

Dear Senator Roegner and Ranking member Paula Hicks/Hudson:

I am an Emeritus Professor of Health Education from Kent State University providing this written testimony in opposition to HB 68. I have been a sexuality educator for over 45 years and know the real research and facts about transgender issues. This ill-informed bill goes against all science and will likely lead to more transgender youth suicides. All legitimate medical organizations including the American Medical Association support gender-affirming care for youth that identify as transgender. Those with medical expertise know that this care is medically necessary for these youth and denying it may increase an already alarming suicide rate for trans youth.

In addition, adding denial of athletic participation for these youth to this bill is unnecessary and again will hurt transgender youth. The Ohio Athletic Association already has measures and rules in place to make sure that fairness exists when it comes to transgender participation in sports. This is not about "saving women's sports" at all, this is about discriminating against youth with a different gender identity. As a former coach, I would welcome a transgender female to the team, yet, in all my years of coaching, I never experienced this situation. In fact, it is estimated that there are less than a handful of transgender female athletes in the entire state of Ohio! Why are you calling for discrimination against these young people? This is a violation of their rights and their parents' rights. I hope that you will reconsider this ill-advised bill that promotes discrimination and hate against an already stigmatized group.

Sincerely,

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