

CHAIR - Kristina D. Roegner
OHIO SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Opposition of House Bill 68
3rd Hearing - December 6, 2023

My name is Ashe, and I am a transgender adolescent in Ohio. I am representing myself, my family, and my community in opposition to House Bill 68. My well-being and health are unknown to the listening audience, the same audience that is in the process of passing a bill that will uproot and alter the rest of my life against the will of my parents, doctors, and my own. I apologize for not informing the entirety of the Ohio State Government in regards to my gender, as I did not know I was such a determining aspect that has promoted this type of legislation.

I am a happy individual who has received the love and support needed in my transition. When I first became aware of the *Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act*, I felt disheartened that representatives had no empathy or awareness of the harm that would endure if this passed. I recall crying and my father catching me—he asked me why I was sobbing. Never have I felt so targeted and threatened by authority than when I read this drawn-out legal spewing. I simply can not fathom the reality of what Bill 68 would impose. I have gone through enough stress and difficulties from people who don't understand what it means to be and live as a transgender child, as well as the care I need. However, seeing this come from adults who work for the surrounding government is horrendous. Although restricted in my ability to do much, I will beg you to oppose House Bill 68. I beg you to listen to real trans children, teenagers, and adults. Read and be informed of proven care and research approved by countless health organizations, to name a few: the National Center for Biotechnology Information, the American Psychiatric Association, the Mayo Clinic, and The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. This care and access should fall in the hands of the medical boards, doctors, psychologists, parents, and the person themselves. If you wish to protect adolescents, please listen to our voices and what I have written.

I also sincerely pray my privacy and shared profile is treated with respect since I am underage.

Thank you

A. Gojevic