

Chairman Hambley; Vice Chairman Patton; Ranking Member Brown; and all other Members of the House Civil Justice Committee:

I am writing in opposition to HB 369. The damage that Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) laws have caused in other states is already apparent, and has no business being brought to Ohio. We are a fair and tolerant state, and have a long and proud history of providing all our born citizens with equal rights. What SOGI bills do is restrict religious freedom, medical choice and women's rights. Religious institutions have the right to hire based on their religious beliefs, doctors have conscience rights that protect them from performing procedures they have personal convictions against, and women have the right to fair competition in athletics and protection from unwilling exposure to men in settings such as bathrooms, locker rooms and shelters. There have been numerous occurrences already of predators taking advantage of these laws and assaulting women in areas that are assigned to women, yet allow transgender women (even prior to gender reassignment surgeries).

When it comes to sports, at the very least you have young girls who miss out on the success in a moment, and also for a lifetime, by losing competitions and even college opportunities due to being matched with someone they biologically are incapable of competing fairly against. At the worst, there is risk of death by allowing biologically male combat fighters to compete against women. One MMA transgender fighter, Fallon Fox, born a male in Toledo, has already broken a woman's skull, twice, in a fight in which the biologically female fighter never had a chance. The differences in our biology as male and female go beyond merely genitalia, and as much as it depends on us, we owe it to the coming generations to have the same level playing field we were given. Ohio already has one Fallon Fox in our legacy, let's not add similar, or even more tragic stories to our history by marking ourselves as a state welcome to the destruction SOGI laws inevitably bring.

I'm no scholar, just a passionate and concerned Ohioan, but others have studied and written on this subject to a much greater degree, and I highly recommend reading their findings; "Love Thy Body" by Nancy Pearcey and "Irreversibly Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters" by Abigail Shrier, especially before even considering legislation such as HB 369.

Please oppose this bill in every way you can.

Thank you,

Veronica E. Leguire

Toledo, Ohio