

Alex Kremer

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.

Transgender athletes are not a threat to the integrity of a sports team. They do not make competition anymore unfair than the fluctuation of natural ability and traits (such as height) that give cisgender athletes an advantage over their peers. Passing this not only hurts trans athletes, and trans people in general, but also will hurt so many cisgender athletes. This opens a dangerous door of how to know if an athlete is transgender without having to perform some sort of check or access confidential medical information. So many of these bills are from people wanting to protect young girls, but in reality these will make it so much more dangerous for them as every girl that may seem to have some form of advantage (more muscle, taller, appear more masculine) could potentially be forced to "prove" that they are not trans or be told they cannot participate in sports. In addition to the simple invasive quality of what will result from the passing of this bill, this will have a huge impact on the mental and social well-being of many would-be athletes. For transgender athletes, the passing of this bill would block them from being able to be socialized with their gender which could contribute to greater feelings of dysphoria, but it may also out someone and ostracize them which will even further stunt their socialization and could cause even higher rates of depression and suicide than already exist in the trans community. In 2004, the Olympics allowed transgender athletes to begin competing, for reference this same year was the first time the First Olympic stadium in Olympia, Greece allowed women in. It's now 2021 and the state of Ohio is still actively trying to engage in transphobic behaviors, we need to do better.

As an ex-division 1 athlete who has since come out as trans themselves, trans athletes never posed any risk to me or to my ability to compete. There were people who were stronger than me, faster, taller, all the things law makers seem to think will be traits trans people possess that will make their ability to compete unfair. That wasn't unfair. That's how sports work and in the end learning how to compete against people with more innate advantages to my own made me a better competitor.

Finally, before you even consider voting to pass this bill, please remember that, especially if an athlete has started medical transition through HRT, their bodies will perform more similarly to their gender identity than their sex. And think of the mental effects you will be causing to all potential and current athletes. I implore you to NOT pass this. You will cause so much more harm than good.

Trans people are not a threat to sports, they are not a threat at all. Your constant villainization of us only contributes further to the hatred and violence that we experience everyday. You put our lives at risk with bills like these, but you don't consider the implications of your actions. Passing this is dangerous, harmful, cruel, and hateful. Before you vote, I urge you to take the time and

really learn more about trans people, read our stories, talk to us, try to understand the world we live in because of decisions like this, and ask yourself if you could be ok with more of our lives, our blood, on your hands. And if you hate us so much that you are ok with doing such harm to us, or killing us, ask yourself why? Ask yourself if you feel the same way about the cisgender people you put at risk with this? This bill hurts so many. Please do not allow it to pass.

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