



*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

**Ohio House Higher Education Committee**  
**Scott DiMauro – President, Ohio Education Association**  
**House Bill 183 Opponent Testimony**  
**October 10, 2023**

Chair Young, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the Committee, my name is Scott DiMauro. I am a high school social studies teacher from Worthington with 16 years of classroom experience and currently serve as President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of the nearly 120,000 members of the OEA, thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony on House Bill 183, a bill that inserts state government into the use of bathrooms in local school districts and charter schools.

OEA opposes discriminatory practices based on gender identity and/or sexual orientation. According to Equality Ohio, the “definition of sex” language in HB 183 mirrors the language in other anti-transgender bills under consideration by the Ohio General Assembly. Further, the proposed language directly conflicts with the 2020 Supreme Court decision, [Bostock v. Clayton County](#) which was authored by Justice Neil Gorsuch and affirms that discriminating on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation is inherently discrimination on the basis of sex.

Finally, Title IX also prohibits anti-LGBTQ+ harassment and bullying. State government bathroom bans like HB 183 make transgender people less safe, lead to more bullying and harassment of transgendered students, and do not increase safety for cisgender students.

OEA recommends the Ohio General Assembly exert more focus on finding solutions that support students, educators, and public schools, and that address the real facility needs and construction funding challenges faced by Ohio’s public-school districts. House Bill 183 needlessly targets an already marginalized class of students, while failing to address the real challenges faced by Ohio’s public schools. We urge your opposition to this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me with any questions related to OEA’s position on this bill.

