

Opponent Testimony for HB 68

Senate Government Oversight Committee

12-6-2023

Liana Block

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Liana Block, and my pronouns are she/her/hers.

I am a stay-at-home parent of two boys, a volunteer kids' basketball coach, and a staunch supporter of the trans community. I live in North Canton.

I am writing to you to strongly oppose HB 68. I think the ACLU of Ohio summed this bill up nicely when they said "HB 68 is extreme government overreach and state-sponsored bullying of trans and gender non-conforming Ohioans."

I believe it is my responsibility as a parent, while taking into consideration the advice of medical professionals, to make medical decisions on behalf of my children. The government needs to stay out of this.

As a parent and a coach, I have seen the positive impact that playing sports can have on kids' lives. Taking away the opportunity for trans kids to play on teams that match their gender identity is cruel and benefits no one. I would also like to draw attention to the fact that many schools offer different sports based on gender, such as football only being available to boys. If this bill is passed, the requirement for schools to have only single-sex athletic teams will also negatively affect cis-gender athletes who have previously played on opposite sex teams. For example, according to an article on WKYC.com, Anna Sanders became the first female field goal kicker for Kenston High School's football team in 2018. Several other Ohio girls have played on their high school football teams since then. We should continue to let them play.

As previously mentioned, I am a stay-at-home parent and volunteer basketball coach who is concerned about the negative impact HB 68 would have on young trans and gender-nonconforming Ohioans, the medical professionals and loved ones who care for them, and student athletes of all genders.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no on HB 68.

Thank you for your time.