

Emily Tarsell, LCPC

HB0039 – Judiciary Committee - UNFavorable

Prohibition on Transfer of Human Immunodeficiency Virus - Repeal

January 24, 2025

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Emily Tarsell and I am a licensed mental health therapist and mother. To my knowledge, there was and continues to be a risk that an HIV positive person can transmit HIV to others under certain conditions. It seems prudent and morally right that a person who is aware that they are HIV positive should be legally obligated to disclose that information under certain circumstances. HB0039 is therefore a mindboggling bill which would repeal the obligation for an HIV positive person to knowingly withhold the information even under risky circumstances.

It seems to me the bill puts the cart before the horse. If there are compelling reasons why HIV positive persons should not disclose their status, that information should first be publicly announced through educational materials. Brochures, public announcements, talk shows and the like could be vehicles for updating the public if indeed HIV transmission is no longer a concern. To my knowledge, no such information exists. Therefore, I, like the vast majority of the public want to continue “the prohibition on an individual from knowingly transferring or attempting to transfer the human immunodeficiency virus to another individual. “

I urge the committee to give an Unfavorable vote for HB0039. Thank you.

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