

## Lis Regula

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.

As a trans guy, I oppose this bill and the attack on trans kiddos that it represents. I'll be honest, I was not a student athlete in school. I had briefly wanted to play on and even started to try out for track and cross country in middle school, in part because the girl that I had a crush on was going to be on those teams. Then I realized the implications of locker rooms, and my dysphoria and fear kept me from pursuing athletics. I was the guy so afraid of locker rooms that I took summer gym instead of changing in front of anyone. I also didn't have the language and knowledge that I have now to describe who I am and how I felt.

A lot has changed in the intervening 25 years, and many more kids today have the language and knowledge that I did not benefit from. I can easily find a time and place where a young me would have happily played sports, taken better care of myself physically, made more friends, and generally been in a better place to deal more healthily with my father's death the summer before freshman year than I was. Obviously, there will always be some kids who are too self-conscious, shy, or afraid to go into sports and there's no law that will help those kids. This law, however, will make it harder for kids who want to play sports to do so. It puts up another barrier to a healthy, productive, and meaningful childhood activity. This bill is a solution in search of a problem, quite simply. If anything, I would hope that what we take from this past year of pandemic is that we need to be kinder to one another. We need to make life easier for people, not harder- life is already hard enough. Additionally, not everyone faces the same challenges. For kids who are already facing the challenge of figuring out who they are and how they fit into society, we don't need to add to their burden. Doing so is the very definition of cruelty.

I won't pretend to be a Christian now, but I was raised in the church, and the Jesus that I was taught about as a child was fairly clear about his message- Love one another. Moreover, the Gospel of Matthew says that "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." This bill does nothing but harm, and harm to some of the most fragile in our society- kids. I urge you to join the community and myself in opposing this bill.

I urge you to oppose HB151 and SB132 and protect our state's athletes.