

5314 Park Vista Ct
Stow, OH 44224

June 12, 2023

Dear Representative Lipps, Ranking Member Liston, and Committee Members:

I write this testimony to oppose House Bill 68, which would ban gender-affirming care for minors in Ohio and penalize medical professionals who offered such care. I am a 26-year mathematics educator, having worked all 26 years in northeast Ohio in grades K-12.

Ohio policymakers often cite the need for evidence-based policies and practices. Gender-affirming medical care is recommended for transgender youth by the [American Academy of Pediatricians](#) and [the Endocrine Society](#) and is viewed by the [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#) (AACAP) and the [American Psychiatric Association](#) (APA) as **evidence-based** patient care.

On a personal note: my 29-year-old cousin in another state has recently come out as transgender. She has told me that as a result, she is happier than she has ever been. She has now started participating in gender-affirming care. If she could have begun this treatment when she was a youth, years of unhappiness and trying to hide her true self could have been so much different and so much more positive.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on House Bill 68. There is no evidence-based reason to pass this bill and many reasons to oppose it.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly J. Yoak".

Kimberly Yoak
Stow, Ohio