

Good afternoon,

I am writing as a concerned parent and citizen of this state. HB 68 is a gross overreach of the government. Not only does HB 68 reach it's hands into privatized healthcare, it also digs at the rights of parents to make conscious medical decisions for their children. As a parent of a child who has a heart defect, I understand how important it is for patient understanding and consent around medical procedures.

The Ohio State government is not entitled to our medical data, including decisions made for adult or minor care. The Ohio State government does not provide universal healthcare for it's citizens, therefore any and all decisions the state government has made regarding the right to healthcare over the last few years is a human rights breach via the United Nations.

I urge the Ohio State government to not only think of the repercussions of this bill on an ethical level, but also a political level. This state has traditionally been a swing state and there are many people who are tired of the gross overreach of the government. I caution the Ohio State government to heed the warnings of the citizens it claims to serve: we do not want harmful laws that negatively impact and severe our freedom to make medical decisions for oneself and offspring.

There has been a trend in recent years that I've paid attention to. College educated individuals (such as myself and my husband) are leaving this state in droves due to lack of jobs, infrastructure, and the political climate in this state. Based on the reports I've seen approximately 25% of college graduates leave the state after graduation.

I ask you, leaders of this state, are you going to put another law on the books that ensures more young, educated, child bearing individuals leave? Ohio is already having a hard time keeping people here to do the jobs that are already here. You're really going to anger more people into leaving?

My child isn't even 2 yet. Is this state going to be her future home? Or are the leaders here going to make it absolutely impossible to be the best parent I can be? With controversial medical and educational bills on the table, I've already begun research on which states can actually support my child in becoming a bright, productive citizen of this nation.

Ohio has the opportunity to be a place of industry and culture for the future. And instead it insists on going backwards. I want a reason to reelect the current leaders and right now there's not a single person I can think of running the show that I would vote for again.

I urge you to consider all the negative ramifications from this decision: the mental and physical health of the children, the economic and political health of the state. I urge you to make the right decision in protecting medical and parental rights across this state.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Mowery