

October 9, 2023

TESTIMONY OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 183

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

My name is Danielle Schultz, and I live in Akron, Ohio with my husband and three children. As a Christian parent of a trans child, I submit my testimony in opposition to House Bill 183.

This obsession with people's anatomy is weird.

This obsession with *children's* anatomy is wildly inappropriate.

When our children were young, my husband and I taught each of them that their body was their own. The *only* people who needed to talk about or look at their private anatomy was a parent or doctor for health reasons. Other than that, we instructed our kids to tell us if an adult invaded their privacy or made them feel uncomfortable.

This warning was based on best practice to prevent childhood sexual abuse (CSA). In fact, according to guidance titled "Behaviors to Watch Out For When Adults Are With Children," by "Stop It Now!" (a respected, 31 year old organization dedicated to preventing CSA), it is a red flag when an adult "is overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child or teen (e.g., talks repeatedly about the child's developing body...)."

HB 183 forces countless adults to monitor children's anatomy. Most adults feel, down to their core, how wrong this is.

But somehow, this fixation on children's anatomy is being normalized throughout the country, in the Ohio statehouse, and in this hearing room. Your fixation on my child's anatomy, under any other circumstance, would cause a mandated reporter to pay close attention to your intent.

Many of you disagree with the premise that a person's body is their own. Instead, supporters of HB183 would likely say that, first, our bodies are God's. After God, they would say that a family's male leader (in consultation with God) should have control over his family's bodies.

This way of thinking is un-American. Each person's body **is** their own. Our country settled that question with the 13th and 14th Amendments. Your attempt to control my child's body and this obsession with people's anatomy is unhealthy -- and needs to stop.

Please vote against HB183.