

**Written-Only Opponent Testimony for HB 68
Senate Government Oversight Committee
December 6, 2023**

Esther Pittinger, Public Library Employee

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

Thank you for allowing me to add my voice to those testifying today. My name is Esther, and I was born and raised here in Ohio; I now work at a public library here in Ohio, though I speak solely for myself as an individual. I am writing to oppose HB 68 and express extreme concern regarding this bill and others like it here in Ohio's statehouse and across the country.

At the library and at my synagogue, I work with many children from many demographics. That includes children across the gender spectrum. These kids just want to be kids, to feel loved, cared for, and supported. This bill and those like it accomplish just the opposite. They not only tangibly harm trans youth by going directly against documented medical best practices, they foster an environment where trans youth feel targeted, unwanted, and discriminated against.

If we truly care about protecting our children and about having the freedom to make our own medical decisions, this bill cannot pass.

I am terrified for the fate of this state I call home, that I was born and raised in. I am terrified that this state will no longer be safe for the people and communities that I love. I cannot overstate my objection to this bill; I find it hard to put to paper the fear that I feel, the sad, growing realization that this state that I love might not love me back, that I may not be able to call it home for much longer.

I ask that you please listen to my words and the words of those who can speak more eloquently and knowledgeably than I against this bill. I ask that you please vote no and prove to me, and to those I love, that we have a place here yet.

Thank you for your time.