

## Testimony Template

### Opponent Testimony for House Bill 68 – December 4, 2023

**Steve Henderson, Senior Scientist, Procter & Gamble**

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

I am a father, a scientist and a concerned citizen of Ohio. I would like to definitively oppose the proposed House Bill 68 due to the impact this bill will have on the mental health of the children of Ohio and on the state of Ohio as a whole.

My son was assigned female at birth and came out to us when he was 12 years old. As puberty started, our smart, funny, sociable kid sank into a pit of depression and isolation. He self harmed, he attempted suicide. We nearly lost him on multiple occasions. Only after months/years of gender affirming care deepened his voice, gave him facial hair and changed his appearance in other ways did we start to see joy return to his life. Access to this treatment saved him from dropping out of high school and possibly much worse.

I am worried for the kids that won't have this same opportunity if this bill passes. If only a fraction of a percent of Ohio's one million teenagers identifies as trans, we are talking about thousands of kids who will no longer be able to access the gender affirming care that many of them need. Making decisions about the health care of thousands of kids with wide sweeping legislation that does not take into account the many personal and specific factors considered by patient's doctors, therapists and parents is unscientific and dangerous.

This bill also worries me as a scientist and as an Ohio citizen.

Passing a bill like this will make Ohio look archaic and close minded. It will prevent people from wanting to live in Ohio. It will make people want to leave. Good people, smart people, people whose ideas and abilities will be missed. Doctors, lawyers, businessmen,. We will all suffer if this bill passes, especially a very small, very very vulnerable population of kids who already have the odds stacked against them.

Please consider my testimony and reject House Bill 68.