

My name is Rover and I am a student at University of Cincinnati. I am against HB 6 for many reasons, but the most important reason is I do not want to see kids go through the same pain that I did.

When I was 12, I was sent to conversion therapy and I was there for a year. During this time, I was not certain if I would live to make it out of this situation. I was almost killed by the people who were willing to use any kind of abuse to make into what they think the perfect person should be. But more importantly I tried to kill myself because no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't be this person. After I realized that my attempt had failed, I decided that I would have to find a reason to stay alive, to find some reason to continue to be who I am. The thought that kept me fighting to stay alive and fighting to stay true to myself is 'one day I will be able to play sports again'. One day, I will be able to dive into the water again. Feel the burn in my lungs during a long race. Experience the joy of a long rally in tennis. Everyday, I would tell myself that one day I could leave and one day I could play sport again.

Sports played a big role in my life while I was in high school. Sports gave me a community to belong to. Sports gave me people who accepted me. Sports gave me people who didn't hate me for a part of my identity that I cannot control. Sports gave me a reason to be proud of myself.

Throughout my life, I have struggled a lot with suicidal ideation. While I was in high school, something that kept me from attempting suicide was my commitment to the sports teams I was a part of. If I had not been allowed to play sports in high school, I would not be alive today. I would not be able to go to college to learn about something I am passionate about. I would not have found true friends and family. I would not have been able to experience happiness.

This bill should not be passed because it will be the reason countless transgender kids die each year.