

Testimonial Opposing House Bill 68: “Saving Ohio Adolescents from  
Experimentation (SAFE) and Save Women’s Sports Acts”

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Dear Chairwoman Roegner,

My name is Peter Zweber. My wife and I live in Centerville, Ohio with our two daughters. I am a defense contractor supporting Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. I am writing to you regarding House Bill (HB) 68: the currently combined Saving Ohio Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) and Save Women’s Sports Acts. We oppose HB 68, and we hope that you and the rest of the Senate Government Oversight Committee will do the same.

In its current version, HB 68 is clearly an anti-transgender bill. What is the purpose of combining the SAFE and Save Women’s Sports Acts? The only issue in common between the two Acts is placing limitations on transgender youth. I request that you and the other members of the committee amend this bill to split the two Acts into two separate bills and consider the merits of each individual Act separately.

I oppose the SAFE Act portion of HB 68 because it is an unnecessary government encroachment on the patient-family-physician relationship and would prohibit medical personnel from assisting minors receive gender affirming care. Without clear medical evidence to the contrary, medical decisions are best handled by medical professionals and not elected officials, especially officials lacking medical experience or expertise. This bill contradicts the medical recommendations provided by the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Endocrine Society. The proposed SAFE Act is an unnecessary government intrusion into medical decisions being made by patients, parents, and their medical providers. If you support parents rights, you must oppose the SAFE Act.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals recently ruled that states are free to regulate the healthcare industry in their own state. Just because the State can pass a law does not mean that the State should pass a law, especially HB 68 in its current form. I agree with the statement Senator Hicks-Hudson stated at the November 28, 2023 committee meeting: It is better to work with the medical community on its best practices than to pass an overall prohibition on practices which the majority of relevant medical associations support. With European nations now taking a more cautious approach to medical options regarding gender affirming care, the American medical community may adopt similar approaches in the near future. The American medical community would benefit from state oversight for developing its best practices as compared to a law which outright prohibits certain medical practices some legislators deem unsavory. Working with the medical community instead of enforcing prohibitions on particular medical procedures is clearly the best solution for providing the best care for transgender children.

Finally, again regarding the SAFE Act, if you oppose the practice of genital gender reassignment surgery (as defined in HB 68 Section 3129.01.H), it is requested that you support amending HB 68 to only Section 3129.02.A and Sections 3129.02.C, 3129.05, 3129.06 as to how they relate to Section 3129.02.A. All other sections of the SAFE Act should be removed as they are in opposition to the medical recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatricians and the Endocrine Society. Any other course of action is government intrusion into parental rights and against medical recommendations.

In summary, I hope that you either oppose HB 68 in its entirety or support amending HB 68 to create two separate bills, one for the SAFE Act and the other for the Save Women's Sports Act, and then consider each of the bills on their merits. Thank you for your consideration regarding this testimonial.

Sincerely,

Peter Zweber, Ph.D.