

Abi Shoaff

Regarding House Bill 183

10/09/2023

My name is Abi Shoaff and I am a concerned southern Ohio resident and community member. I am testifying about the extreme bathroom ban HB 183 which would prevent transgender and nonbinary people from using the restroom of their choice in K-12 schools and colleges. The proposed Bill infringes upon the rights of young trans people, a particularly vulnerable minority group of society, and I implore my representatives to vote NO.

HB 183 would harm gender-expansive and transgender children and college students by forcing them to choose between adhering to a law, prioritizing their personal safety, and accessing the restroom in their place of learning. Our kids deserve to be treated with dignity and respect while they are at school. Their bathrooms do not need policing. This Bill does not take every child and student into consideration: not only does it put trans and nonbinary students in danger, but the Bill also fails to recognize intersex individuals, whose gender identities fall outside of the binary ("men" and "women") categories for restrooms. Furthermore, HB 183 includes college facilities, which I find terrifying, as a recent college graduate. Adults on college campuses absolutely deserve the right to access the restroom that suits them. In fact, to legally require individuals to use the restroom that puts them in a direct line of harm achieves the opposite result of what this Bill purports to accomplish.

Trans and nonbinary adults and children are deserving of the same protections and privileges as everyone else. Children need our protection and support, not the soul-crushing agenda of uniformity and intolerance. Please, protect trans students and prioritize their safety by voting NO on House Bill 183.

Thank you for listening.