
To the House Higher Education Committee,

I, Curtis Alfred Turpin, stand in opposition to House Bill 6. The blatant discrimination against trans youth in our state is unconscionable. The bullying and prejudice these people face on a daily basis is already extremely out of hand without the Ohio Legislature validating the bullies and subjecting our trans youth to social isolation.

You might be considering the testimony of Riley Gaines vs Lia Thomas. You might have heard that Lia Thomas, a trans athlete, stole the trophy from Riley Gaines, a cis athlete, by Lia “dominating the field” due to her physiology. The truth however is that both athletes tied for 5th place. Lia Thomas is clearly not “dominating the field,” and Riley Gaines didn’t lose a trophy, they were both awarded the 5th Place Trophy.

You might be considering testimony about the immutable binary of the male and female sexes. However, on the most fundamental levels of biology and physiology this is not true. Male and Female are not a simple matter of “XX” and “XY” Chromosomes. There are various combinations of sex chromosomal pairings. There are in fact people assigned male at birth with the typical “female” chromosome pairing, and vice versa. There are still others with rarer pairing of “XYY” or “XXY.” Moreover, declaring a simple binary of “male” and “female” completely erases the existence of intersex people. Hormone levels can vary drastically throughout the biological sexes. Physiology can vary drastically. There are so many factors that contribute to one's sex that a simple male / female binary is a completely fictional reality.

However, beyond that, transgender people are ones who do not feel at home in their own bodies. They do not relate to the biological sex they have, and therefore, they do not relate to the sociological gender norms they’ve been assigned. Allowing our transgender youth to play sports with the gender they identify with is but one small step in helping them feel more comfortable with themselves, happy in the lives they lead, and a strong sense of community and belonging that we have far too long denied them.

Please vote no on House Bill 6.

Sincerely,

Curtis A. Turpin