

To Chair Lipps, Vice-Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston & members of the Public Health Policy Committee:

As an educator, voter and transgender adult I oppose HB 68. This is government overreach that actively threatens the well being of transgender children--blood will be on your hands when even more trans kids commit suicide if you vote to deny children medical treatment deemed necessary by medical professionals. My heart hurts for parents of trans kids, who seek expert help to make the best decisions for their children, but could still be denied the right to do what is best for their kids if you vote yes on HB 68.

Transgender kids are much less likely to attempt suicide when they have a supportive family. I have felt such joy seeing more and more kids being accepted and supported at home. Families deserve the right to nurture and protect their children. The informed consent standard of care is critical to medical freedom, which allows parents to make educated decisions for their unique situation. The government has no business making medical decisions for us instead. Adding expensive, time consuming and often impossible gatekeeping measures will result in medical neglect of children, preventable suffering and death.

The threat of HB 68 keeps me up at night. I worry for my students. I worry for the parents of my students. I worry for Ohio.