

Testimony Template
Opponent Testimony for House Bill 183
Higher Education Committee
October 11, 2023

Scarlett Michelle Nicholson, Business Owner/Freelancer/Independent Contractor
TransScribing LLC

Chair Tom Young, Vice Chair Gayle Manning, Ranking Member Joseph A. Miller III, and members of the Higher Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Scarlett Michelle Nicholson, she/her.

I am a 44-year-old transgender woman who resides in Tipp City, Ohio in Miami County. I am here to oppose the proposed Bathroom Bill which would effectively discriminate by segregating the transgender community from the ability to use lavatories and similar gender specific areas that associate with the individuals gender identity where they are more able to comfortably use the facilities and do so more safely.

Throughout my whole life prior to transitioning, I would experience apprehension any time I would go to use an aforementioned gender-specific facility designated for the male gender. This apprehension and anxiety would intensify tenfold if I was not the only individual in the facility at the time, often leading to my inability to do the intended deed with which I had entered the area to do. If I would stay and continue to try, I would delay lines, meanwhile get disfavoring looks even to the point of being threatened if I didn't leave. The repercussions of these experiences would impair my focus and ability to think clearly as my mind would be distracted by, for example, the continued need to urinate and the effort of bodily control to hold it while becoming increasingly more anxious that I might wet myself in public. The experiences would also discourage me from even considering trying to use public facilities and enduring any discomfort necessary to do so.

Since transitioning in 2018 and using the facilities that are associated with my gender as a woman, I have never experienced these kind of debilitating apprehensions or anxieties. I have also not received any fallout from other individuals, cisgender or otherwise, for using the facilities associated with my gender. In my experiences, we all just do what we came to do whether that is a 1, a 2, a handwash, a lipstick touch-up, changing clothes, or even a post workout shower.

With all that said, this bill is beyond frightening to me on many levels. The gender upon my birth certificate identifies me as being female, however, the wording of this bill indicates that only birth certificates from the time of birth are able to qualify what facilities I am able to use. So essentially, after 5 years of living as the woman I was born to be and using facilities correlated to my gender, this bill would have my, and many other transgendered individuals, growth regressed subjecting us to situations where we

are more likely to be bullied and or met with aggression beyond the aforementioned anxieties we would face and the social denial of our identity.

This bill would not only revoke rights of transgendered individuals and impede their ability to achieve higher levels of education and success, but also set a precedent to persecute and discriminate against individuals who are transgender and further alienate and mark us as a pariah rather than upholding justice, freedom, and equality. I ask that you please consider my testimony in this matter and vote no on House Bill 183 to protect civil liberties for all genders.

God did not place us here to judge; he placed us here to love. Thank you for your time and consideration. I will gladly answer any questions you may have to the best of my ability.