

Hello, my name is Riley and I am a non-binary, genderfluid, transmasculine person. I was born and raised in Ohio.

I didn't know I was trans, until later in life; around 28 years old. But I really wish I knew earlier in life, because I might have been able to do something to treat my dysphoria sooner. I wish being trans wasn't so controversial. If it were accepted and common place, I could have gotten treatment for myself at a younger age. I could have possibly avoided anxiety and panic attacks due to not being true to who I am. After receiving medical treatment, I have become a much happier person and I now rarely suffer from panic attacks and anxiety like I used to prior to treatment. Why take away access to evidence based treatments and a chance for people to live their true lives?

I may not have known who I was at an early age; but for the people who do, it is torture to not be able to have access to the care they need. Multiple anecdotal and scientific based studies show living with untreated gender dysphoria greatly increases suicidality, especially among youth populations. To deny at risk children medical care on the basis of fear, misinformation, and bigotry, is basically a death sentence. HB 68 will put the lives of so many young PEOPLE in jeopardy. Please do the right thing, save lives, keep HB 68 from passing.

Thank you for taking the time to read through my testimony.

-Riley