

May 19, 2023

Dear Representatives and Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote against HB68, which seeks to ban critical, gender-affirming healthcare for minors in Ohio. This bill is not only harmful and discriminatory towards the transgender and non-binary community, but it also violates the fundamental right to healthcare and bodily autonomy.

Gender-affirming healthcare is essential for the health and well-being of transgender and non-binary youth. Denying them access to this care not only puts their physical and mental health at risk, but it also further stigmatizes and marginalizes this already vulnerable population.

Furthermore, it is not the role of politicians to interfere in medical decisions that should be made between young people, their families, and medical providers. Banning gender-affirming healthcare for minors would set a dangerous precedent and undermine the trust between patients and their healthcare providers.

As an educator, I have witnessed students and families make difficult decisions with their medical professionals to ensure that students are supported and loved as who they are. To remove the right of these caregivers and individuals to seek medical care in line with who they are is unconstitutional. Despite extravagant claims made in media, these decisions are not made lightly, and there is no possible way in which a lawmaker can make a better decision for a human than their family and medical team can. If this bill passes, we should all have great concerns about our medical freedoms, including the choice to vaccinate and the choice to sign DNRs at the end of life. We must be cautious of the slippery slope of lawmakers making medical decisions and limiting care for specific groups of humans.

I urge you to vote against HB68 and instead support policies that promote equality, access to healthcare, and the right to self-determination for all individuals, regardless of their gender identity, age, or vaccination preference.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue.

With gratitude,

Angela Yeager
Lakewood, Ohio