

TRANSATHLETE.COM

POWERED BY @THECHRISMOSIER

Statement by Chris Mosier
Professional Athlete & Founder of Transathlete.com,
in opposition of HB6

Thank you for this opportunity to share my concerns about HB6 – I am contacting you today because I oppose this bill, which targets one of the most vulnerable populations of youth and aims to exclude young people who are transgender from participation.

My name is Chris Mosier and I am a professional athlete and founder of Transathlete.com, the leading resource for policy on transgender people in sport. I am a transgender man, but long before I understood and could tell others I am transgender, I grew up playing girls' and women's sports. Sports was how I found my friends, community, and social life. Sport was an essential part of my upbringing and my life, teaching me about goal setting, communication, determination, perseverance, leadership, and supporting others. In high school, when I struggled with understanding my place in the world, sports quite literally saved my life. And my participation in sports as a high school student-athlete shaped me into who I am today.

Transgender students participate in sports for the same reasons other young people do: to challenge themselves, improve their fitness, and be part of a team. The opportunity to participate in sports results in positive outcomes for all students – better grades, greater homework completion, higher educational and occupational aspirations, and improved self-esteem. Excluding trans students from participation deprives them of opportunities available to their peers and sends the message they are not worthy of a full and social life.

Policies for high school athletes should focus on inclusion and should keep the bigger picture in mind: the policies at the high school level should prioritize access and participation for all youth, regardless of how they identify, and should support their growth as students and people. Ohio already has a state policy that restricts transgender student-athletes – a policy that is more restrictive than most states in the country that do not have a discriminatory law.

When bills like HB6 pop up, we see that they are not linked to any clear problem in women's sports, or any real documented threat to women in sports; instead, they are linked to stereotypes and myths about transgender people and driven by hate groups, lobbyists, and politicians whose missions are to erase transgender people from public life.

Let me clear about the damage this bill, and even this conversation will have: when government officials, lawyers and lobbyists publicly debate the validity and worth of our existence as transgender people, the worth of athletes – of people – like me, it sends a dangerous message to young people that there is no safe or supportive place for them in this world. It also sends a message to people who are not transgender that they can and should ignore the basic humanity of transgender people in Ohio.

Transgender people are underrepresented at every level of play, in every sport, and in every state across the country. I have been tracking policies for transgender athletes in sport for a decade and I have never met or heard of a single transgender athlete who has received a college athletic scholarship. The fear that has been created around transgender people and trans athletes in this country is unfounded - trans kids just want to be themselves and play sports with their peers. In an educational setting, they should be given that opportunity, without telling them that they aren't worthy of these experiences. We simply cannot support a transgender young person in school but deny them the opportunity to be their true selves and play the sports they love once the final bell rings for the day.

In state after state, we've seen lawmakers ignore the many people who have come to testify against athlete bans, but you have a chance in Ohio to stop making transgender people - specifically transgender children - political targets.

Trans youth are not a threat to sports or your state, but transphobic laws are. I urge you to oppose HB6.

April 18, 2023

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'C' and 'M' followed by a period, representing Chris Mosier.

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