

December 5, 2023
Opponent Testimony Against Ohio House Bill 68

Dear Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chairman Antani, and Members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written opponent testimony for House Bill 68. My name is Amanda Marchetta, and I am a queer Ohioan who is deeply afraid of the impact of passing the "SAFE" Act. This law will not keep anyone safe. I believe HB 68 is an extreme overreach of the scope of government affairs, and it would directly and intentionally harm a large number of Ohioans, especially children.

This legislation is discriminatory, contradicts the recommendations of every major medical association, and amounts to targeted bullying and harassment of trans children and teens. As you have likely heard from many other opponents, gender-affirming care prevents suicide and other serious mental health conditions, as well as a variety of physical conditions. I know and love many trans people, and I cannot watch silently as the people who supposedly represent my values in government attempt to strip my loved ones of their access to healthcare, dignity, and freedom.

The hostility that our legislature has shown the LGBTQ+ community over the decades is epitomized through this bill. The intolerance of my government has made me question whether I should continue to live in this state, despite the fact that all of my paternal family lives here, the vast majority of my friends live here, and I have lived in the same house in Bath, Ohio for my entire life. I find it disturbing that the person who is elected to represent me and my family, Chairwoman Roegner, has even brought this bill forward for consideration.

Queer and trans people have always existed, and we will continue to exist regardless of what legislature you pass. However, the safety in which we do so, and the availability of essential medical care, will be determined by the outcome of these hearings. Individual Ohio families and children will be deeply harmed by this legislation, and our entire state will suffer from the loss of the vibrant transgender adults those children should grow up to be.

Passing this law would hurt me, my community, and every Ohioan. I appreciate your consideration, and I strongly urge you to vote no on HB 68.

Sincerely,
Amanda Marchetta