

Dear House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Maryn Montgomery, and I am a citizen of Ohio. I have lived in Ohio my entire life and I have experienced sexual harassment personally. However, I have never gone into a bathroom, seen a transgendered woman, and experienced any type of fear. Transgender women are women and provide support like women. I am adamantly opposed to House Bill 183, and I think it is a disgusting abuse of an entire community. I will be voting for or against my representative based on how they vote on this matter. I believe that your efforts are not in any way to protect women and girls from predators but to force your own opinions of identity onto other people. This bill is harmful and encourages discrimination and violence against the transgender community. If you truly cared about protecting women and girls from harassment and assault, your efforts would be better spent on education, encouraging women to report their experiences, and supporting women who have been through those experiences.

I hope you take this testimony into consideration when discussing and voting on this Bill. As representatives of the people, you should know that this bill is harmful and discriminatory and does not represent my own values or the values of my peers.

Thank you for your attention,

-Maryn Montgomery