medical experts, including the American Academy of Pediatrics. By restricting the rights and health care access of young transgender children, this bill infringes on their privacy and jeopardizes their mental and physical well-being.

We love Ohio. This is our home. It saddens me to think about the possibility of upending our lives and leaving Ohio if this legislation passes. The proposed government overreach not only poses a direct threat to our family, but also sends a concerning message about the values and inclusivity of our beloved state.

Our daughter's ability to thrive is a testament to the positive impact of a supportive environment, a stark contrast to the impact of HB 68 if enacted. I implore you to consider the repercussions of this legislation on families like ours. Our children deserve the right to live authentically and access the medical care that aligns with their needs. I urge you to stand against HB 68, prioritizing the well-being and dignity of transgender youth.

Sincerely,

Richard & Ann