

## 61<sup>st</sup> House District

Knox County  
Delaware County

### Columbus Office

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## Beth Lear State Representative

## Committees

Energy and Natural Resources  
Primary and Secondary Education  
Ways & Means

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To the Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking member, and all other members of the committee...

Thank you Representative Bird and thank you Committee for the chance to testify on this important legislation to protect ALL students and restore sanity. Who would ever have imagined this would be necessary?

History is relevant to this issue. In many places around the world, children were not valued like they have been in Western society. This is still true today. Children have been sold for sex, put to work in mines and factories, even killed because they were girls and not considered as valuable due to cultural beliefs and harsh, totalitarian rulers like the communist Chinese and their 1-child policies.

It's been different in countries with a Judeo-Christian foundation where the political leaders have often been rooted in faith. In our country, since the Puritans and Pilgrims first arrived and until recently, we believed "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." We also believed Children were a heritage from the Lord. The role of the father was to protect, the mother to nurture and both to teach.

Beginning nearly 200 years ago, the role of teaching shifted to public schools. These institutions have been relatively safe environments for students to learn and grow. It only took one good teacher to instill a lifelong love of learning.

Today the environment in many public schools and universities has changed.

Progressive education teaches children's feelings should constantly be "affirmed", including feelings of identity, regardless of whether they are rooted in reality or even healthy. That's the "compassionate" thing to do.

Affirming confusion is *not* compassion. In fact, encouraging gender confusion puts all students at risk. Children's brains are being forced to consider issues that are too complex for many adults. See the notes at the end of my testimony for links about brain development if you need proof that kids shouldn't be driving, smoking or joining the military at the age of 5 or 8, let alone choosing to change their sex. This contributes to the growing problem of anxiety among our youth.

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State Representative

And it's being pushed in Ohio. There's a lawsuit against Hilliard schools by 8 parents. In my House district boys are joining their girlfriends in the restrooms because they can. Three girls claimed they were transgender last summer to stay in the cabin with the boys during band camp – and they were allowed. Kids are being encouraged to be confused instead of encouraged to be who they are. The world is upside down and our institutions are making our kids worse.

I am sure everyone on this committee knows the executive functions of the brain are not fully formed until the mid-20s, so children and young adults are known to be easily manipulated. Just think about the Youth in WWII Germany, the Chinese Red Guard and child soldiers in Africa. Children are more apt to act rashly, less likely, or able to be thoughtful and rely more on feelings than reality. The job of educators is to teach students to reason, not indulge their often irrational and unrealistic feelings.

What about truth? What about reality? Boys cannot become girls and girls cannot become boys. You can dress up and pretend, but you cannot change your DNA. Since the discovery of DNA in the 1950s we have learned the 2 sexes are determined by the 26<sup>th</sup> pair of chromosomes, either XX for female or XY for male. According to these biology texts, those are the options.

Now however, adults entrusted with our most valuable resource convince vulnerable children to destroy their young bodies with drugs and surgeries that will ensure they will not only be unable to procreate but most won't even be able to engage in any meaningful physical relationships. The drugs destroy the bones as well as damage the brain and the surgeries added to that ensure sterility. Encouraging students to self-harm is absurd and exactly what is happening in too many of our schools and universities today.

This madness has to stop. Our girls and boys and young men and women should be affirmed based upon their biology. Our job as parents, grandparents and educators should help them navigate the difficult waters of adolescence and come out the other side as healthy adults! That's what real compassion looks like. The modern issue of gender is not a "social construct", but the idea you can change your gender is.

There is nothing wrong with being who you were born to be, whether male or female. There **is** something wrong with adults who want boys and girls to share bathrooms, locker rooms and overnights. Please, have the courage to do what is right, what is best, what is based in science, what is true. Pass this bill and protect ALL students, protect their dignity, protect their privacy, protect their mental health, their emotional health, and their physical bodies. Please support HB 183.



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NPR, 10/10/11, <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=141164708>,  
“...emerging science about brain development suggests that most people don’t reach full (brain) maturity until the age 25.”

Psychology Today, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/neuroscience/how-the-brain-develops>, “Developmental peaks in childhood: The brain grows more gradually, with brain size peaking around age 10 for girls and age 14 for boys. The density of synapses in the brain reaches its height and begins to decrease. The areas of the cortex involved in movement and sensation reached maturity earlier than those involved in executive control, such as the prefrontal cortex, which will continue developing into adulthood.” And “A transition period during adolescence: In teen brains, gray matter in the cortex thins considerably. The number of synapses between neurons in the cortex is scaled back. This process of selective pruning is affected by the environment and helps make adolescence a time of particular susceptibility to outside influence.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/sep/24/fraud-and-pervert-alfred-c-kinsey-returns/>

<https://dailycaller.com/2022/06/20/no-argument-kids-sex-change-surgery-scientists-pushing-back/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Pricing-Priceless-Child-Changing-Children/dp/0691034591?asin=0691034591&revisionId=&format=4&depth=1>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(20\)30069-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(20)30069-9/fulltext)

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/child-trafficking-awareness>

<https://schoolandtravel.com/colleges-with-co-ed-showers/>

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Lear".

**Beth Lear**  
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