



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

To: Chair Tom Young
Vice Chair Dave Dobos
Ranking Member Joe Miller
House Higher Education Committee

March 29, 2023

Re: Support for HB 6

Chairman Young, Vice Chairman Dobos, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Nilani Jawahar and I am here on behalf of the Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization, to testify in support of the Save Women's Sports Act.

It used to be common sense that males have certain physical advantages over females. On average, males are bigger, faster, and stronger than females are. This does not make women any less than men—it simply makes us different. This is why Title IX was put in place—because we as Americans acknowledged that men and women are different, and that wherever these differences are overlooked, it's women who suffer. By holding women to men's standards, we are putting expectations on women that they cannot and should not have to meet. When women are not given our own space to excel in athletics, our achievements are erased. If even one male is permitted to play on a female-only sports team, then there is no female sports team. There is a male team and a co-ed team—and Title IX is a statute in name only.

According to the OHSAA's transgender athlete policy, all a male has to do in order to compete with females is take cross-sex hormones for a year. To suggest that the experience of being a woman is simply a hormone level—that all a man has to do is take some estrogen and he can be seen as her equivalent is demeaning and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the capacity of the female body. Hormone therapy doesn't change the fact that males have a larger frame, greater lung capacity, stronger tendons and ligaments, larger heart, higher red blood cell count, increased bone density, and greater muscle strength than females. Hormone therapy also doesn't change the fact that males do not have a menstrual cycle—the monthly challenges of which only a woman can understand.



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Countless young women are being put in situations with male athletes where they feel unsafe and uncomfortable and then they are gaslighted into believing that they are somehow hateful for having a problem with this, and so they are silenced. After feminists fought so long and hard for women to have their own spaces and for the word of a woman to be taken as seriously as the word of a man, it seems this age-old sexism has reared its head again—only this time in the form of a so-called “progressivism.”

Right now what we are seeing is the product of a society that does not embrace the differences between the sexes. We tout individuality, yet our actions promote conformity. Many are waking up and realizing the problem with allowing males to compete against females—with the most recent story coming from the World Athletics Council, which just last week announced that they will not permit males who have gone through male puberty to compete against females in track and field. This General Assembly has the opportunity to make similar efforts to restore balance by protecting female athletes and preserving the integrity of women’s sports. Thank you for your time today and I’ll do my best to answer any questions.

The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God’s blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. www.ccv.org -- (513) 733-5775