

Opponent Testimony for Higher Education Committee HB 183

Wednesday October 11, 2023

Kaely Terrion (She/Her/Hers)

My name is Kaely. I am a cisgender 22-year-old woman, born and raised in Northeast Ohio. Currently, I am working towards receiving my bachelor's in psychology and a minor in sociology at DePaul University. I am writing to express my grievances to HB 183.

A few years ago, while attending Cleveland State University, I gave myself a buzzcut. I am sure there were days that I showed up to school with no make-up on, short hair, a sweatshirt, and sweatpants and looked like a boy. Under HB 183, would I have to fear for my safety if I had to pee? Could anyone accuse me of using the 'wrong' bathroom? How does one adequately prove they are the gender of the bathroom they use without being forced to expose themselves?

My little sister is trans; she lives in Ohio, and sometimes she has to go to the bathroom. She cannot go safely into the restroom because of the gender she was assigned at birth. Going into the men's bathroom with her cute skirt and long curly hair puts her in a dangerous situation. She is not going to stop wearing what you perceive as girl clothes, just because the bill says she has to pee in the men's restroom. Passing this bill will not change the way people express themselves; it will just make them far less safe when doing so. This bill fails to acknowledge there are "passing" trans people, androgynous people, and intersex people. What bathroom should the passing trans man with a beard and masculine build use? This bill would require them to use the women's facilities. Do the parents of the 'Tomboy' have to worry if their daughter is not looking feminine enough? The impacts of HB 183 would extend far beyond the trans community. This bill would prohibit trans and gender-nonconforming people and cisgender people from being able to safely express themselves.

Please consider the safety of all Ohioans and vote no to HB 183.