

December 4, 2023

OH HB 68
Opponent Testimony
The Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee

Iris Peng, MD-PhD Student

Dear Chair Kristina D. Roegner, Vice Chair Niraj Antani, Ranking Member Paula Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee:

My name is Iris Peng, and I am a second-year MD-PhD student at Case Western Reserve University **testifying in strong opposition of HB 68**. My testimony is strictly my own and does not represent any health care organization in the State of Ohio.

As a medical student, I have received formal education about the process of transitioning genders and am well-equipped to understand the medical treatments that this sometimes entails. I am upset by the multiple bills in the Ohio legislature regarding transgender people's rights, as they are often supported by factually incorrect ideas about the medical aspect of gender-affirming care.

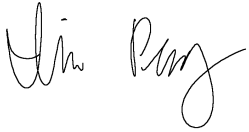
First of all, gender-affirming care is NOT experimentation, as 1) for minors, comprehensive psychiatric evaluations are needed to confirm if one is truly transgender, and 2) treatment for minors NEVER involves surgery – rather, care is in the form of mental health support, temporary and reversible blocking of puberty, and hormonal care only at 16 years old with parental consent when the vast majority of trans kids have identified as their true gender and have already socially transitioned over many years. All of gender-affirming care is evidence-based and has shown improvement in transgender people's lives and mental health. Also, the idea that trans youth, especially trans girls that play on girls' sports teams, have innate biological advantages that would undermine their cisgender teammates' success in the sport is not true. There is OHSAA policy regarding the eligibility of trans girls who want to play on girls sports teams, and this policy has been effective in ensuring these athletes do not “possess physical (bone structure, muscle mass, testosterone, hormonal, etc.) or physiological advantages over genetic females of the same age group”. Additionally, only a few trans girls have been approved by OHSAA, making up a miniscule percentage of athletes in the state. These athletes have failed to win any awards or scholarships for their sports, so the threat of trans girls hurting cisgender girls' competitiveness is wholly unfounded.

As a future healthcare provider, I also want to make it known that if this bill passes, Ohio will face a migration of healthcare workers out of the state. Again, in medical school, we learn how beneficial and life-saving gender-affirming care can be, so to be restricted from providing such

care goes against our very profession and the oaths we take. I and many others I have spoken to would not want to continue practicing here if this bill passes, and overall this may lead to a reduction of healthcare workers and decreased quality of health care for **all** Ohio citizens.

In summation, this bill is unnecessary and would pose great harm to trans youth, healthcare providers, as well as the greater Ohio population. I urge the committee to keep these people in mind, do what is best for all Ohioans, and **vote NO on HB 68**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iris Peng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Iris" and the last name "Peng" clearly distinguishable.

Iris Peng