

**Ohio Senate Oversight Committee  
HB68 Opponent Testimony 12/3/23**

Hello, my name is Danielle Schultz. I live in Akron with my husband and three children. I respectfully request that this committee reject HB68.

Imagine for a moment: Completely against your will, you are suddenly forced to live as *the opposite* gender complete with matching hormones coursing through it. No doctor can help you. There's *nothing* you can do to stop it. The state controls your body and the hormones flowing through it. You still know who you are inside, but you aren't allowed to express it. The government has tried to erase your identity. This dystopian vision is what HB68 will do to countless trans children in Ohio.

Our 17 year old son, Cyrus, is a typical teenager. He has nice friends, loves video games and stays up too late. He and his dad collect comic books together, go to the barber, and my husband recently taught Cyrus to shave. Cyrus is a serious student who also cooks and serves food to those in need every Sunday. The one way our son isn't typical, though, is that he is targeted by Ohio Republicans who want to deny his medical care and erase his existence. HB68 would force my son, who has been out for almost six years, to detransition.

Forcing Cyrus to live as a girl is something he hasn't had to do since he was a young child. He has been living as his genuine self for a third of his life. A state takeover of Cyrus's body and forced detransition would be utterly devastating.

### **Gender Affirming Medical Care**

In October, Gary Click said he believes gender affirming care is child abuse. But his "belief" is not fact. *The fact* is that 30 of the most trusted medical associations agree that gender affirming medical care is necessary and effective for transgender children.

As attentive, well-educated, not-abusive parents, my husband and I prioritize our son's physical and emotional health in consultation with expert doctors and therapists who follow evidence-based medical guidelines.

HB68 would deny parents' ability to make medical decisions for their own children and replace expert doctors with state control.

### **Evidence-Based Best Practice**

Proponents of HB68 don't actually care about my son's well-being. If they did, they would take the American Medical Association's evidence-based guidance seriously. Instead, supporters justify HB68 using out-of-state proponents citing illegitimate medical associations.

But consider your own health for a minute. And your loved ones' health. When we have strep throat or a kidney stone, if a parent has cancer, or our child has asthma, we want a doctor who follows best practice according to the American Medical Association (AMA). Dealing with a colonoscopy, vasectomy, pap smear, prostate exam, erectile dysfunction -- you *absolutely* want a doctor who follows AMA guidelines! (By the way, if these references to your private anatomy make you uncomfortable, imagine how I feel hearing adult strangers fixate on my *child's* private anatomy.)

## Erasing Trans Children

In reality, supporters of HB68 *don't actually distrust* the AMA. They just want to eradicate trans people. It's time to stop hiding behind fake medical groups and psuedo-science. Proponents should admit that they believe trans children don't deserve to exist.

Erasing trans children is more important to Ohio Republicans than business development, education, infrastructure, health and safety, or government oversight. HB68 is the country's *most radical anti-trans bill*, and it has made national news because Ohio's Republican party is fixated on children's genitals.

In conclusion, I am asking you to approach your decision about HB68 with humility rather than certainty. Please ask yourself, "*What if I am wrong? What if HB68 passes out of this Committee, becomes law, and I am wrong about its effect on over 8,000 Ohio children?*"

Humility is called for right now, as is integrity.

Those of you who quietly dislike denying parents' rights and who don't *actually* want to eradicate trans children, it's time to act with integrity. You can't hold your nose and pass this bill hoping the next decision makers will reject it for you. They won't.

Please. You can stop it. HB68 denies children life-saving care. If it becomes law, **you** will be responsible for their harm.

\*Gender affirming care's necessity is the "medical consensus of the [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#), the [American Psychiatric Association \(APA\)](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and every other major healthcare organization in the world." ("Out-of-state Witnesses... ..Transgender Youth," [The Buckeye Flame](#), By H.L. Comeriato, November 29, 2023)