



State Representative Rachel Baker

December 19, 2023

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

I am writing to you as a freshman state representative, just finishing my first year serving the 27th House District. This service has been an honor of a lifetime. Before I came to the House of Representatives, I worked as a pediatric nurse and provided care to families and children who came from differing backgrounds and environments. I also volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in the foster care system. I have dedicated my professional life to helping children and families live happy and healthy lives. While my profession provided me a good understanding of how different childhoods can be, it wasn't until I adopted my three children from histories of abuse and neglect that I really saw the huge impact that love, nurturing, acceptance and safety can have on a child. This personal experience has made me recognize how much I don't know. As I am exposed to more realities, I realize that what makes a good advocate, and a good leader is recognizing what you don't know and looking to the experts and the people with lived experience to explain their realities.

I say all of this to explain my personal plea with you to use your executive powers to veto House Bill 68. I sat on the House Public Health Committee and heard testimony on this legislation. I listened to the proponent and opponent testimony and then I personally reached out to experts in the field and to Ohioans with lived experience. Every single expert and person with lived experience that I reached out to begged me to push back against this legislation. I don't claim to understand the realities of gender dysphoria or having a child who identifies as transgender. But I did talk to the medical experts who care for these children and the families with personal experiences, and I believe them when they say this legislation will harm children.

I ran for office to help make Ohio a great place to raise a family and for children to grow into happy, healthy, and productive members of society. I truly believe this legislation will do the opposite for a group of Ohioans. I implore you to listen to the experts at our children's hospitals,

behavioral health professionals, and families and respectfully request that you veto House Bill 68.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Baker
State Representative
27th House District