

56-R-19

An Emergency Resolution to Oppose Ohio House Bill 68

Keyanah Peters (for themselves and Hanniel Diaz Elizarraga, Lily Evans, and Echo Joyce) introduced the following resolution to the floor where it passed.

* * *

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University; and

Whereas Ohio House Bill 68, or the “Saving Adolescents from Experimentation Act (SAFE)”, is also known under the long title “To enact sections 3109.054, 3129.01, 3129.02, 3129.03, 3129.04, 3129.05, 3129.06, 3313.5319, and 3345.562 of the Revised Code to enact the Saving Ohio Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act regarding gender transition services for minors, and to enact the Save Women's Sports Act to require schools, state institutions of higher education, and private colleges to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex”;¹ and

Whereas H.B. 68 would ban all gender-affirming care for transgender minors, including severely limiting mental health care, and prohibit all transgender women from participating in any women’s sports regardless of relevant individual situations;² and

Whereas the Ohio General Assembly passed H.B. 68 on December 13th, 2023;³ and

Whereas Governor DeWine vetoed H.B. 68 on December 29th, 2023,⁴ citing concerns raised by trans youth, parents, and medical providers;⁵ and

Whereas the Ohio House voted to override the Governor’s veto on January 10th, 2024, and the Ohio Senate is expected to vote on whether or not to override the veto on January 24th, 2024;⁴ and

¹ <https://legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb68>

² https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_135/bills/hb68/EN/05/hb68_05_EN?format=pdf

³ <https://legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb68/status>

⁴ <https://abc6onyourside.com/news/local/ohio-house-senate-gov-mike-dewine-hb-bill-68-trans-bill-safe-act-veto-override-politics-government-transgender>

⁵

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHIOGOVERNOR/2023/12/29/file_attachments/2731770/Signed%20Veto%20Message%20HB%2068.pdf

Whereas feedback on H.B. 68 has been overwhelmingly negative, receiving hundreds of opponent testimonials from medical providers, patients, parents, and other concerned parties, which have been largely ignored by Ohio state representatives;⁶ and

Whereas many members of The Ohio State University's queer and trans communities have called on the university to condemn this bill and other anti-trans legislation, as well as better support its LGBTQ+ community on campus; and

Whereas these demands have been formally endorsed by Trans*Mission, Columbus Dionysus, the Ohio Student Activist Alliance, the Little Gay Book Club, the Black Queer Coalition, the OSU Revolutionary Student Front, Buckeyes for Accessibility, Art and Resilience at The Wex, and Ohio Youth for Climate Justice so far;⁷ and

Whereas H.B. 68 directly contradicts the advice of most medical providers and organizations, and it uses debunked misinformation to support its claims;⁸ and

Whereas puberty blockers and their use have not only been widely studied and used safely to address gender dysphoria in adolescents since the 1980s, as well as routinely used for premature puberty in children, as well as other conditions;⁹ and

Whereas some transgender and gender-diverse individuals who experience gender dysphoria are at higher risks of depression and anxiety, puberty blockers have been shown to help improve mental well-being, ease depression and anxiety, as well as thoughts or actions relating to self-harm;¹⁰ and

Whereas to be prescribed puberty blockers the patient must undergo multiple evaluations, involving doctors and mental health professionals before treatment can begin,⁹ and the changes are not permanent and can be stopped at any time,¹¹ which gives individuals the opportunity to explore their gender identity, as well as giving more time for potential planning for further needs of the child; and

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government has a responsibility to support our transgender constituents and ensure their equal access to healthcare and other rights.

⁶ <https://legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb68/committee>

⁷ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1alkSr_Z2MWMYPdREeW7cAoCAyH214Ct35bpe6lj_7Ik/edit

⁸ <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/2023/07/10/how-will-house-bill-68-limit-health-care-for-ohio-transgender-youth/70357609007/>

⁹ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-are-puberty-blockers-and-how-do-they-work/>

¹⁰ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/gender-dysphoria/in-depth/pubertal-blockers/art-20459075>

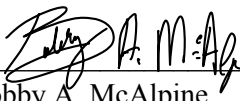
¹¹ <https://www.ohsu.edu/sites/default/files/2020-12/Gender-Clinic-Puberty-Blockers-Handout.pdf>

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government opposes Ohio House Bill 68 and other legislation that seeks to alienate and discriminate against transgender Ohioans; and

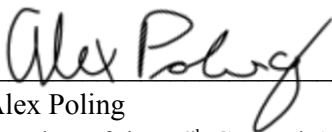
Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government calls on The Ohio State University to formally condemn Ohio House Bill 68 and other anti-transgender legislation from the Ohio General Assembly; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government thanks Governor DeWine for vetoing Ohio H.B. 68 and listening to the concerns of transgender Ohioans, parents, and medical providers.

Floor Vote: Aye: 15 Nay: 3 Abstain: 3 Present: 21



Bobby A. McAlpine
President



Alex Poling
Speaker of the 56th General Assembly

Date Adopted: January 17th, 2024