

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 68
Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee

Wednesday 12/6/23

Marina Stayner

Chair Kristina D. Roegner, Vice Chair Niraj Antani, Ranking Member Paula Hicks Hudson, and members of the Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Marina Stayner (she/her) and I am a concerned Columbus Ohio resident and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. I am testifying against House Bill 68.

I work in an administrative position for a local pediatric gender development program and see first-hand every day the effects this type of legislature is having on patients and families. I also have many LGBTQ+ loved ones, and it is heartbreaking to see the impact this has on their mental health. H.B. 68 prohibits necessary care to transgender youth, and hinders medical providers and mental health specialists from providing crucial care to patients. Ultimately, it is invalidating to gender-diverse individuals who deserve care and opportunities just as cisgender individuals do.

I wanted to testify and share my story because I see the importance of gender-affirming care. The suicide rate for transgender people who are denied gender-affirming care is much higher than the rate for those who have access to this care. The bill states that the vast majority of gender-nonconforming youths end up identifying with their biological sex later on, but many studies show a “detransition” rate among transgender people as 1% or less. My hope would be for the government to let patients, their families and their medical teams decide what is best for the patient, rather than the government making that choice. Furthermore, I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no on H.B. 68.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to provide an opponent testimony on H.B. 68, your time and consideration is very much appreciated.