

Senate Government Oversight Committee
Tiffany Dickerhoof
HB 68 + 6 Opponent Testimony

December 4, 2023

Dear Chair Roegner and Members of the Government Oversight Committee,

I am the parent of a transgender child and an Ohio resident. My son has received top-notch medical care from supportive, caring and professional providers at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I can tell this committee from personal experience with my son that gender-affirming care is LIFESAVING care. I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 68 and protect critical healthcare for transgender and non-binary youth. ALL Ohioans deserve access to safe, fact-based healthcare, as well as the right to keep their individual medical needs between them and their providers. This house bill not only threatens transgender and non-binary youth's ability to seek gender-affirming care and puts these youth at risk. but this harmful legislation infiltrates a family's right to make important medical decisions that should only involve their medical providers - NOT the government.

Individuals, regardless of their age or gender, should have the right to show up as their full, authentic selves, especially in the presence of their healthcare providers. HB 68 would severely damage the well-being of LGBTQ+ youth, while also jeopardizing the trust between providers and patients, putting physicians' medical practices at risk. In Ohio, we have so many wonderful healthcare systems like Cincinnati Children's Hospital. We don't want to lose these medical professionals by limiting the care they can provide to their patients. This would have a concerning economic impact on Ohio as well as the other concerns mentioned here.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 68 to protect the mental and physical health of youth in the LGBTQ+ community in Ohio. I urge you to vote NO on HB 68 to send the message that Ohio stands for the humanity, dignity, and belonging of each and every young person in our state. I urge you to vote NO on HB 68 to affirm a family's right to make important medical decisions with their medical providers for their children.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Dickerhoof