

**Opponent Testimony for HB68**  
**Senate Government Oversight Committee**  
**Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

**Michael Kamper**

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Michael Kamper and I am the father of three children in central Ohio, one of which is transgender and two autistic. I am writing in opposition to HB 68, and I will try to keep it short.

It seems that every time I turn on the news there is a politician harping on and on about parental rights. As HB 68 takes away my right as a parent to make decisions regarding my children, I fail to understand how this defends my parental rights. On these particular issues my family and I deserve to make our own decisions based on our own values, with the advice of our doctors and other medical professionals, and without the interference of elected officials who have no understanding of our particular circumstances.

One of the decisions my family has chosen, which you are threatening, is to listen to the advice of professionals on what is best for my children. This bill is crafted in direct opposition to advice which was built through empirical observation of facts, and replacing it with a bunch of politicians' opinions derived from ignorance. You will have to excuse me for my skepticism of political opinions and my embrace of actual medical advice.

I see this bill also has a provision requiring autism spectrum and other testing. My family had to wait a very long time several years ago to receive diagnostics and therapies beneficial to children with ASD and ADHD, and the queues only seem to be growing longer as time goes by. Medical

professionals should continue to decide who needs testing, so that the line to access care does not expand needlessly.

HB 68 seems to have malicious intent, but I will give this legislature the benefit of the doubt at this time. Please think of Ohio's families and our rights and vote no on this bill. It will go a long way towards proving you really do care about us.