

Sam Miller
HB 68
12/5/23

My name is Sam Miller and I am a concerned Ohio resident. I am testifying against HB 68 which would ban gender affirming care for transgender youth and ban trans girls from playing school sports. I am a Master's Social Work student at Cleveland State University who works with transgender youth everyday at my field practicum. I have seen the importance that evidence-based, life-saving gender affirming care has on youth. I am highly educated on this matter and believe that this bill is based on misinformation. It would cause a great deal of harm and cause major outrage from many Ohioans.

I work with transgender youth, many of whom are interested in puberty blockers. Because this is an area important to the youth I work with, I am very educated on the matter. I must say that puberty blockers are completely safe and evidence based. They are also reversible, and youth who decide to not take them anymore could simply stop and have no effects. Cisgender youth take puberty blockers in many cases as well in cases where puberty has begun too early or for children with hormone issues.

I work with many parents who completely support their children's gender identity and should not have their rights to make decisions about their children's health care away. I believe there is a lot of misinformation about health care that is provided for trans youth as some people believe that youth are able to fully transition to the point where it is not reversible. This is simply not true. Youth who have not even begun or have just begun puberty cannot receive any other form of care besides puberty blockers because hormones and surgery would not make sense in this instance.

What I would like the committee to take away from this story is to become more educated on this matter before making a decision that would negatively impact so many lives. There already are many obstacles that trans youth go through before receiving gender-affirming care. All a ban would do is negatively impact the mental and physical health of many of our youth and their families as well as cause upset among Ohioans. Trans youth are never going to go away, and they deserve to have the human right to health care in their home state of Ohio/

Thank you Sen. Kristina Roegner for your consideration.