

Kathryn Amrhein

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 college freshman at Miami University in Oxford, OH I was thrilled to find a sense of community within the Women's Club Rugby Team. Rugby is a sport unlike most, where all different body types, skill levels, and playing experiences are able to find the perfect position within the team. I went to my first practice having never played the sport and graduated my senior year as a starting forward and co-captain of the team. This sport can be taxing with 80 minutes of intense play time but the camaraderie on the team can fuel you through a game until the last second. Another beautiful part about the sport of rugby is that all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcome.

Despite being titled a "Women's Rugby Team" my teammates (as well as opponents) included cis-gendered, transgendered, gender non-conforming, and intersex individuals. This inclusivity in membership for our team was never a safety risk to the players or the fairness of the game. As a cis-gendered female rugby player the legislation proposed in SB 132 "Save Women's Sports Act" goes against everything I and the sport of rugby stand for. Not only does it discriminate against individuals but the language proposed erases the trans experience. I firmly believe that there is room in the sport of rugby in OH for all women/femmes/transgendered women who are interested in playing the game I love.

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