



CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

House Higher Education Committee
Larry Keough/Catholic Conference of Ohio
Proponent/HB 6
March 29, 2023

Good morning Chair Young, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Higher Education Committee. My name is Larry Keough. I am an associate director for the Catholic Conference of Ohio, which is the official voice of the Catholic Church in Ohio on matters of public policy.

We thank Rep. Powell for introducing HB 6 – The Save Women’s Sports Act – and support this legislation based on the Church’s teaching about the equality of men and women and the need to create equitable opportunities for biological females to compete in sports.

Equal treatment between women and men has particular relevance in athletics, where male competition in activities designated for women and girls can be both unfair and, especially in high-contact sports, unsafe. This legislation ensures fairness in sports by requiring schools to designate separate teams for participants according to their biological sex.

Young people who experience gender identity discordance should have the right to participate in, or try out for, student athletics on the same terms as their peers, in co-educational activities, or where the sexes are separated, in accord with their biological sex. Harassment or unjust discrimination of those experiencing gender identity discordance is unequivocally wrong.

We ask that Ohio becomes the 19th state to pass this just law and ensure fairness for women to compete in sports against members of the same sex.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. At this time, I would be pleased to answer any questions.