

Chair Young, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the House Higher Education Committee, thank you for reading my testimony.

I am right-handed. I suspect you, too, know if you are right-handed, left-handed, or ambidextrous. How do you know? You just do. It is intrinsic knowledge. Unless you have to deal with smudges on your paper or you grew up in a time when teachers enforced right-handedness with rulers, you probably have not had to think much about whether you are a righty or a lefty. Gender is the same. You just know whether you are male or female. If your gender identity aligns with what society says it “should” be based on your body, like mine does, you have probably never had to think about your gender.

But for transgender people, like my stepdaughter, they are reminded every day of their gender.

Bills like HB 6 tell my stepdaughter she is wrong, different, unequal. That message takes a toll. If a person has a strong emotional support system, then maybe it does not hurt once or twice. But hearing it day after day, especially from powerful bodies like this one, causes harm. This bill is the definition of bullying, and for all transgender people, whether they play sports or not.

My stepdaughter is in eighth grade. She may or may not want to play high school sports. Regardless, this bill singles her out from her peers and sends the message from the leaders of our great state that it is acceptable to bully transgender people.

Stop bullying children. Please vote no on HB 6.