

October 9, 2023

Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the Higher Education Committee,

My name is Giles Roblyer. I'm Director and Assistant General Counsel at The Procter & Gamble Company, a Christian and a patriot, and God has chosen me to raise and protect a wonderful, charming, funny, innocent 13-year-old trans son. Despite the hateful, dangerous rhetoric and fearmongering of the proponents of House Bill 183, in which they blame my son's mere existence for everything from pornography to rape to child molestation to "slipping of faith," my son is not a threat to any other child. Like all the other trans kids in Ohio, he just wants to go pee in peace. House Bill 183 singles out this lovely child of God as dangerous and different and would force him to either go into a girl's bathroom even though he looks like a boy and would be subject to abuse or humiliation, to seek out a gender-neutral restroom in schools where none exist and where there is no Ohio funding to build one, or just hold it until he gets home. These are not options that any Ohio parent would permit the State to force upon their child.

House Bill 183 Does Not Protect Children and Endangers My Child

The proponents continue the vicious lie that my son is dangerous and would assault someone in the bathroom. They could not produce a footnote to a case in any of Ohio's 600 school districts of such an assault, relying instead on saying that "a casual internet search" would turn up credible evidence of what one would think is a tidal wave of assaults based on the cruel restrictions of House Bill 183. They did not reveal which of the 600 school districts begged them to introduce House Bill 183 because of a crisis in bathroom sexual assaults. I've done more than a casual internet search and have not found any Ohio incidents where a trans child or even a cis child uses a trans inclusive bathroom policy to assault another child. This makes sense because law enforcement, school officials, teachers, and researchers have debunked this myth over and over. However, I did find that empirically the greatest statistical threats to children in bathrooms are:

1. Family members
2. Priests
3. Other religious clergy
4. Male soccer/football/lacrosse players
5. Coaches, faculty, and youth group leaders

For some reason, House Bill 183 does not ban priests and evangelical clergy members from bathrooms, although statistically, after family members, they are most likely to sexually assault a child. Nor does it ban members of sports teams from locker rooms and bathrooms, even though statistically those team members are more likely than others to sexually assault peers, both male and female. (1) As a parent, those are the groups that I most worry about sexually assaulting my child, but House Bill 183 does nothing to prevent the epidemic of assault by trusted adults.

While the proponents can produce no evidence of a danger when my son goes pee in the boy's bathroom, forcing him to go to the girl's bathroom creates a dangerous situation. According to a recent study published in the journal *Pediatrics*, "Transgender and gender-nonbinary teens who were subject to restroom or locker room restrictions had a higher prevalence of sexual assault, at 36%" as compared

to their cisgender peers (students who identify with their sex assigned at birth): 15% of female students and 4% of male students reported experiencing sexual assault.” (2)

My child has faced two unacceptable and dangerous situations in restrooms that conform to his assigned gender at birth. Before he began using the boy’s bathroom, he used the girl’s bathroom while dressed in typically masculine clothing. Another child thought he was a boy, yelled at him, ran out, and reported him. The janitor accosted him and physically led him out of the bathroom while telling him he would be in big trouble. Later, at a public place, a woman reported him for being in the wrong bathroom and a security guard arrived as I waited outside. If I had not been there to explain the situation, my 11-year-old, who just wanted to pee, would have been interrogated by an armed guard about his gender. These situations were dangerous, traumatic, and humiliating. I will not let them occur again. What will happen when a bearded trans man walks into a women’s restroom on campus as required by the law? What will happen to my child as he gets older and looks even more masculine?

Enforcing House Bill 183 Requires Genital Checks

How will schools and colleges enforce this cruel law? My child looks like a boy. He doesn’t carry identification (although perhaps the next step is a law to force children to carry a gender identity card at all times, or a mandatory tattoo denoting gender at birth). What about cis girls who dress in a traditionally masculine style, or vice versa? Only by physically checking their genitals will an administrator or teacher be able to determine an individual’s biological sex, particularly at colleges and universities or at schools where children from other schools visit for sports or activities. Will the legislature create a gender police force responsible for checking the genitals of students in bathrooms?

What is the penalty for the poor child who dares to go pee in violation of House Bill 183? Will my straight A child be given detention? Expelled? When we visit Ohio colleges for sports, shows, or camps, will he be detained in the men’s room? Arrested? Or merely humiliated and embarrassed?

House Bill 183 Sexualizes Children

Only the proponents of House Bill 183 would ask Ohioans to believe that our kindergarten children are sufficiently developed sexually to assault each other in the school bathroom. In banning bathroom usage because of the imaginary threat of sexual assault, House Bill 183 asserts that our innocent elementary school children are sexually developed and capable of sexual assault. This sexualization of my child is morally, spiritually, and biologically wrong and should not be part of a legislative agenda. If someone should be banned from restrooms, it is anyone who believes that a third-grade child is a sexual being capable of sexual assault. My child didn’t even know what sexual assault was before hearing me talk about this bill that would impact where he goes pee at school. Due to this bill and other anti-trans bills, the anti-trans panic has stolen the innocence that as a parent I have a right to protect. Only in the committee rooms of the Ohio statehouse would my child hear a grown man say the words “penis and testicles of a 14-year-old boy” and “breasts of a 16-year-old girl” over and over, as occurred in the testimony for House Bill 68, another bill that inappropriately sexualizes children. These are children, and they are not sexually assaulting each other in the bathrooms, no matter the fantasies of the proponents.

No patriotic American father would put up with the State harassing, bullying, humiliating, and sexualizing his child in the manner anticipated by House Bill 183. I don’t intend to do so. For these reasons, I ask that this Committee vote against House Bill 183.

1. <https://www.wlwt.com/article/wyoming-teens-accused-sexual-assault-monitoring-devices/44452248>
2. Bracho-Sanchez, E. (May 6, 2019). *Transgender teens in schools with bathroom restrictions are at higher risk of sexual assault, study says*. CNN.
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/06/health/trans-teens-bathroom-policies-sexual-assault-study/index.html>