

## Darren Lazor

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 oppose the ban on transgender athletes for several reasons. First off, I myself have not heard of any incidents in this state or in any other state for that matter (besides the isolated incident in Connecticut) in which transgender athlete participation was even a problem.

Secondly, as a medical student, (whom of which has outperformed most if not all of my classmates in some of the more harding hitting classes) oppose this bill, for it lacks the science behind it's justification as to why we need to ban trans athletes from competing in sports that align with their gender identity. I have read several online pieces written by medical professionals on support of transgender athlete participation for some of the benefits of allowing such participation include: social interaction with peers, which leads to better mental health, physical exercise, which leads to many health benefits, and equal opportunities with scholarships, which leads to better financial opportunities for already manglized community members. I also call into question concerns of HIPAA, for being able to randomly call into question someone's gender by forcing them to submit to endocrine tests about their hormonal levels, DNA tests, and physical exams in order to verify their gender is not only extreme but it is also discriminatory, as in the sense that we only subject this to those individuals whose gender is questionable.

I personally know of two situations involving a friend and a relative. In one case it was called into question whether or not my friend's child could play with the other boys for he was too big and husky and they were afraid that he would hurt the other boys. In the other case my relative was called into question if he could play with the other boys for he was too big and tall for his age and they were afraid that he too would hurt the other boys. In either case they were able to work it out and come to a reasonable solution so that the boys could still play and the other children would still be safe. For if they flat out told my relative and my friend's child that they couldn't play then this would be discrimination but, your telling me that if a transgender child wants to participate in sports that align with their gender identity, then they can just flat out be told no and then this would not be considered discrimination? Think again! There are so few transgender athletes in this country and if they want to play and if by them playing can be evaluated so that all participants in that sport have a equal chance at winning and without them having to go through rigorous tests and exams, then I say let them play. During a time in which obesity and depression rates are skyrocketing, I say that if there are kids out there that want to play, so that they can have fun, get exercise, and interact socially with their peers then this is something that should be encouraged and celebrated and not viewed to be unfair and an attempt to make this a political issue by "claiming" to save women's sports....and might I ask from who? Name me one other case in which transgender athletes are dominating women's

sports (besides the isolated incident in Connecticut)that can support your justification of taking the time to write and support bill HB151 and SB132?

Finally, I for one feel that a better use of time for the sake of truly wanting to help support female sports could be writing bills that allocate more funds and look for better ways in which to promote female sports at all educational levels.

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