

Re: Sub. H. B. No. 68:

Hello. My name is Anna Shvets. I'm a citizen of Columbus who is close to multiple trans adults, every single one of whom wishes they could have started transition earlier, which would have given them more time with a body that matched their mind, and less effects from their first puberty to reverse.

Sex hormones, whether created in one's body or taken as medicine, have irreversible effects. Forbidding the use of hormones or hormone blockers before the age of 18 locks in changes, increasing the amount of surgeries and interventions necessary in the future.

Especially disingenuous is putting up roadblocks to transition when deviations in appearance from a cis man or cis woman put a target on one's back. Hate crimes against transgender people have been growing, fueled by organizations such as Alliance Defending Freedom (which testified last Tuesday). House Bill 68 is primarily fueled by a vision of a "traditional", "Christian" society with no place for trans people. The so-called concern for "vulnerable children" is a fig leaf.

Concerning the mental health portion of this bill: People, including children, with ADHD and autism, know their minds. These are not disorders of delusion. Depression and anxiety are common reactions to living in a world where so many people hate you for existing. Precluding a history of trauma is punishing someone for something that happened *to* them.

Thank you for your time.