

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 6/9/23

Name: Kelli Kurtz

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 6281 Summerville Lane

City: Liberty Township State: OH Zip: 45011

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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: Gender Affirming Care ban testimony

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person  Written-Only

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? N/A—WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

*HB 68 infringes on our personal freedom as parents to seek appropriate medical care for our children. HB 68 must be stopped in the name of freedom.*

June 6, 2023

TO: Chair Lipps  
Vice Chair Stewart  
Ranking Member Liston  
Members of the Public Health Policy Committee

RE: Opposition to HB 68

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Imagine a country where the government dictates how, when, where and if parents can seek medical care for their children. Imagine a country where parents have to petition their government for the right to take their dying child to a clinic for treatment. Imagine a country where clinics are closed and doctors are banned by the government to provide care. Imagine this country is the United States of America.

This is the reality for parents of transgender children if House Bill 68 is voted out of committee and sent to the House floor for a vote.

Today, in Ohio, families of transgender children are making plans to seek asylum in other states and other countries if this bill becomes the law of the land in the Buckeye state. Is this the kind of state we want? A state where United States citizens and Ohio residents are forced to seek asylum because of our own government?

When our oldest son was severely ill from an infection, I didn't have to submit testimony to the Ohio legislature in order to seek medical treatment to save his life. When our youngest son was diagnosed with a brain tumor, I didn't have to beg our state government to access world-renowned care at a Children's hospital. And yet, when our daughter presents with life-threatening gender dysphoria, I have to beg and plead with our government to allow my husband and I to continue to access vital medical care at the same Children's hospital that saved our other two children. Is that freedom to you?

Please, in the name of freedom, stop HB 68 once and for all. Ohio is better than this.

Kelli Kurtz  
Daughter of a Vietnam Vet  
A 53-year resident of the state of Ohio  
Liberty Township, Ohio