

Opponent Testimony HB 68  
Senate Government Oversight Committee  
December 6, 2023

Abigail Hust, LISW-S, CST & Ryan Lenser  
Concerned Citizens and Parents

Chair Kristina Roegner, Vice Chair Niraj Antani, Ranking Member Paula Hicks-Hudson and  
members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee,

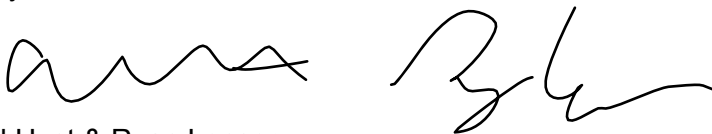
Thank you for allowing me to testify today. Our names are Abigail Hust (she/her) and Ryan Lenser (he/him). We are writing as members of the Columbus community and as parents of two young children who are deeply concerned about their futures if HB 68 were to become law. Abigail is a mental health professional and Ryan is a former Marine currently working for a non-profit agency. We express firm and direct opposition to this harmful bill.

We are two hard-working parents who are committed to bettering our world for the future of our two young children, ages 4 and 2. Although we do not know who they will grow up to be, or if this legislation will impact their direct ability to be safe and welcome in our community, we know that any society that actively harms one child is harmful to all children. In our household we strive to support autonomy, respect and kindness. We want for our kids, what we want for all kids: to be deeply and unconditionally loved for who they are. We want as parents to be able to protect our children from harm and to provide them access to the best medical or mental health care they may ever need—care backed by science and data— a want that we share for all parents. We also want the more simple things like watching them play sports or having fun with their friends. HB 68 directly threatens our ability to follow best practices and evidenced based care outlined by major medical and mental health organizations. This bill takes away our right to provide potential life saving care to our children in the future should they need it.

As active parents, but also members of our community this bill threatens our sense of safety in our community. We know that our neighbors, friends and colleagues are directly impacted by this bill. Gender expansive people belong, period. Trans+ children, parents, co-workers and friends deserve to have their rights protected and their space in our community protected.

Trans+ rights are human rights. We vehemently oppose HB 68 as people, as parents and as community members. We ask that you consider our testimony, as well as the facts, and vote no on HB 68.

Thank you,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is a cursive, flowing script that appears to read 'Abigail Hust'. The signature on the right is also in cursive, with a more angular and stylized appearance, likely reading 'Ryan Lenser'.

Abigail Hust & Ryan Lenser  
Columbus, OH