

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to be a Republican until I couldn't follow these kinds of ideals. I do not believe the legislation proposed has any place in Ohio. I am not transgender and have never needed gender-affirming care at any age. However, I wish to pose relevant questions to this bill that remain unanswered. How will this bill affect those children who need gender-based care that are not transgender? For example, cancer-inflicted children who happen to require treatment that will affect their biological genitalia. This bill does, in fact, affect them. How will this law prohibit medical professionals from doing their job beyond the bigotry this bill proposes? I even know the answers to these two questions; you don't know.

No exceptions can even be written into this bill that can justify the Ohio government from making the medical decisions of an individual, children or not. This law does not protect anyone. For example, the after-effects of the anti-abortion laws are in. Forcing 10-year-old children to carry a pregnancy. A loving and hopeful mother must carry a dead baby for months because removing the corpse from the womb is illegal. Those are only two individual instances. Why do you feel this law will have any less impact on the individuals surrounding the bigotry of this bill?

You seem keen on making medical decisions, maybe devoting your life to the medical profession would have been a better use of time. You do not understand the impact of this law, and you do not understand the established processes in place within voluntary gender-affirming care. You do not talk to people who are transgender to understand them. This bill shows nothing but incompetence and misunderstanding. Since you will not hear the voices of those you deem less than, including me, I am happy to inform you that a basic Introduction to Women and Gender Studies class would lend enough knowledge and information to know that this law will not change a child's knowledge of their own identity. If we as a society would just include a unisex option in addition to male and female restrooms, many problems would be solved. Does the Ohio government not actually want to solve problems? Do you only wish to control citizens' personal lives?

I knew from the age of about four that my older sister was not a girl. Waiting for him to come to the same conclusion was a special kind of torture. Seeing him hide the core of who he is in a box and lose all empathy, compassion, and self-esteem was comparable to watching my great-grandmother slowly die from repeated strokes over the course of an entire month,

hundreds. Watching someone lose their mind slowly has every aspect of themselves painfully ripped away from their soul, and they cannot do anything about it. I was so happy to be able to help my brother feel safe enough to reclaim those broken pieces of himself. I would not have witnessed that if we lived in a more tolerant country.

How is moving toward a more tolerant and accepting society such a threat to the government? How is having children who are emotionally regulated, self-confident, curious about everything, and intelligent such a threat to the government? That is the outcome proven by removing gender from raising children. Proven. I can write a 200-page pamphlet on why this bill is a bad idea, but you've already tuned me out. Was it when I said the word, Republican? Was it when I clarified that I am a Democrat? Is it when I let it be known that I am a woman? Is it when questioned you? Is it when I stated that this bill is about nothing other than control? Because that is what this bill is.

Sincerely,
Courtney Stock