

Testimony on House Bill #68

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Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Atani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Committee,

My name is Nicole Mulloy.

I am strongly opposed to House Bill #68, the so-called "Safe Act". I may...or may not...be the mother a transgender individual. You see, I don't feel safe stating either way, because of the toxic environment that is being created in Ohio right now.

Trust me, nobody wants their kid to be transgender. Having a transgender child is heart-wrenching. Let me tell you how it might feel to be informed by your child that they are transgender.

As a parent, perhaps you have suspicions. They haven't been happy. Something has been off for a while now. Maybe they have struggled with a deep depression. Maybe they refused to look in a mirror or wouldn't let you take their picture. Maybe they have been crying and wouldn't tell you why.

But nothing prepares you for when your child tells you that they are transgender. First, you don't believe it. You tell yourself, "this is a phase". Next, you stall. You think, if I wait, maybe it will go away. But it doesn't go away.

You make appointments and you discuss it with every professional you can find. You talk to family and you join support groups, because this is all so new. It starts to sink in that perhaps, perhaps your child has always felt wrong in their own body. You only want your kid to be happy and healthy. You only want to do what is best for them, so you soldier on. You educate yourself so you can make decisions with confidence.

So you and your kid take the first step together. All of a sudden, you've never seen your kid so happy. It's as if - they have started to become who they were always meant to be. Perhaps now you start to understand what this all means. Everything will be different now.

This is where you might mourn a little bit. You might mourn the future you envisioned for your child. You might mourn the family you thought they might have, or the adult they would have become. But this moment is fleeting, because you see a different future, one where your kid is truly happy. That makes you smile.

Being a parent is the hardest job on the planet. Sometimes this job takes you on paths you never thought you would explore, but that is the nature of being a parent. You adapt. You support. You try to keep up. You help that kid become the adult they were meant to be.

When your child tells you that they are transgender, you need help. You need the advice of professionals, you need to read peer-reviewed research, and you need support. What you DO NOT need is people with no experience making decisions for you. You DO NOT need non-experts telling you what medical care your child can get. You DO NOT need the government interfering.

Being a parent of a transgender child is difficult. HB68 will only make this journey much more difficult.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.