

I am an Ohio resident from Lake County and the mother of two daughters. I'm writing to communicate my strong opposition to HB6 and urging you to do the right thing: drop it entirely and focus on matters that will improve the lives of Ohioans rather than bullying and discriminating against high school athletes.

Here are three reasons to put an end to this harmful and cruel bill:

It's a solution in search of a problem. Both the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the NCAA already have comprehensive policies that govern the participation of transgender athletes. Even the International Olympic Committee allows transgender athletes! New law/policy is not needed.

It creates an atmosphere that encourages witch hunts. The private cause of actions means girls who are big for their age, good at their sport, or don't "look feminine enough" will be targeted. This puts every female athlete in Ohio at risk of judgement.

It focuses on nonexistent problems when time/energy could be spent on fixing real issues in high school sports for girls in Ohio. Girls teams consistently have poorer equipment and facilities than their male counterparts. Fixing this would do more to help all girls playing sports than banning the tiny number of trans girls who want to play.

Please, stop wasting legislature time and tax dollars on this nonsense.

Thank you.

Mae Kowalke

Lake County, Ohio