

Ohio House Bill 68  
December 6, 3:00pm  
Ohio Statehouse, South Hearing Room

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB68. My name is Amity, and I'm a 14 year-old trans girl. Throughout my life, I'd always known that *something* was different. I just couldn't put my finger on what. When I came out, I felt so much better! That is, until I found out about this *wonderful* bill. Because of this bill, I live in fear of being stripped of my rights every day. At the school I used to go to, transphobia was high because of the false narrative about trans people that bills like this fuel. My entire family had to move just so I would feel safe being myself; so that I could go through a school day without feeling like I was going to be put in a life-threatening situation. Frankly, I'm not happy to talk about this at all. Even so, we need all the support we can get.

I'm scared and frustrated that I have to speak up about a bill that will take away my rights, because it's something I should just have. Ohio HB 68 threatens my existence as a trans person, and that of every other trans person. It takes away our ability to receive gender-affirming care and prevents trans girls from participating in sporting activities. Not only that, it stops anyone already on their path of transitioning from continuing, forcing them to go all the way back to square one.

In relation to sports, it's true that there is violence against women and that they are sometimes taken advantage of. That isn't what this is about though. This bill stems from the transphobic belief that transgender women and girls will have a physical advantage because they were identified as males when they were born. However, trans girls in Ohio are already required to prove that they have no advantage, and that they've been on hormone treatment for at least a year. That being said, throughout the world, there are cisgender men with high estrogen and cisgender women with high testosterone, so it makes you wonder why it would be any different. The bill disguises itself with information that isn't even relevant to its actual goal; to extinguish the lives of trans people. While this may be an indirect effect of the bill, it's exactly what the writers were intending.

As a trans girl, I know the dangers of this bill. I know because it affects my life directly. People in the government portray us as these scary beings in an attempt to turn people against us because of their beliefs. In all honesty, I don't mind someone's beliefs as long as they mind their own business. For some reason, they decided to make me and my life a big deal nonetheless. Now I, and the entirety of the trans community, are fighting for the right to live as we want. What makes it worse is the fact that kids are being forced to speak up. Nobody wants to listen to adults, so we're forced to put kids up front! That's pretty messed up. A 10-year-old should not have to be the deciding point for the fate of an entire population. It shouldn't even be up for debate.

I also have a trans sister and many trans friends. Hearing that not only has HB 68 made it this far, but it has been repackaged to include HB 6, is infuriating. I'm honestly really upset that the world has come to my existence being debated. I don't wish for violence, and I don't wish for devastation. I understand wanting to protect your loved ones, but the best way to protect them is to say it's okay to be yourself. That includes

saying it's okay to be trans, and allowing them to take steps to affirm their identity. Keep in mind, gender affirming care is life-saving care.

As a mere 14 year-old, who am I to say what's right or wrong? I'm sure that's what everyone's thinking. Why is a teenager speaking about an issue they know nothing about? That's a pretty ignorant line of thought when I just said everything I know. It's hard to believe young people, but when it's the young people that are being targeted, in the end, people are going to have to start listening.

For the safety of my friends, my family, and every trans person in this state, I beg you not to pass HB 68. Trans rights are human rights. Thank you.