

**Higher Education Committee
House Bill 183 Opponent Testimony**

Kristina Bunnell
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Written-Only Testimony

Chair Young, Sponsor Bird, and members of the Ohio House Higher Education Committee, my name is Kristina Bunnell. I am a Software Engineer from Canton Ohio. As a lifelong Ohioan, who is married to a transwoman and has many friends in the LGBTQ+ community, I ask you to oppose HB 183.

The part of the bill that is completely unnecessary is under Sec. 3345.90 where it begins describing who can use what facilities based on sex assigned at birth. Supposedly this needs to be outlined by law to “keep women safe” in bathrooms, however assault is already illegal - in bathrooms or any other room. All these ‘bathroom bills’ do is ostracize people. There is no evidence that trans inclusive policies for public facilities increase safety risks according to a 2018 study from the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law. Having many friends in the trans community, I am familiar with the anxiety and stress this causes everyday. And since this bill is aimed at schools, I feel it’s also important to point out that this bill goes against the American Academy of Pediatrics policy on caring for trans children that independently defines sex and gender identity, which “develops over time, much the same way as a child’s physical body does” and “can be fluid, shifting in different contexts.” Can you imagine being a kid at school and being afraid to use the restroom? The way I see it, they can’t win. Get in trouble using the one you know is right, or get bullied trying to use the one the rules say you must. The numbers have proven through multiple studies that these bathroom bills themselves have caused more violence, while trans- inclusive policies do not. Sec. 3345.90 is harmful and this bill should not be passed with it included.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony. Please vote no on this bill.

