

To Whom it may Concern:

My name is Alyson Stock, and I oppose House Bill 68 regarding gender affirming care.

Gender-affirming care saves lives. I know this first hand, as I grew up with a transgender sibling. Unfortunately, we all have permanent mental and emotional damage as a family because of ignorance, denial, and lack of education on the subject. Due to the lack of language to express their inner turmoil (transgender was not a word in our vocabulary growing up in the 90s), the emotional roller coaster was definitely present the majority of the time in the household, in addition to the mental health issues presented by myself and other members of the family.

At a time in my life, I thought I would lose a sibling to suicide because they didn't know themselves worthy enough to present as they were meant to. To force them to go backward in their transition would be detrimental to both my sibling and supportive family members like me, who are so happy to see them truly happy for the first time in a long time. I do not want to watch my sibling's mental health go back just because some legislatures uneducated on this topic fear what they do not understand.

Thank you,
Alyson Stock