

Dear Chair Lipps, Vice-Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Public Health Policy Committee,

My family and I would like to submit this written testimony opposing HB 68. Both testimony and completed witness form are attached.

I write to you from our home in Cincinnati, where I live with my husband and 2 daughters. My husband has lived here his entire life and I have been here since I was 9 years old. He drives a truck for a local waste management company while I work for Cincinnati's Public Library. We love living here and raising our family in this city.

Unfortunately, if HB 68 were to become a law we would move to a state where our children could continue to thrive. Ohio would no longer be a safe, welcoming place for our 11 year old. She is transgender and has been living as herself for 4 years. There is no social contagion sweeping through her elementary school. She doesn't have a group of kids she hangs out with or a therapist who convinced her she is trans, she just IS trans.

The bill takes away our rights as parents to choose what we know to be best for our child. The effects of prohibiting her from developing into the young lady she is would be devastating. We will not put her through that. To force our family to move to a state that believes in her, that believes in parental rights, is unacceptable. Voting for this bill is the same as telling families such as mine we are not wanted in Ohio.

This bill does the complete opposite of keeping my child safe. My family, along with our chosen doctors and therapists have the right to decide what is best. If that choice is to not pursue blockers and hormones or to move forward with them, either one of those choices should be in our control.

You do not know our child or our situation. We know our child. Her doctors know her. Her therapist knows her. Please don't take decision making and medical freedoms away from parents.

Thank you for your time. Please do not move HB 68 forward. It is discriminatory as well as extremely dangerous.

Cari and James Williams