

To the State of Ohio Legislative body,
HB 68 states that “Only a tiny percentage of the American population experiences distress at identifying with their biological sex. According to the American Psychiatric Association, prevalence ranges from 0.005 to 0.014 per cent for natal adult males and from 0.002 to 0.003 per cent for natal females.” This
The bill goes on to say that “Studies consistently demonstrate that the vast majority of children who are gender nonconforming or experience distress at identifying with their biological sex come to identify with their biological sex in adolescence or adulthood, thereby rendering most medical health care interventions unnecessary.”

However, the bill never states any specifics of these studies; how they were conducted, who they were conducted by; whether or not they were peer reviewed. I find it interesting that you would reference The American Psychiatric Association when citing the prevalence of those experiencing gender dysphoria but not cite any scientific body when claiming that those same individuals basically grow out of their dysphoria by adulthood. The truth is that many scientific and medical organizations support gender affirming care for minors including:

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
The American Academy of Dermatology
The American Academy of Family Physicians
The American Academy of Nursing
The American Academy of Pediatrics
The American Academy of Physician Assistants
The American College Health Association
The American College of Nurse-Midwives
The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
The American College of Physicians
The American Counseling Association
The American Heart Association
The American Medical Association
The American Medical Student Association
The American Nurses Association
The American Osteopathic Association
The American Psychiatric Association
The American Psychological Association
The American Public Health Association
The American Society of Plastic Surgeons
The Endocrine Society
The Federation of Pediatric Organizations
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
The National Association of Social Workers
The National Commission on Correctional Health Care

The Pediatric Endocrine Society

The Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

The World Medical Association

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health

I also find it interesting, no appalling really that you would spend so much time and taxpayer money attempting to legislate what a doctor can or cannot decide for his or her patients.

Per your own bill, transgender youth are less than 1% of the population. In 2021, over 18% of Ohio children were living below the poverty line. Are there any bills drafted by this body to help and protect those vulnerable children? Over 386,000 Ohio children are food insecure. Have any bills been drafted to address this dire need? Have free school lunches been made available to children? Sadly, no they have not. In the State of Ohio, nearly 17,000 children are in the foster care system. Has anyone been working on reforms for those children? Singling out and legislating against a very small and already marginalized group of children seems so very hateful. Healthcare decisions should be made by medical professionals not politicians.

Thank you for your time in reading this testimony. However, it is not time well spent. Time should and could be spent on real issues within our state. And I respectfully ask for your 'No' vote on this bill.

Thank you

Melissa Cremer

Ohio resident for all my 48 years.