

Opponent Testimony on HB 68
G. Marie
December 4, 2023

Chairman Roegner, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 68, a bill that would prevent transgender youth from receiving necessary medical and mental health care, and ban transgender athletes from participating in sports.

My name is G. Marie, and I have lived in Ohio for over 30 years. I am a wife, teacher, Christian, proud parent, and a small business owner.

HB 68 is harmful. It prevents parents from making decisions based on the best medical care endorsed by every reputable major medical and mental health organization. It places medical decisions and mental health care decisions in the hands of politicians and not in the hands of parents, their child, and their medical professionals. HB 68 has nothing to do with protecting or saving children, but has everything to do with the fear and untruths of adults and certain groups who want to make everyone believe just like they do. It says to trans kids that they don't matter, that suicide is an option, and Ohio does not care if trans kids live or die. If those putting forth this legislation truly cared about children, then why in the world are they preventing even MENTAL HEALTH professionals from caring for trans kids?

Ohio already has rules in place regarding transgender athletes. Of the thousands of Ohio athletes, this bill would literally affect a handful of trans athletes who just want to play sports. This is a solution looking for a problem that does not exist, but would significantly harm trans athletes. Please look at the numbers of athletes in Ohio, and how many are transgender, and then ask yourself if this is really necessary. You will see the answer is a resounding no.

There are so many more areas where you should be spending your time and our tax dollars. Bills like this have come under scrutiny and been ruled unconstitutional time and time again all across the US. If this passes, it's only a matter of time and tax dollars to see it be struck down. However, in the time it takes for that to happen, how many trans youth is Ohio going to lose? How many families are going to flee the state because Ohio is no longer safe for their child? How many small business will close, because families are fleeing Ohio? My family is seriously considering moving. Why would we stay in a state where our family members are not welcome? Why would we continue working and providing our tax dollars to a state that refuses to listen to every major medical organization when it comes to transgender youth and adults? And, sadly, how many trans youth will look at the passage of the anti trans legislation, and decide there is no room for them to live? Even one trans youth death is too many!

I respectfully ask that you please take the time to ready every single opposition testimony and hear their voices. Please consider my testimony on HB 68 and vote NO. Please stand up for trans youth, trans athletes, and vote no. Let them know they matter.