

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 06/12/2023

Name: Jason N Butler

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 6896 Paddison Rd

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State: OH

Zip: 45230

Best Contact Telephone: 5134733055

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 68

Specific Issue: Transgender healthcare

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? Written Testimony Only

Please provide a brief statement on your position: As the parent of a trans child, I cannot emphasize enough how critical access to trans affirming care is to the health of my child. Trans affirming care at all ages is evidence-based and supported by our finest medical institutions in the US. Without the trans affirming care my child receives from their pediatrician, endocrinologist, therapists, social workers, and other medical professionals, they would be immensely depressed, dysphoric, and likely suicidal. It is not for the state to determine what is medically appropriate for our kids — our most respected medical professionals in the world have already made these determinations through their extensive knowledge, experience, research, and practice of medicine. You wouldn't take away a pediatric cancer patient's access to life saving radiation therapy, so why would you take away a child's access to life saving medical care for gender dysphoria?

Transgender children are eight times as likely to be suicidal. There should be nothing more important than the relationship between medical providers and the rights of parents to get the best possible care they can for their children. It is not appropriate for elected officials to attempt to practice medicine or override evidence-based medical decision making.

This committee must not move this bill any further — it is medically ill-informed and it would do appreciable harm — both mentally and physically — to the same children it claims to be protecting. It removes the freedom of parents and medical professionals to make important care decisions for their children that the government has no business being involved in. Medical orgs oppose this bill. Ohio citizens oppose this bill. Constitutionlists oppose this bill. You should oppose this bill.