

Senator Roegner, Chair, and
Government Oversight Committee
Members

Please accept my written testimony in
opposition to HB 68.

I have the absolute privilege of being
the mother of a transgender son.
Loving my son for exactly who he is is
the easiest thing I've ever done.

When my son was three weeks old, he
spiked a high fever. I rushed him to
Cincinnati Children's to seek
treatment. It was determined that a
spinal tap would need to be performed
to rule out more serious infection. I
was told of all of the possible
complications and risks vs. benefits of
the procedure. I gave my informed
consent to allow the procedure. I was
frightened for my sweet baby, but I put
my trust in the doctors, nurses, and
technicians at Children's. They
determined the cause of the infection
and treatment plan. My son healed
and thrived under their care.

There has been a disturbing amount of
~~lies~~ misinformation in these hearings
about gender affirming treatment, how
it is rushed, secretive, given without
parental consent—once again, all
misinformation. I want to share our
journey, in hopes to dispel some of
those myths.

When my son began exhibiting signs
of gender dysphoria at age 9, he was
persistent and consistent in his words

and behavior. He began his social transition by cutting his hair and wearing gender neutral clothing.

In middle school he began having anxiety. After meeting 3 therapists, we found one that he could actually relate to. He made good progress and continued his social transition with his chosen name. We began using his name and pronouns and after a learning curve we adapted as a family.

Following many months of therapy, his dysphoria began to interfere with his ability to attend school. As a family, we decided it was time to make an appointment for the transgender clinic at Children's to talk options in continuing his gender affirming care.

The first available appointment was 3 months away. At the initial appointment, the doctor, nurses, and social worker spent a couple of hours counseling us on treatment plans, providing resources for support, and answering all of our questions.

Children's staff evaluated documentation from my son's therapist, and verified that he was currently in and would continue with his therapy.

It was determined, that our son's path on was to start testosterone at 15, because puberty blockers were not an option at that point.

We then began discussing the risks of the treatment and common side

effects, possible complications of the treatment and specific details of the treatment. Children's obtained informed consent from me and ordered a battery of lab tests for my son. After an agreed upon waiting period, in which labs were evaluated, insurance approval received, another 3 months had passed and my son began his medical gender affirming care journey by giving himself his first shot of testosterone.

He continues to thrive under the care of Children's hospital just as he did as an infant. I continue to put my trust in them now, as I did then. There are regular follow up appointments, with lab work and verification of ongoing therapy.

His journey has not been rushed, nor have we been coerced into treatment.

My son, finished his senior year of high school, with in person attendance, in the first 3 weeks of school this year. His self confidence is sky high, and his anxiety is non existent. He is planning for his future, a future I was frightened I would never see.

HB 68 is cruel. I continue to ask myself why this legislative body is choosing to focus on a very small minority, instead of the larger problems facing our youth today.

Why am I, and other supportive parents of trans kids, being

“demonized” for loving, accepting, and caring for our kids? I recently read a piece from a far right media “personality” that parents of trans youth should be shot and strung up publicly. This is the hate being fueled by this bill.

This bill does nothing to keep our children safe. HB 68 endangers their lives, by taking away this life saving gender affirming care. The sponsors of this bill are using them as pawns in this disturbing political game of chess played by Ohio’s GOP.

But, whether this bill passes, or you find empathy and tolerance in your hearts to vote against it, I will continue to love, accept and support my son in every way.

SUPPORT AND ACCEPTANCE DOES NOT EQUAL ABUSE.

Please vote no on HB68.

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