

12/5/2023

Opposition testimony from Rev. Erin Hutchison

Hello, Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 68. My name is Rev. Erin Hutchison, and I am a minister, parent, and concerned constituent. I am a resident of Maineville in Warren County.

I have deep concern about the negative impact this bill would cause our fellow Ohioans. I have a friend whose child is trans, and should this bill pass, her family will have to move out of Ohio to seek the appropriate healthcare for their child. This bill will also have negative effects for families who do not even live in Ohio. I have a ministerial colleague in Tennessee who has a trans child; they travel all the way to Cincinnati Children's in Cincinnati for supportive healthcare for their trans child.

Healthcare for trans kids is already stringent in our state, requiring parental involvement at every step along the way as parents and their trans kids meet with all medical professionals and doctors. Why would we pass a bill that actively makes life infinitely harder for families in Ohio—and even families who travel to our state to utilize our nationally renowned Cincinnati Children's healthcare system?

Additionally, as a minister who has worked with children and youth for the past 25 years, I believe it is crucial for the mental, social, and physical well-being of kids and teenagers to be able to participate on the sports team of the gender identity.

I implore you to vote No on House Bill 68 and urge you to support policies that uphold the rights and dignity of transgender people in Ohio and beyond, ensuring their access to necessary healthcare, and allow them to participate in sports consistent with their gender identity.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rev. Erin Hutchison