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Representative Jena Powell, and members of the Ohio House Education Committee:

My name is Erin Upchurch and my pronouns are she/her. I am a parent of two young adults and athletes, an independently licensed social worker and former therapist in the state of Ohio, and the Executive Director of [Kaleidoscope Youth Center](http://www.kaleidoscopeyouthcenter.org); Ohio's largest and longest standing organization to serve and support LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults ages 12-24.

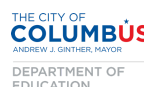
I am writing to express absolute opposition to HB6, which is discriminatory legislation that seeks to target and ultimately separate youth from participating in sports with their peers. HB 6 politicizes the lives of young people in Ohio, with zero regard for their health and well-being; and is an egregious misuse of power, and a breach of public trust in caring for the youth of Ohio.

HB 6 is unnecessary. The Ohio High School Athletic Association and the NCAA have had policies governing student athletics for years that ensure a fair and accessible experience for every student. This bill reverses that history of equitable access, and replaces it with discrimination and bullying. ***Not one Ohio student athlete has testified as to how this bill would be good for them and their experience,*** but many Ohio student athletes have testified to the negative impacts it will have on them, their teams, and their schools.

HB 6 singles out some students for different treatment; a form of discrimination. This Act targets transgender girls and women students for increased bullying and harassment by preventing them from participating in the sports they love.

HB 6 centers the biases and misunderstandings of adults, and is out of touch with the actual needs of young people in Ohio. Sports are for everyone, and many adult athletes share how participating in school sports helped them develop leadership, confidence, and social connections. Denying this type of youth development to only some students is discriminatory, and demonstrates to Ohio's youngest citizens that not all people are treated equally.

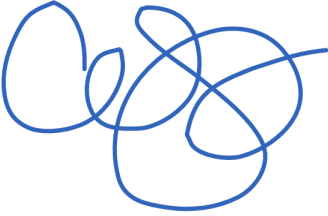
HB is wholly out of touch with the young people of Ohio. Moving this legislation forward would demonstrate a complete lack of regard and concern for their lives, their futures; and perhaps,



most importantly, their humanity.

Please do not support HB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Erin Upchurch, MSSA, LISW-S
Executive Director
Kaleidoscope Youth Center
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