

Opponent Testimony of Josie Mayle

House Bill 6

Higher Education Committee

April 17th, 2023

Chairwoman Powell and members of the Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear this testimony in opposition to House Bill 6. My name is Josie Mayle. I am a student at Cleveland State University and a resident of Cleveland. In my experiences with both being in public school and university, I can testify that having transgender women involved in sports has been no pressing issue.

I do not believe that this bill actually addresses the concerns of protecting women and children. Proposing this bill while ignoring threats of gun violence, economic disaster, food insecurity, and attacks on reproductive freedoms is very indicative of my theory. For the past two years, states have been highly concerned with this nonissue and stripping transgender people of their rights whilst their constituents struggle to afford paying for both their homes and their groceries every month.

The traditional method of categorizing sports teams is even outdated without adding transgender people into the equation. It is very possible for cisgender women to outrank their fellow cisgender women by terms of weight alone. It is very possible for them to outrank men. It is possible for the same thing to happen the other way around. There are many possibilities and grey areas that this bill ignores for very obvious reasons. This is not about protecting women. This is not about protecting children. This is about stripping transgender people of their protections and further isolating them from society.

I would like to ask the committee to consider one thing, if nothing else: My generation is growing into young voters. An overwhelming number of us are willing to do what it takes to protect our transgender peers, and that includes showing up to the polls during election season. We will remember how you vote on this bill. Please consider this the next time your name appears on a ballot.

If the concern truly does lie with protecting women and children, I am writing to assure you that this is not where to begin. I would ask you to ask people in your communities what their concerns are; whether they are more concerned with a small percentage of the population participating in sports, or feeding their families and feeling safe sending their children to school. These are the real issues plaguing our country, including the state of Ohio.

Thank you once again for your time and consideration,

Josie Mayle