

## HB 68 - Opponent Witness Testimony

My name is Jason Butler. I'm a lifelong citizen of Cincinnati, OH. I'm writing you today to ask that you oppose House Bill 68.

As the parent of a trans child, I cannot emphasize enough how critical access to trans affirming care is to the health of my child. Trans affirming care at all ages is evidence-based and supported by our finest medical institutions in the US, including Cincinnati Children's Hospital, which is ranked as the #1 Pediatric institution in the entire United States. Without the trans affirming care my child receives from their pediatrician, endocrinologist, therapists, social workers, and other medical professionals, they would be immensely depressed, dysphoric, and likely suicidal.

It is not for the state to determine what is medically appropriate for our kids — our most respected medical professionals in the world have already made these determinations through their extensive knowledge, experience, research, and practice of medicine. You wouldn't take away a pediatric cancer patient's access to life saving radiation therapy, so why would you take away a child's access to life saving medical care for gender dysphoria?

There should be nothing more important than the relationship between medical providers and the rights of parents to get the best possible care they can for their children. It is not appropriate for elected officials to attempt to practice medicine or override evidence-based medical decision making.

Bills that reduce the rights and access of trans people in the United States have predominantly been proven to be unconstitutional and have overwhelmingly failed to hold up in court. If this bill is passed it is certain to face legal challenges, and those legal challenges will cost the state money — which will come out of the pockets of Ohio taxpayers. I don't think Ohioans want the state to spend their money on spinning their wheels court defending unconstitutional legislation.

This committee must not move this bill any further — it is medically ill-informed and it would do appreciable harm, both mentally and physically, to the same children it claims to be protecting. World renowned medical institutions and organizations oppose this bill. Ohio citizens oppose this bill. You should oppose this bill.

Thank you,  
Jason Butler