

Proponent Testimony for HB183 from Jodi Vaske  
Ohio House of Representatives  
House Higher Education Committee  
October 18, 2023

Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the Ohio House of Representatives Higher Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jodi Vaske. I am an Elida High School mother of two students, and a Licensed Substitute Teacher in the state of Ohio, where I live in rural Elida, Ohio. I would like to give my testimony to defend the necessity of this bill, amending sections 3314.03 and 3326.11 and to enact 3319.90 and 3345.90 of the revised code regarding single-sex bathrooms in secondary schools.

My children attend Elida High School in Elida Ohio. The school board instructed the administration to allow students to choose which bathroom and locker room they would prefer to use based on the gender they are currently identifying with, not their born gender. They did this without notifying parents before implementing. The superintendent has been very vocal at school board meetings to say that even if this Bill does pass, he will still allow bathroom of choice for students and adults. This allows 18+ year old biological males to use the bathroom with girls 17 years of age and under. It disrupts privacy for those intentionally using the bathroom and locker room of birth gender to feel secure. Hundreds of parents, grandparents, business owners, attorneys and community members have filled our school board meetings month after month, pleading and begging for the School Board to have the students and adults who want to choose their gender, to use the private family restrooms, rather than biological male or female restrooms. I will add, private and separate, biological sex based bathrooms date back to 1887 in Massachusetts.

This bill is very important to our community, and many others across the state, for the privacy, safety and wellbeing of the 99% of students at Elida Local Schools who use the bathroom based on their birth gender. The teachers are there to teach, not monitor bathroom usage and harmful issues that could potentially arise in the bathrooms with mixing children of biological sexes. Our school levies have been largely voted down due to our school board and superintendent's handling of this matter. In addition, those of us with an Ohio Substitute teacher's license, who were currently subbing at Elida Schools, were told we are no longer needed to sub after we spoke at the school board meeting about our concern for this bathroom of choice policy. Again, like many districts in the state, our school district is in desperate need of substitute teachers. The teachers are struggling to find coverage for needed days off and are forced to leave the positions unfilled. This bill deeply affects our schools and communities.

I am here speaking today to make you aware of this issue that has our community turned upside down. I wanted to give you a glimpse of this issue of both biological sexes being together in the restrooms and locker rooms of the schools in our state. In 1954, President Eisenhower revised our Pledge of Allegiance to include "One nation under God". He did this because he feared the

liberal ideology would overcome our nation. God created each of us either a man or a woman, not both.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote yes on HB183.  
Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions.