

## **IN OPPOSITION TO HB 183**

Chair Young, Vice chair Manning, and all members of the Higher Education Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 183.

Firstly, I want to introduce myself and give some important, personal background. My name is Michaela. I am a twenty-four year old transgender woman and a lifelong Ohio resident. I received a homeschooled, Catholic education from Kindergarten through twelfth grade, after which I attended Kent State University for my higher education. I am testifying on behalf of myself today, and I am going to critique HB 183 in two ways.

Firstly Although the proposed law never once mentions gender identity, it is clear that HB 183 is intended to control which facilities transgender students and school staff may use. This is a clear violation of both Title IX and Title VII, respectively, which state you cannot discriminate on a basis of sex. The Supreme Court of the United States case *Bostock v. Clayton County*, penned by Justice Gorsuch in 2020, holds that discrimination on the basis of gender identity is discrimination on the basis of sex for the purpose of the Civil Rights Act ([BOSTOCK v. CLAYTON COUNTY | Supreme Court | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute](#)).

Secondly, it is against common-sense to ban adult, higher education students and school staff members from using bathrooms or other facilities in accordance with the sex they have transitioned to. I will use myself as an example. I was born male, but have transitioned to be a woman. I have undergone sex reassignment surgery, and am always recognized as a woman in my day-to-day life. To say someone like me needs to use male-designated facilities, simply because I was born male twenty-four years ago is foolish. I am a woman now. I appear feminine and I have female genitalia. I imagine it would be uncomfortable for men to share private facilities with me. Furthermore, as a woman myself I imagine it would be uncomfortable to share a bathroom or changing facility with someone who was born female all those years ago but transitioned to be a man now, male genitalia and all.

I respectfully stand in opposition to HB 183 and believe the proposed bill should not pass out of committee. Thank you.