

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Government Oversight Committee:

My name is Giles Roblyer. I'm a patriot, a Christian, and God has given me the joyous duty of leading a family in faith, including one of his most incredible creations, a trans child.

Since 2019, I've been forced to travel to Columbus to remind legislators that fathers of trans kids exist and we have the same sacred parental rights as any other Ohio parent to lead our families, not the State. The fathers decide what books our children read, how they worship, who they can be friends with, what social media they may use, and most importantly, what medical care they will receive based on our analysis of the risks and benefits. Despite this obvious fact, the sponsor and proponents of HB 68 continue to describe two versions of a fantastical, paranoid narrative in a failed effort to make it seem as if this statist bill is not about ripping away parental rights from those they disagree with.

In the first scenario, trans kids don't have fathers. The kids stroll into clinics and get pills, shots, and surgeries without any parental involvement or health insurance. Ask your constituents how difficult it is just to get health insurance as an adult and pay for healthcare. Ask your constituents how hard it is to get an appointment with a mental health professional, if you can even find a provider taking new patients, especially children in this time of pediatric mental health crisis. If you've raised kids, you know this scenario falls apart under the slightest scrutiny.

If fathers are mentioned at all, they are compliant, confused overwhelmed sheep who are incapable of resisting their children's demands for treatment, as if leading a family in making healthcare decisions is the same as refusing a kid asking for a squishmallow at Walgreens. Fathers are disgustingly described as cowed victims of bullying by a cabal of therapists and doctors, lacking the leadership or intelligence to read the studies and recommendations and analyze the risks and benefits of the spectrum of care available to their child. In the sponsors' depraved fantasy, Ohio fathers are cowards and idiots, rather than godly men leading their families with courage, strength, and compassion. On this denigrating and false premise, the sponsor and proponents call for the State to step into the examination room and make the medical decisions for me.

I'm Director and Assistant General Counsel at The Procter & Gamble Company. I report to the Chief Information Security Officer and am trusted by the largest consumer goods company in the country, a crown jewel in Ohio's business community, to lead a complex global compliance regime in response to data incidents that carry potential risks in the billions. Senator Lang is familiar with the leadership, intelligence, and principled values of P&G people, as he began his career at the company. I deal all day with ransomware attackers, state threat actors, plaintiffs' attorneys and European regulators. I spent years analyzing clinical studies on P&Gs products and those of our competitors, including healthcare products, and guided our business on designing studies that produce evidence that would stand up in court. I've argued

clinical data in judicial proceedings and am fully capable of reading and understanding the flaws and strengths of studies on gender-affirming care, certainly at a higher level than the sponsor of this bill. I work with the FBI and Department of Homeland Security. I have not been bullied by some endocrinologist, I have not been cowed by a therapist. The sponsors' suggestions otherwise are pure projection.

I'm not special in this regard. For three years, hundreds of brave, intelligent, professional, courageous, patriotic parents have come to the Statehouse to try to tell the Legislature that the parents know what is best for their children. They don't get paid to fly in from out of state for a day, but live in our small towns and suburbs, and have to take time off, paid or unpaid, to beg this body not to rip away their parental rights. Most of them are never given a chance speak about their experiences, but still they flood the halls of this Statehouse, while the handful of proponents who don't live in Ohio are given all the time they want.

I make every decision about my children's lives. If you have raised kids, you know this is true. Kids don't consent to anything until they are over 18. When my son was two, I decided he should have ear tubes, an elective surgery with risks and potential negative outcomes that could impact the rest of his life. Could my two-year old consent to the surgery? Since he couldn't understand the consequences, should the State have required me to wait until he was 18, or did I have the right to make the decision? The tube damaged his hearing in the low range, and he will never get it back. Was making this decision child abuse, as the sponsor of this bill recklessly charges? Two weeks ago, I decided to have my sons' noses cauterized to try to stop persistent nose bleeds. This wholly elective surgery came with the risks of anesthesia, potential lifelong loss of smell, puncture of nasal membranes. Did the hospital ask my teens to sign the consent form with risks as long as my arm? No. I consented because I lead the family. One of my sons bit the breathing tube and broke his tooth. The impact is permanent. Should the State have made the medical decision for me since it involved a permanent consequence to a minor?

It could be worse: I could be one of the thousands of Ohio fathers who are allowed to consent to having their minor daughter's chests sliced open and implants inserted that are linked to cancer and high rates of regret, just for cosmetic reasons. I could be one of the Ohio fathers who are allowed to consent to their minor children getting cosmetic nose jobs, butt lifts, liposuction, stomach stapling, disfiguring tattoos and piercings, all of which are permanent, risky, experimental, and carry exponentially higher rates of regret than gender-affirming care. HB 68 would let all of those procedures proceed because the bill isn't about protecting kids, it's about punishing parents.

Here is what HB 68 is: I'm in the office of my 13-year-old child's doctors at the best children's hospital in the country. I've been on this journey since my son first told me at age 3 out of nowhere that God had made a mistake and sent him to earth as a girl. I've been through denial, despair, anger, confusion, hope, joy, bargaining, surrender, listening, doubting, learning. I've spent more time on my knees praying for wisdom and peace than you can imagine. I've gone through four years of watchful waiting, doing nothing, praying that my son would change

his mind and accept his birth gender, not because I didn't believe and love him, but because of the difficult future that awaits him because of bigots, transphobes, grifters, perverts, and political vultures like those who support this bill. I've seen depression and anxiety and pain disappear as I permitted him to socially transition. Against all odds and at great expense, I've assembled a team of two therapists, a social worker, a pediatrician, experts who work with kids like mine, and an endocrinologist. I've read every published study on the spectrum of gender-affirming care, digging into the study design, population, endpoints, statistical analysis, potential bias, and the cross tabs in the data, including the footnotes in the semi-literate sponsor testimony.¹

I'm finally ready to make a decision, when there's a knock at the door. A stranger says "Hi, I'm from the government and I'm here to help!" Some Committee members must remember when the Republican Party was the party of the great President Ronald Reagan and one his most famous and prescient speeches about the nine most terrifying words in the English language. President Reagan rightly instructed us to fear the State when it asserts its blind, politicized authority in place of the will and freedom of the citizen.

I tell the guy at the door "I'm an American father. I don't want your help, I don't need your help. I have my faith, my family, my freedom, my child, my doctors, my therapists, and the consensus of every major medical organization in the US and around the world." And HB 68 says, "You're a victim, a poor lost lamb, you can't trust any of that."

"Who can I trust?" I ask.

"The State," says HB 68, and points behind him to a handful of people paid to fly from state to state, an out-of-work pharmacist, two doctors who have never treated gender identity, a guy who believes the real issue is that I'm possessed by demons, and a guy who makes \$200,000 a year running a group whose sole purpose is to raise funds to wage a war on the parental rights of fathers like me.²

¹ Most of the footnotes go to opinion pieces and blog posts, not clinical studies. The few cited are either irrelevant, the conclusion is misstated by the sponsor, or suffer from massive flaws such as tiny populations and poor study design. For example, the single footnote about a list of risks of puberty-pausing medications leads to a study in an ethics journal where ethicists imagine what might happen to a *wholly imaginary* non-binary patient if the patient were to take puberty-pausing medications for their entire life. This is clearly not scientific evidence, but the sponsor is certain the Committee members will not take the time to go through the footnotes.

² After four years of trying out various fallacious and laughable arguments about why they can take away parental rights from those they don't agree with, the CCV has settled on trying to tell Ohio fathers that these bills don't actually take away those rights, since the CCV will magnanimously let fathers choose therapy or conversion therapy. It's like passing a bill banning all religious practice except for one religion and telling folks their First Amendment rights are

If you would listen to the fathers given the great responsibility and privilege of leading our families, our message is simple and is the same you would hear from any father across Ohio: we don't co-parent with the government. We do not consent to State genital inspectors, to the State in our examination rooms, to the State telling us what vaccines to give our kids, to the State discussing the sexual pleasure of our children, to the State stepping into the role that God and the Constitution has given to fathers. I lead my family in Christian virtue and will make the right decision about medical care for my family.

The task of this legislative body is to protect parental rights, not destroy them. Reject this nanny-state nonsense and return to the principles of limited government, ordered personal liberty, and the freedom and self-reliance of this great nation's citizens. Don't tread on me.

still intact because they can choose that religion. Or a bill banning all guns except .22-caliber hunting rifles and telling Americans they still have Second Amendment rights because they can choose that gun.