



**OPAWL Statement Opposing HB6  
“Enact the Save Women’s Sports Act”**

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Statewide Co-Director**

**Chair Young, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking member Miller and members of the  
Higher Education Committee**

As a grassroots organization whose members include Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students, parents, caretakers, and educators committed to racial and gender justice, OPAWL joins organizations, parents, students and community members in adamantly opposing HB6 “Enact the Save Women’s Sports Act.” We urge all members of this committee body to vote against it.

OPAWL stands with all transgender people, especially transgender youth in Ohio. Participation in sports is an important part of growing up for all young people, helping them to learn important lessons like leadership, teamwork and self-discipline. It gives them opportunities to develop self-confidence and contributes to their physical, social and mental well-being. All young people should have the opportunity to play the sports they love including transgender youth.

There is no evidence to suggest that trans athletes in sports puts cis athletes at a disadvantage. If this body wants to address disparity in sports, they should be looking at wealth disparities which is what limits participation of many girls and young women in sports. This proposed legislation is not addressing a problem that exists but only serves to fuel anti-trans rhetoric that places a target on transgender

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General inquiries: [info@opawl.org](mailto:info@opawl.org)

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girls and women who are already vulnerable to harassment, bullying and violence. This policy will impact not just trans athletes but also cisgender girls and women athletes by increasing policing and scrutiny of their bodies. Those with more “masculine” traits will become more vulnerable to bullying and accusations. A bill like this which tries to define womanhood will eventually lead to policing of all women and violate their bodily autonomy.

Our members who represent a diversity of genders, ethnicities and backgrounds stand with all trans athletes in Ohio. We need our state leaders to address actual problems that our students and schools face including equitable school funding and building a mental health infrastructure that can support the needs of all Ohio students. What we don't need are policies like HB6 which just seeks to find ways to discriminate against some of our most vulnerable students instead of focusing on creating better outcomes for all of them. All Ohio students including trans students deserve to be protected, encouraged and inspired, not bullied by adults entrusted with their education. We urge this committee to not move forward with HB6.

Respectfully submitted,  
OPAWL-Building AAPI feminist leadership

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OPAWL is a grassroots community that organizes for social justice and elevates the voices, visibility, and progressive leadership of Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women and nonbinary people in Ohio. By co-creating an organized and intersectional feminist member-led community, we are building collective power. Our primary strategies for building power are through community building, art and storytelling, political education, and organizing campaigns.

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