

Committees:

Chair, Primary & Secondary Education
Higher Education
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Contact Information:

Office: (614) 644-6034
Email: Rep63@ohiohouse.gov

77 S. High St., Columbus,
OH 43215

**Representative Adam C. Bird
Ohio House District 63**

**Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 183
Before the House Committee on Higher Education
October 4, 2023**

Chairman Young, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking member Miller and members of the House Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony for H.B. 183.

House Bill 183 is about protecting students in Ohio schools.

This legislation requires public and chartered nonpublic schools, educational service centers (ESCs), and institutions of higher education to designate specified facilities for the exclusive use of students of either the male biological sex or the female biological sex. Essentially, this bill says that only boys will be allowed in the boy's restroom and only girls will be allowed in the girl's restroom.

I have 4 reasons for introducing this bill.

1. Superintendents and schools are personally asking me to introduce legislation to address this issue. Many Ohioans are concerned and don't want their local schools to allow the opposite sex into a restroom or locker room. House Bill 183 will eliminate difficult situations for school leaders and will create consistent policies across the state.
2. We want to protect our children. A cursory search will lead to multiple examples of girls who have been assaulted in a restroom by a biological male who was allowed into the restroom.
3. We want to protect our children from exposure to the opposite sex while in a private place like a restroom or locker room. Riley Gaines, NCAA swimmer from the University of Kentucky, has spoken out about the trauma inflicted upon her by having to undress in front of a biological male participant in the locker room.
4. The Legislative branch needs to weigh in on this issue. The current leaders of the federal executive branch have given guidance to schools. The judicial branch has issued rulings. It is time for the legislative branch in Ohio to make law on an issue that is very important to parents in Ohio.

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For these reasons, I ask the members of the committee to favorably report House Bill 183. Ohio's schools, parents, and students need this bill.

Chairman Young and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation. I am happy to answer your questions.