



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

My name is Nilani Jawahar and I am here on behalf of the Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization, to show support for HB 61, also known as the Save Women's Sports Act.

It used to be common sense that males have certain biological advantages over females. For reasons such as this, civil societies have rightly viewed it as inappropriate and unfair for men to play sports against women. This is why Title IX was put in place—because we as Americans acknowledged that men and women are different, and that wherever these differences are overlooked, it's women who suffer. When women are not given their own space to excel in athletics, their achievements are erased.

The numerous instances of biological males winning titles in female sports divisions prove that even after hormone therapy, males possess an advantage due to having a larger frame, greater lung capacity, stronger tendons and ligaments, a larger heart, higher red blood cell count, increased bone density, and greater muscle strength. That's because a person can't actually change their sex. They can make modifications to appear more like the opposite sex, but that does not change biological realities. Just as we don't allow seniors in high school to play in middle school athletics, we should not allow boys to compete in girls' sports, because age, like sex, is immutable—no matter how one identifies. And even if there are a handful of 8th graders who can beat 12th graders in a foot race, the overall fact remains that older students have a significant advantage over younger students.

If you don't think boys competing against girls is a problem in Ohio; in 2016, the director of the Cincinnati Children's Hospital's Transgender Health Clinic stated that 100 percent of the patients "who present for care are considered to be appropriate candidates for



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

continued gender treatment.”¹ This means that they prescribe puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to every child who is referred to them who might be dealing with anxiety, depression, and difficulty relating to other members of their sex. If this kind of flippant diagnosis continues, there will inevitably be more and more cases of boys competing on girls’ sports teams in Ohio.

Similarly, at CCV we have had parents call in and tell us about their children being encouraged by teachers, counsellors, and peers to seek “gender reassignment” simply because they don’t fit into all the stereotypical traits of their sex. And yet we’re told that if we even question the validity of these diagnoses, we are being hateful. How progressive is our society really when we tell boys who are confused and struggling to understand who they are, that they are actually girls and now have the right to usurp girls in their rights and freedoms?

Today we are seeing the effects of a society that no longer holds men to the moral standard of protecting and uplifting those who are not as strong as them. This General Assembly has the opportunity to make efforts to restore that balance by protecting female athletes and preserving the integrity of women’s sports. Thank you for your time today and I’ll do my best to answer any questions.

¹ <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2018/02/16/judge-paves-way-transgender-teen-get-hormone-therapy-cincinnati-childrens-hospital/345321002/>