

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to state my opposition to House Bill 68, which would limit essential and validating healthcare to children in Ohio. Children are born either cisgender or transgender, this is scientific fact. They have no choice in the matter if they are inherently in line with their gender assigned at birth (a purely phenotypical judgement that has nothing to do with chromosomes or brain development) or not. Children will die because of this denied access to care, at their own hands, or at the hands of others. This is a simple fact that history and the present tell us. History has always had transgender individuals, it is not a fad and not the result of "grooming." Children are just finally being raised by parents who treat them like a whole person who is intrinsically complete and not some thing to be beaten into submission and control. We talk with our children and know who they are instead of telling them what they are.

People will flee our state, as already thousands have fled other states that are imposing these draconian rules. As The Human Rights Campaign has found in their broad survey of transgender issues "As reported by The Williams Institute [...] there are more than **300,000** high school-aged (ages 13-17) transgender youth in the United States today, many who need gender affirming care. Many trans youth (**44.1%**, or 132,300) live in states in which transgender youth have lost access to, or are at risk of losing access to, gender-affirming care, because of discriminatory laws and policies.

Children and their parents deserve the right to make the decisions appropriate for their own bodies along with their qualified medical provider (i.e., MD, DO, NP, PA). The child knows their own body and self, and the American Medical Association and its numerous bodies all support this. We trust doctors to treat our children with strep throat or diabetes, we must trust doctors in this way too.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Danielle Chance  
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