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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in opposition to HB68. My name is Amanda Erickson and my pronouns are she, her and hers. I am the Director of Education and Outreach at [Kaleidoscope Youth Center](https://www.kaleidoscopeyouthcenter.org/), Ohio's largest and longest-standing organization to serve and support LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults.

Today I would love to invite you to seek out and participate in education about the LGBTQIA+ community, particularly transgender youth. Kaleidoscope Youth Center, and indeed many of the numerous other organizations here today, provide expert-developed, professionally-facilitated [community education and training](#) on best practices for affirming transgender people.

During a KYC-facilitated education session, we will explore the complexity and depth of gender, including gender identity, gender expression, and sex assigned at birth; along with sexuality and the LGBTQIA+ acronym. You'll practice using personal gender pronouns correctly (and understand the importance of doing so), and learn what language to avoid. We examine statistics related to discrimination within schools and risks that LGBTQIA+ youth face on a day-to-day basis, then discuss ways that professionals and families alike can improve the climate of schools, homes, community centers, counseling offices, and more, through various strategies from simple word choice to policy change.

Kaleidoscope's training workshops have been designed as foundational lessons for audiences who have limited prior knowledge of LGBTQIA+ identities, or those who have a basic knowledge but may need updated.

By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Define gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
2. Name and describe the identities included in LGBTQIA+
3. Introduce themselves using their pronouns, and explain the importance of doing so
4. Identify two specific instances of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination, relevant to their field
5. Identify two specific individual next steps for application and integration outside the training
6. Identify two broader scale, organizational next steps for application and integration outside the training

KYC's training workshops reference research from reputable national organizations, and have been designed with youth in mind. In fact, at various times youth have taken an active role in the development or editing of the workshops. I can be an expert on developing and facilitating professional development and community education, but only transgender youth are the experts on transgender youth, and I am grateful for their collaboration. We are all constantly learning, and it is our duty to continue to listen, educate ourselves, and uplift the voices of those that are affected by discriminatory policy such as HB68.

The [Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board](#) has approved the course described above for three hours of Continuing Education in ethics for Licensed Social Workers, if any legislators are also social workers and need to finish their 30 hours of required coursework for their biennial licensure renewal.

I understand you are very busy, so I would also like to invite you to access our self-facilitated virtual courses at kycoho.teachable.com, or consider that perhaps legislators should not be attempting to pass laws that restrict the people they are too busy to educate themselves about.

I also understand that an abbreviated and outdated portion of the training described above was already shared with you today in the form of a slide deck copied into proponent testimony, reproduced and shared without our permission, and without context. Please consider providing us the opportunity of sharing this information and context properly.

Education can make things we do not understand seem less scary. Gender affirming care is not scary, it's basic respect.

Thank you for your time.



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