

Kasie Rogers

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 believe that the ban on trans youth sports participation is absurd. The premise of sports teams is to foster community and together among youth. It is within sports teams where differences are acknowledged, honored, and leveraged by the team to develop strength. Why shouldn't Trans youth have access to that? Assuming that physical strength differences in trans youth should disqualify them from participation had no merit in the truth. Should young girls with PolyCystic Ovarian Syndrome, a condition where testosterone levels are elevated, be disqualified from girls youth sports for their physical advantage? Should young boys who have low testosterone levels be disqualified from boy youth sports for their inability to handle the rigor of contact sports? The answer is no and the thought isn't even considered because the condition is not visible and the logic is not morally and ethically sound. Strength can not be solely determined based on appearances and the judgment of others based on their appearance is a textbook definition of prejudice. Furthermore, disqualifying people from sports for visible differences is a direct violation of the regulations put in place to ensure equity in sports in the first place. This ban is not only a transphobic and hateful piece of legislation, it is regressive to the initiatives created to make sports more accessible.

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