

Hello, my name is Andrea Granieri. I am a resident of Anderson Township, a former school employee, and a parent of elementary students who are enrolled in public school.

I am writing to share my opposition to HB183.

As mentioned, I have elementary aged students. At no time have I ever been concerned for their safety in a school restroom. On the other hand, I am very concerned about a student's safety if they are required to use a restroom that does not match their gender identity.

I am further concerned about a transgendered student who may suffer from health risks by withholding urine or bowel movements; or, by trying to prevent their body from needing to use the restroom at all, i.e. starving themselves or withholding water. Even without this bill, transgendered students already report avoiding public restroom use. A survey from the National Center for Transgender Equality found that up to 75% of transgender-identifying community members reported that they "sometime or always avoided [public] bathrooms in the past year."

I would like to remind this committee that, as elected leaders in the State of Ohio, you have a legal obligation to provide a safe environment for ALL students to attend school. This includes transgendered youth.

If this bill is passed, trans students will suffer even more bullying than they already face; they will suffer from withholding their biological need to relieve their bladders; and will further encourage trans Ohioans to leave our wonderful state.

Please focus on our very real need to support student mental health; not further exacerbate existing safety concerns for Ohio students.