

Chair Lipps, Vice-Chair Stewart, Ranking member Liston & Members of the Public Health Policy Committee:

I am strongly opposed to HB68. This bill will not keep children safe, and will put many children in greater danger. Important medical decisions should remain between teens, their families, and medical providers. Multiple medical and mental health providers have endorsed these interventions because they greatly improve outcomes for the small number of youths who elect to receive them after years of exploring other options. On a personal level, my child has a very good friend who has been receiving this care. This child has been through years of therapy and other steps before the parents and medical providers agreed that this step was needed. I have seen the improvements in mental health, happiness, and confidence as this child has grown into a wonderful teenager. If this bill is passed the family will have to choose between continuing these treatments which have shown so much success or uproot their lives, their communities and friendships, to move to a state where this care has not been banned. It is a heartbreaking choice that they should never have to make. Trans kids are going to suffer greatly because one political party has decided to turn them into a boogeyman to scare their base and win cheap political points. Our state could be doing something to protect the millions of children who are vulnerable because of poverty, abuse, underfunded schools, lack of affordable child care, or gun safety. This bill is an outrageous example of both government overreach and putting political theater over the lives of kids.