

In opposition to the proposed HB68

In all honesty, when my son first told us he was trans, I resisted. And when he told us how important it was for him to start hormone therapy, I really resisted. We had questions. We had concerns. We had doubts. As any caring parent would. I totally get that this is a complicated issue and for many of you here, it's unfamiliar territory. But we asked questions, we read, we talked, we sat with it for quite a while—we didn't rush into anything. And when I finally read the very clear statistics about how frequently trans youth attempt suicide, I said 'enough is enough.' I had been witness to my son's dysphoria and real emotional pain for long enough to know that suicide could be a real imminent possibility. So, I know that medical treatment for trans youth is a very real, life-saving medical necessity. Look, trans people have always existed; the idea of being trans may be new to you, but their existence is not new in the world. They're not an aberration; being transgender is just one way of being, in a world that has the capacity to support and acknowledge any number of diverse ways of being. So when you, who are in the business of supporting the children of Ohio, are trying to negate the very existence of these children who are in your care, I ask why? All the experts—the doctors, the APA, the parents, and the children themselves—are telling you what they need. The EXPERTS about the these kids, are telling you what they need. These trans kids have done nothing to you. They are telling you that they will be irrevocably harmed with this legislation. We, the families of transgender youth, are telling you our children will be irrevocably harmed by this legislation. Ohio families will be forced to move out of State due to this proposal. The medical experts—both psychological and physical—are telling you this is not ok. So why do you think you know better? I would beg you to stay in your lane; this is outside of your field of expertise. I would ask you to open your minds and hearts. My child is not your political agenda.

Leslie Dworkin
Dayton, OH resident