

April 18, 2023

**OH HB 6**

**Opponent Testimony**

**The Ohio House Higher Education Committee**

**Salvatore Caradonna, BS and Current Medical Student**

Dear Chair Tom Young, Ranking Member Joseph A. Miller, III, and Members of the House Higher Education Committee:

My name is Salvatore Caradonna and I am a first-year medical student at Case Western Reserve University **testifying in strong opposition of the *Save Women's Sports Act***. My testimony is strictly my own and does not represent any health care organization in the State of Ohio.

As a medical student, I have received formal education about the process of transitioning genders, and am well-equipped to understand the medical treatments that this sometimes entails. I am upset by the multiple bills in the Ohio legislature regarding transgender people's rights, as they are often supported by factually incorrect ideas about the medical aspect of gender-affirming care.

HB6, while not directly affecting medical care, is founded upon the idea that the trans girls that play on girls' sports teams have innate biological advantages that would undermine their cisgender teammates' success in the sport. However, there is OHSAA policy regarding the eligibility of trans girls who want to play on girls sports teams, and this policy has been effective in ensuring these athletes do not "possess physical (bone structure, muscle mass, testosterone, hormonal, etc.) or physiological advantages over genetic females of the same age group". Additionally, only 3 girls have been approved by OHSAA to play this spring, making up a miniscule percentage of athletes in the state. These athletes have failed to win any awards or scholarships for their sports, so the threat of trans girls hurting cisgender girls' competitiveness is wholly unfounded.

Additionally, there are no provisions for how verification of biological sex at birth would be done, or what happens in the case of a false accusation. Without this specification, it could be anything from an invasive genital exam to hormone tests. In addition to being traumatic, this would create added expenses and logistical barriers for athletes and their families. Because some biologically female girls may have varying levels of hormones (such as those with genetic abnormalities or disorders like polycystic ovary syndrome), this could also prevent cisgender girls from playing in sports. In summation, this bill is both unnecessary and would pose emotional and psychological harm to both trans and cisgender female athletes in Ohio. I urge the committee to keep both of these athlete groups' best interests in mind and **vote NO on HB 6**.

Sincerely,

Salvatore Caradonna