

**Witness Testimony—Opponent, HB 68**  
**Julian Jaffe, District 25, Ohio**

A bit about myself: I am a Jewish trans man who began my transition at the age 22. Thanks to the help of Cincinnati Children's Hospital, which serves children and young adults up to age 24, I had all the resources I needed to medically and legally transition. Even though there were and still are people in my life who do not accept my gender identity, and have caused me stress and trauma because of their ignorance, I was unquestioningly accepted with understanding and compassion by my medical team, and those closest to me. Because of their expertise and care, I am now able to live a happier and more comfortable life.

Although I did not get my care from this hospital as a minor, I fear for the children who would not be able to access care if this hospital could no longer treat trans kids. I am afraid of government leaders filling a new and terrifying role of ignorance and hatred in their lives, dictating that they must hide, feel shame for who they are, and not receive the care they so desperately need. I fear for the trans girls who will be affected by the proposed sports ban, whose government will dictate that they must play on boy's teams, increasing their chances of experiencing violence and harassment from others.

It's clear where the Ohio senate stands on trans issues in general: you don't want to hear the facts. You don't want to hear your opponent's viewpoints. You've barely given us a chance to speak, as evidenced by this "all testimony" farce that we have before us today. What you HAVE done is give proponents an entire day to testify already, all of whom have been touring the country, making the same bigoted and baseless claims over and over again, paid handsomely by organizations that seek to erase trans people from our society. Meanwhile, in every state that these copycat anti-trans bills are being proposed, you see the people, the residents of these states, showing up in droves and demanding basic human rights, because they are the TRUE voices of their communities, and a shining example of the democracy in this country that is slowly being stripped away from us, day by day, hour by hour.

This bill, if enacted, will be the cause of MANY deaths and suicides. Trans kids, without any support, will see no way out, and that will be the result of YOUR decision to blindly and needlessly HATE, bully, and DISCRIMINATE against them. As a Jew, I also believe wholeheartedly that EVERY human life is sacred. That the unnecessary endangerment of so many thousands of children's lives will be on your heads, and it not only goes against my religion and offends God, but it goes against all human empathy and compassion. You've already heard the overwhelming medical science that shows trans healthcare is life-saving, necessary, and safe. You don't care. You choose to discriminate and hate ON PURPOSE. Shame on you.