

Representative Lear, Representative Bird, and Higher Education Committee, my name is Annetra Bush, I am here today as the senior pastor of and standing for, Overflow International Church, located in Pataskala, Ohio. I am here today to offer testimony in opposition to HB 183.

As a parent of high school and college age children, youth group leader, and Christian Public Leader, I urge you to reject HB 183. This bill will hurt gender nonconforming youth and adults, it will cost school districts and institutions of higher education institutions thousands of dollars because they will not be able to enforce it resulting in making single person bathrooms the norm. This bill protects no one but continues the onslaught of fear based hate and scapegoating of gender nonconforming people by those in power.

HB183 does not account for intersex people. Approximately 1.7% of the population has at least one intersex trait while .5% of people have clinically identifiable sexual and reproductive variations. This bill does nothing to protect our children but rather oversexualizes and dehumanizes the students of Ohio by focusing on genitalia. As a Christian, pastor, and parent I am opposed to HB 183 which fails to provide for and ensure safety and access for all citizens.

In conclusion, I disagree with the ideology behind HB183. It attempts to regulate out of fear and ignores up to date research regarding gender expression as well as the harmful impact this bill will have on students and education settings that are already struggling with financial and staffing shortages. This bill creates problems rather than solves them.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions pertaining to my testimony.