

Written Testimony Against H.B. 68

My name is Rhayna, and I am a lifelong resident and community organizer in Columbus, OH. I am writing to express my deep concern and anger over the proposed H.B. 68 bill, which would ban gender-affirming care to minors and ban trans girls from playing school sports.

Bills that prevent trans youth from receiving gender-affirming care and from being their authentic selves at school are harmful. For children with gender dysphoria, gender-affirming care is medically necessary and a critical component in reducing or eliminating feelings of dysphoria, promoting self-acceptance, and saving lives. Trans youth are most at risk of suicide, with [82% of youth having considered committing suicide](#) and 40% having actually attempted it. Medical care that affirms the gender with which youth identify can substantially reduce suicide rates. Knowing that they have unconditional love and support from their parents, medical providers, and the community at large for who they are can further make trans youth feel safe enough to live authentic lives. Furthermore, the vast majority of trans people who go on to get transmasculine or transfeminine surgery as adults do not regret their decision; the [regret rate is less than 1%](#), making the benefits of receiving gender-affirming care far outweigh the costs.

Beyond my personal belief in the efficacy of gender-affirming care, I do not believe it is the responsibility of the state, in a country that claims the moral high ground of freedom and liberty, to control what goes on between trans children, parents & guardians, and medical professionals. It is also not the responsibility of the state to get involved in the affairs of school sports, where the issue seems particularly one-sided, as it uniquely targets trans girls and not trans children as a whole.

With rising inflation—food costs, cost of living, utility costs etc.,--hurting Ohioans, it is abundantly clear that our elected officials are lacking in their priorities, instead choosing to devote time and energy into manufacturing a culture war, against *children* no less.

Sources:

LB;, A. A. S. S. (n.d.). *Suicidality among transgender youth: Elucidating the role of Interpersonal Risk Factors*. Journal of interpersonal violence. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>

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