

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the Higher Education Committee, thank you for the chance to let my voice be heard today even though I'm not here to read my testimony myself. My name is Adam Wolfe and I have written this testimony to share with you how this piece of legislature will impact some of the most vulnerable in our Buckeye state of Ohio whose state bird is the cardinal. This legislation is important to me because even as someone who has little interest in sports and is a high school graduate who won't be going to college, I can still see that this has a serious implication on youth, trans youth especially. I realize that some of you here today believe that allowing trans youth to participate in the sport teams of their corresponding gender identity is a bad thing and that women's sports should be saved. However, that isn't the full picture, it is missing important information that leads people to not being able to understand these kids who are trans and just trying to live their lives and be happy.

I ask, how exactly are women's sports in danger? Why must we focus on such a small percentage of student athletes as the motivation for Ohio House Bill 6? Trans people are for the most part: kind, caring, loving, hard working, and just trying to be themselves even if you don't agree with it. As someone who has interacted with trans people on numerous occasions, it is quite obvious that trans people aren't as scary as people have been led to believe. Many are artists who make incredible works of art. I have seen some of that and it's all just jaw dropping and amazing. Some love amusement parks like Kings Island and Cedar Point. Some follow the Gospel and have sworn loyalty to God and live in the name of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us all. Others still just want to enjoy pizza and be left alone. It's impossible to characterize all members of any group of people under one personality trait. You can't say that all who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ are bad and want to hurt other people. We know that's not true. The same is of trans people. So why must we segregate people by their biological sex?

I studied the study of human behavior, Sociology and took Honors Biology 4 years ago in high school. Gender is not something that you can use Biology to understand. You have to use Sociology to understand gender because Biology doesn't teach you about gender. Nor do anatomy or physiology. I studied those too. Biology doesn't tell you how the brain works. Nor does basic DNA or chromosome information. Why do we separate sports into men and women's anyway? Women's sports get far less media attention than men's. You don't see women playing ball for the Reds, Bengals, Buckeyes, Browns, or any other professional team of those sports that these teams play in. So why would a man dress as a woman to play sports when men's sports are what get all of the attention, air time, music, money, fame, and glory? My family loves the Bengals, the Buckeyes, and the Reds. Doesn't matter if they're a boy or a girl, a man or a woman. Most if not all members of my family love those teams. And yet, no woman plays for them. If you're concerned about sexual assault in women's bathrooms, this next point is for you.

Because women's bathrooms are occupied by toilet stalls in around 50% of their total indoor space, it's not that easy to commit sexual assault in them. And even if that happens, why isn't it getting reported everywhere? You'd think that something so concerning would be front page news on both liberal and conservative news sources because we all agree that sexual assault will never be okay. There is no need to fear trans people. They just want to be left alone to smile, play, and work just like everyone else. What if we not only had sports teams that composed of anyone but also had the reporting and support networks required to report and punish those who do commit sexual assault by physically violating other people? That would be game changing. We must never forget why Jim Jordan has been in a lot of hot water. Jim Jordan is what some of you would call an honorable and kind man. And yet, we have seen

reporting on the sexual assault allegations against him for several years now. He used to be a wrestling coach at the Ohio State University here in Columbus.

I have family who have taken classes at the university. And to think, they're grown women and Jim Jordan was accused of sexual assault by other women who he coached. It's frightening to think about how someone like Jim Jordan was able to get so close to them that he was accused of sexual assault and there's evidence backing up the allegations. Please, open your hearts and minds to the trans youth who are forced to go through so much effort to even begin to become who they truly are. They suffer because some people don't want to give them the same love that Jesus Christ would have if he were alive today or was resurrected in this day and age to this realm. I ask you: why would a man pretend to be something so difficult to be in this society just to do something bad when men have often gotten away with horrible things without hiding the fact that they're men? I will leave it at this. I can't answer any of your questions that have now come to mind but I know there is someone else who can answer them with the correct information in mind.

I thank everyone here for taking the time to listen to my words be spoken outloud by someone else. I hope this has given you a perspective that you have needed in order to make better choices for the future of this Buckeye state. It was 220 years ago that Ohio was founded. It's name comes from the Iroquois word for river. Remember that trans people just want lives as peaceful as that of the state bird: the red cardinals. Thank you again. May this day be one where love and kindness is shared by all.