

April 17, 2022

OH HB 6

Opponent Testimony

The Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Juliana Fierro, Law Student

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

My name is Juliana Fierro and I am a first-year law student at the University of Toledo **testifying in strong opposition of the *Save Women's Sports Act***. My testimony is strictly my own and does not represent any organization in the State of Ohio.

HB6 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. Without this specification, it could be anything from an invasive genital exam to hormone tests based on accusation or mandated for all athletes. 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 hormonal disorders like polycystic ovary syndrome), this could also prevent cisgender girls from playing in sports.

I have spent the entirety of my life in Ohio and even personally played sports as a girl up until college; I love this state and would like to practice law here when I graduate. However, I can say with if this bill is enacted, I will have to reconsider this choice because **I want to ensure I am starting a family in a state that that allows medical decisions to be made by physicians and not politicians**. I personally played softball from ages 7-18 and never once felt threatened or uncomfortable by any of the girls I competed with. All the people I have played with had only two goals in mind: to get better and to win. No one was ever concerned about the genitalia of their competitors, all we wanted to do was play a game we loved. For eleven years of my

childhood, I have never felt fear or uncomfortable playing sports with the girls in my community and there is no need to start policing now.

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,

Brandon Delia