

Chairman Lipps, and members of the Public Health committee, I am the Rev. Dr. Kathryn A. Kleinhans and I serve as the Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. I oppose HB 68 because of my faith conviction that all people, of all genders, are made in the image of God and are deserving of respect and support.

Trinity Lutheran Seminary is a Reconciling in Christ organization. This means that we are committed to welcoming people of all genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. This is a stance we hold because of our faith commitments, not in spite of them.

In the past several years we have had four transgender students at Trinity, two of whom transitioned when they were adolescents and two of whom transitioned later in life. We are grateful that all our students were able to receive the care they needed to support their gender transition, regardless of when it took place. One of our staff members has a transgender child, and that child has received the full support of their family as they transition.

HB 68 does not “sav[e] adolescents from experimentation.” It deprives transgender youth of receiving the care they need. It deprives medical professionals of the right to use their professional judgment to determine appropriate treatment for their patients. It deprives some parents and guardians of the ability to raise their children in accordance with their own values because it imposes the values of others on all Ohio families.

Thank you.

Kathryn A. Kleinhans
Dean, Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University