

Distinguished Committee Members;

As a lifelong Ohio resident who had my first child two years ago, I am writing to say I strongly oppose HB68. As a parent, I will be consulting with my child's doctor, my child, and his dad in all matters related to his healthcare, including gender affirming care if that's something that we determine is in the best interest of his health at any point. You as a politician have NO role in our decision. I thought you were the party of "small government" - keep big government out of our pediatrician's office!

I know you all ignore the expertise of doctors and medical professionals, so I won't belabour those points, but to be clear; your proposed actions today are not based in science, and policy based on religious beliefs has no place in state law. Move to a theocracy like Iran if you want religious laws to govern everyone - in this country we're supposed to be free to worship as we believe, not be forced to follow the religious beliefs of our neighbors just because they're the majority.

If you move forward with this plan, families will move forward with our plans to keep our children safe, which will necessitate leaving Ohio. All children, including trans children, deserve to grow up safe and free in a supportive environment where they are loved and cherished. If you want to built a future where all the educated middle class families with earning and spending potential leave this state, and all the elderly folks dependent on our tax dollars retire here with dwindling support, continue doing what you're doing. But if there's even a small part of you that cares more about the future of Ohio than your personal political ambitions and the chance for a Fox News shoutout for being the biggest bigots this week, make the grown up choice and do not pass this bill out of committee. Unfortunately, I have no faith in this Statehouse to make decisions based on logic or personal freedom, but I welcome you proving me wrong.

Sincerely,
Rosa Kovacevich