

Opponent Testimony Against Ohio House Bill 68

Government Oversight Committee
Kristina Roegner, Chair
Niraj Antani, Vice Chair
Paula Hicks-Hudson, Ranking Member
George Lang
Rob McColley

December 4, 2023

Barrick Stees

My name is Barry Stees. I'm writing from Chagrin Falls as an opponent of House Bill 68. My faith teaches me that everyone is created in the image of God, including people who identify as transgender. Right now, I am providing assistance for a friend who is a transgender woman. She is presently seeking residential therapy for trauma relating to violence and discrimination she's experienced throughout her life due to her gender identity. She has attempted suicide before and I'm very concerned that HB 68 will make her life more difficult.

We know that most transgender people have contemplated suicide due to the violence and hate directed at them simply because of who they are. Please do not make the lives of these precious people more difficult.

Ohioans showed everyone last month that they do not want politicians to make decisions about their bodily autonomy. I implore the committee to no to defeat this hateful bill.

Sincerely,

Barrick R. Stees
Chagrin Falls, OH