

The right to gender-affirming care hurts nobody and helps many people in ways that can legitimately save their lives. There is no legal, moral, or logical basis for banning such access. The result of banning access to gender-affirming healthcare will not be fewer trans people. It will be more deaths of people who would have been able to live happy lives otherwise. Trans people will always exist and trying to erase them is the equivalent of trying to erase women or men. It's simply how some people are born, and trying to stamp that out of them through legislation is the very definition of cruelty for the sake of cruelty.

The wording from those opposed to gender-affirming care for minors suggests that they think the entire basis of this care involves invasive surgery forced upon the youths in question. Children are far smarter than people give them credit for, and they know themselves far better than many would like to admit. If you take this choice away from trans kids, you are dooming them to, at best, lives of misery and self-loathing. At worst, you've condemned them to an early grave. These are not people making off-the-cuff decisions to change their bodies forever. Any child who chooses gender-affirming care has thought about it for a long time because they know full well how the current world views them. If they want to go through with it, they've accepted that people in power think less of them for it, and yet they still choose to proceed. Those aren't the actions of confused children. Those are the actions of youths flying in the face of hatred for the sake of their own happiness.

Please, do not give in to hatred. You are not required to understand trans people. They don't affect you in any way. But you need to accept them. Assuming you're not trans yourself, this legislation obviously won't change any aspect of your life. But you are, without hyperbole, about to decide whether certain people deserve to live based entirely on uncontrollable circumstances of their births. Trans people are born this way, this much is based in science. Please, I'm genuinely begging you, don't punish them for that. House Bill 68 is hatred and cruelty at its very core. Vote no on 68.