

**Opponent Testimony for HB68  
Government Oversight Committee  
December 6, 2023**

**Brenda Chang**

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

As a current principal in a preschool to 5th Grade setting I fervently believe that HB68 will cause much more harm than good for the youth of Ohio. This bill seeks to marginalize an already at risk group who are statistically more likely to experience depression and suicidal ideation.

With more than 15 years of educational experience I can wholeheartedly say that youth who receive gender affirming care and have access to a trusted adult or family member are much more likely to have higher self-esteem and feel supported in what is a hugely turbulent time for trans youth.

This bill seems cruel and an overreach by the state. If HB 68 does pass, families of trans youths might be forced to flee the state solely to protect their child's access to lifesaving medical care. Families are much more knowledgeable about personal decisions than ANY governmental body. I urge the government oversight committee to reject this bill in its entirety.