

My name is Riya Salandri and I live in Columbus, Ohio in Franklin County. I'm testifying today to demand that you reject Representative Gary Click's House Bill 68.

The purpose of the legal protections of Title IX is to prevent discrimination and create a society for all children to thrive as equal individuals who are allowed the autonomy to define their own identity. By outlawing gender-affirming care for minors, you are intervening on the freedoms and liberties of children, their families, and their doctors to be able to make an informed and unbiased choice the treatment that would best help them. Additionally, banning transgender children from sports and facilities that match their gender identity will contribute to social exclusion and harassment from their peers. These policies are based on Representative Click's personal beliefs and ideologies, despite the fact that they contradict the advocacy of communities and scientific organizations, which support the right of transgender students to choose how they identify themselves.

As representatives our State, serving the well-being of all Ohio children, I ask you to denounce this resolution and prioritize their health and happiness.