

Colleen Tappel

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.

How many of us have good memories of Youth Sports? Getting that one goal, one flip, one perfect jump. You know the one. The moment that gave you goosebumps. When everything OPENED UP, and the sky was blue and the grass was freshly cut and the ball was YOURS.

We grew strong. Fast. We grew into the adults we are now, we saw a future.

No one needs that more than Trans youth.

Trans youth are struggling to find where they fit. Who they are. Where they belong. They deserve a hand up. The freeing option of sports, discovering what their bodies CAN do.

This bill wants to stop them.

Tell them there is no changing themselves.

Youth Sports are ABOUT change. Moving you forward, to the person you will be. To the body you will have. Do not hold our Youth Athletes back. Any of them. Let them all run, flip, jump. Compete as themselves, as the gender they are.

Let them have this safe space.

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