

Corinna Cohn in support of Ohio HB6

I write in support of Ohio HB6. I am a 47-year-old transsexual. At age 15 I was diagnosed with gender identity disorder. By age 19, I had already had sex reassignment surgery. It took the better part of the next two decades before I started to truly accept that it just wasn't possible to change my sex.

Take a boy and suppress his body's natural ability to produce hormones by making him take off-label cancer drugs, and feed him supraphysiologic doses of estrogen until his muscles sag and his bones weaken and his penis is permanently stunted into its pre-pubescent incipience, and if you do all that he will not be a girl, but will be a frail, feeble boy. If you skip any of those steps then you will have a boy who has been through natural male puberty—he is androgenized, like all boys ordinarily experience. A boy who has been through any amount of androgenization will be imbued with a permanent athletic advantage compared to any female of a similar size.

Take that boy and grow his hair past his shoulder, cause his body to grow unnatural curves, dress in a skirt and high heels, and your eyes may convince you that he is a girl. Let him run track with girls, basketball with girls, softball, volleyball, cycling, rowing, skateboarding, or any other sport with girls, and he will still play sports like the boy that he is.

I have been on estrogen for thirty years, and although I can't build muscle like other men, and although my endurance may be a little less, I still dominate women my age when I play sports. My height and my reach along with the mechanics of my muscles and skeleton give me an innate advantage in the co-ed events at my tennis club. The abilities I get from being male haven't gone away after three decades, and they won't go away after only one or two years for boys or men who take estrogen.

Friends with school-age daughters have told me they support boys playing girl's sports because sports should value fun and participation more than fairness in competition. And while it's fine for them to be willing to subject their daughters to an unfair playing field, there are nevertheless many girls who want to experience the same passion for competition, the same thrill of striving, and the same drive to

become champions. While there are some who say that girls don't need these things to enjoy participating in sports, it seems deeply unfair that boys should have the exclusive rights to such opportunities.

In less than a decade, the practice of sex-changing children has been widely adopted by schools and universities. Administrators, diversity directors, and instructors have aggressively pushed to define biological sex as a subjective feeling that is subordinate to gender identity. Girls and women suffer the most from this redefinition of reality. It's only because we've all been pushed to adopt these new standards of reality that bills like HB6 are necessary. We petition our representatives in the legislature to pass this bill, as it's necessary for holding the line against encroachments into reality as well as into women's rights.