

Hello,

I am a resident of South Russell, Ohio. I am also a high school teacher and a parent. I work with several transgender youth at my school, and the gender-affirming care they receive is their life support.

I am writing to voice my concern about HB 68, the Gender Affirming Care Ban. This is a dangerous bill that would harm the safety and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth. Please do not support this bill.

We must protect our children and ensure that they have access to best-practice physical and mental health treatment, including LGBTQ+ Youth. HB 68 directly puts already vulnerable LGBTQ+ youth at risk of losing access to vital, best-practice healthcare and goes against the accepted privacy and confidentiality standards of school guidance counselors and social workers.

Gender affirming care for young children IS NOT permanent. It helps with physical, mental, and emotional health outcomes. It is supported by medical evidence:

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) supports the use of current evidence-based clinical care with minors. AACAP strongly opposes any efforts — legal, legislative, and otherwise — to block access to these recognized interventions. Blocking access to timely care has been shown to increase youths' risk for suicidal ideation and other negative mental health outcomes. It is also supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association.

It saves our children's lives!

This proposal is cruel, hateful, and discriminatory.

Please let these decisions be made by the families and their doctors. This should NOT be a decision forced upon people by the government.

Janet Dougherty Coriell
South Russell, OH