

December 5, 2023

Dear Ohio Senator,

Please vote no on House Bill 68.

I am a researcher working with an international team to study gender variance in early childhood development. Our research project will be published in the spring. I have also spent the last decade thoroughly reviewing scientific literature related to gender-affirming healthcare for children.

Transgender kids know who they are in gender just as their cisgender peers know. Denying gender-affirming healthcare and youth sports to this group of children is cruel, harmful to mental health, and adversely influences their development.

House Bill 68 is not supported by scientific facts. Rather, the evidence supports current healthcare measures as well as the importance of trans youth being in sports<sup>1,2</sup>.

We are witnessing a diaspora as this population across the United States relocates due to political climates that are dangerous for these families<sup>3</sup>. They seek protection in geographic areas different than their place of origin because of legislation such as HB 68 that unfairly targets them. This is the case for those that can afford to do so. Some are not so fortunate.

Many families do not wish to leave Ohio due to deep roots in our state, calling this place home. Political conditions today have rendered staying in Ohio difficult.

House Bill 68 is built on bad information not supported by scientific investigation. House Bill 68 is not necessary and will negatively impact Ohio families. Please vote NO on House Bill 68.

Best Regards,

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<sup>1</sup>Pellicane, M. J., & Ciesla, J. A. (2022). Associations between minority stress, depression, and suicidal ideation and attempts in transgender and gender diverse (TGD) individuals: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clinical Psychology Review, 91*.

<sup>2</sup>Jones, B. A., Arcelus, J., Bouman, W. P., & Haycraft, E. (2017). Sport and transgender people: A systematic review of the literature relating to sport participation and competitive sport policies. *Sports Medicine, 47*(4), 701–716.

<sup>3</sup>Kraschel, K. L., Chen, A., Turban, J. L., & Cohen, I. G. (2022). Legislation restricting gender-affirming care for transgender youth: Politics eclipse healthcare. *Cell Reports Medicine, 3*(8), 100719.