

## Mason Caminiti

Thank you for considering my concerns raised in opposition to House Bill 151 and Senate Bill 132, the Save Women's Sports Act. This dangerous legislation targets an already vulnerable group of Ohio youth and denies them the often life saving opportunity to participate in sports.

I'm a lifelong athlete, a husband, a brother, a son, an uncle and a father, I'm also transgender. I knew at a very young age I was transgender, which is over 40 years ago, before the internet, cell phone, or accessible books were written on the subject.

Growing up I was inundated with negative stereotypes, inaccurate fear based claims, and name calling about transgender people. It seemed wherever I turned I didn't see myself represented through visibility or positive language when people referred to transgender individuals. It's taken a lifetime to work through the damage that all of the aforementioned has caused as a child. None of what adults attempted to do changed how I felt inside, I wasn't trying to prove a point , push the envelope or attention seeking, quite the opposite, I just wanted to live my life like my peers, Spending time enjoying what they loved, art, music and athletics.

This is also what transgender youth of today want. To lead a full rich life like their peers including pursuing their interests, to not allow that sends a dangerous message that they don't belong, there's something wrong with them and that they're undeserving of a living fully as themselves. I want to add that it does not appear that legislators who drafted the bill consulted any medical or mental healthcare professionals as numerous professional organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics are vehemently opposed to such treatment of adolescents due to the devastating and lifelong impact it has. Furthermore there are already regulation in place that address transgender athletes wishing to compete in the state of Ohio on high school and college levels.

A final point I'd like to make is that I've competed in mainstream bodybuilding for nearly the last decade which has improved my quality of life dramatically because I'm taking part in something I love and the camaraderie I have experienced has added a depth to my life that's difficult to put into words. I submit my testimony because this fear based legislation is discriminatory but even more importantly its dangerous and harmful to transgender youth who are already at higher risk of suicide and depression when barred from living their truth. They just want to be happy, please don't make the same mistakes that I experienced 40 years ago.

I urge you to oppose HB151 and SB132 and protect our state's athletes. Thank you for your time.