

Good morning. My name is Pamela Bosser, and I am the Director of Athletics for the Lancaster City Schools, Lancaster, I am also a former youth, high school and collegiate athlete as well as a former youth and high school coach. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have my testimony heard before you today to offer my insight on the proposed Save Women's Sports Act, HB 6. As someone whose entire life has been impacted by athletic participation, I believe I can provide insightful information based on my extensive experiences as a female athlete, interscholastic coach and an administrator of high school athletics.

Born in 1966, I recognize that so much of my life would have been significantly different without the passage of Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act in 1972. I have been afforded the opportunity of participation in interscholastic athletics, acceptance of a Division I athletic scholarship, over 30 seasons of coaching various interscholastic sports and leadership of a Division I high schools athletic programs because of the 23 words written in 1972. I believe I have a unique perspective on HB 6 as a female who has benefitted from years of participation as an athlete and as a female educational leader who has seen firsthand the impact of transgender female athletic participation at the high school level.

I have read the testimony in support of HB 6 and the claims that the progress of 50 years of Title IX will be lost by transgender female participation in the state of Ohio, to which I wholeheartedly disagree. Interscholastic athletics provide so much more to its participants than simply a means to help finance a college degree. The positive outcomes of participation (leadership development, confidence, work ethic, perseverance, sacrifice, empathy, responsibility...) are lessons not easily taught in the classroom and lessons, which should be received by male, female, transgender male and transgender female athletes alike.

In my 13 years as an athletic director, I have had one transgender male athlete and one transgender female athlete participate in interscholastic athletics at Lancaster

High School. I can say, without a doubt, that participation on our teams completely changed the trajectory of the lives of these student-athletes. Both individuals became more engaged in life once they were accepted as members of a group of individuals with whom they identified. As is the norm, these individuals gained so much more from being a part of their team than the team gained from their participation. So, when you state that there are athletic scholarships, and championships being stolen from female athletes by trans-athletes, I ask you for examples. I know of no female athletes in Ohio who have had scholarships taken away from them by their transgender female counterparts.

In Ohio we have direction from the Ohio High School Athletic Association, which, through its bylaws, protects the “history” of female athletics and the opportunities of current athletes by requiring medical documentation and authorization from a physician that a transgender female athlete possesses no physical advantage over other female athletes of the same age. The system in place has been effective for several years and insures not only participation for all, but equitable participation. Through my firsthand experience with trans-athletes in Lancaster, I can testify that the well being of these athletes would have been horribly adverse if they would not have been permitted to participate with the gender with which they identify.

I do believe there are states which have policies in place that do not insure that the competitive balance is maintained and the experience of the female athlete is adversely affected by the participation of transgender female athletes. The OHSAA policy allows for participation of the transgender female AND protects the experience and opportunities of the transgender female.

I do not believe the sponsors of this Bill ...

- 1.) Know of any specific examples of high school senior athletes whose athletic scholarship has been pulled and given instead to a transgender female athlete.
- 2.) Have seen firsthand the life changing effects allowing these transgender athletes participation on female athletic teams.

3.) Are representing any constituent claiming their rights have been violated by the participation of a transgender athlete.

I hope you can see through my testimonial that maintaining the integrity of female athletics is very important to me as someone who has been affected by the passage of Title IX both personally and professionally. But, I hope you can also see that my experience has shown me that transgender female participation (via OHSAA policy) on female athletic teams does not adversely affect the competitive balance nor the experience and outcomes of female participation in these programs. Additionally, the impact participation has on the transgender female athlete's life can be life altering, life enriching and life saving. The Lancaster transgender female athletes' membership on our athletic team did not make us a more competitive team, it did not make us a stronger team, it did not make us a faster team. But, her participation on our team did have lasting and measurable effects on her. It gave her a sense of self-worth as a contributing member of a team. It gave her a sense of identity participating with other female athletes. Taking the opportunity to participate away from transgender female athletes is unjust and discriminatory. Her presence on our athletic team did not tip the competitive scale in our favor, but her presence on our team did make a measurable difference in her life.

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