

Testimony of Nick Zingarelli Against HB 6

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 6. My family and I are proud to live in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Do you remember what it was like when you were a kid? If you were like me, you hung out with friends, rode bikes, played with toys, took your dog for a walk, and played sports.

Did you play little league baseball or softball? Can you see the diamond dirt that would go flying when a strong breeze blows by? Can you hear your friends cheering you on to get a hit? Can you feel the sting in your hand when the ball would hit your glove?

Maybe you played soccer. I remember running through the green grass, feeling the dew through my cleats, running passing drills, and laughing with my friends.

Maybe you played basketball. Your coach taught you how to work together with four other people on the court that were often the kids that you went to school with.

When we were kids, we pretended to be our heroes. We would try to imitate the swing of Barry Larkin or do the Ickey Shuffle when we scored a touchdown. We would fire off that last second shot and imitate Michael Jordan's famous celebration when we made it. What if you were told that the only way you could have these experiences is to pretend to be someone that you knew that you weren't and that you never wanted to be?

Imagine you went to school every day and hung out with all of your friends that accepted you as a girl. Imagine that your parents accept you as a girl. Imagine that your aunts, uncles, and cousins accept you as a girl. Imagine that your doctor accepts you as a girl. Imagine that you accept yourself as a girl.

If this bill passes, that girl would have to put aside her identity and pretend to be a boy to cross the sidelines on to the court, or the pitch, or the diamond. This bill tells transgender children that they must deny who they are to have these experiences that so many of us cherish from our childhood.

Sports are a chance to go outside, be on a team with friends and compete against other friends. Sports teach important lessons about leadership, teamwork and feelings of belonging. Sports should teach us to work together with people that are

different than us toward a common goal. Playing sports isn't about scholarships and for almost the entire population, playing sports in your childhood is not a career path.

Sports are about playing with friends. Please don't take away the opportunity for children to play with their friends just because they might not be the same as your children. That's the last thing that sports should be about.

Let's allow **all** kids to play with other kids as their true selves. Please vote against House Bill 6. Thank you.