

**Proponent Testimony for HB183
Higher Education Committee
October 16, 2023
Jennifer Schum**

Chair Tom Young, Vice Chair Gayle Manning, Ranking Member Joe Miller, and members of the Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit a written testimony in favor of HB183.

My name is Jennifer Schum and I am a concerned parent regarding the transgender policy at Elida High School and any public Ohio school setting. There are many safety issues that could arise for the schools, the biological individuals, and those individuals who identify as a different gender. Middle school and high school children are not cognitively mature enough to understand the ramifications of choosing a different identity other than what their birth certificate indicates.

Many of these children choosing to identify differently are becoming bullies not those that are being bullied. For example, a transgender female has threatened to sue the school multiple times for not providing special treatment for the bathroom facilities, the main changing areas for gym class, and even dances or graduation practices. There have been death threats given to students who even bring up the fact that they are uncomfortable seeing a transgender in the “wrong” bathroom facility. If the Bill is passed there will be no question, no bullying, no board members believing their “hands are tied”. This bill is necessary for the safety of all students and faculty members.

There are many parents in my district who are concerned with the way the school is choosing to handle the situation and refuse to listen to the majority. I know in Elida there are maybe 3 individuals that the school is catering to out of around 2,000 students. What about the remaining students who do use all facilities based on biological sex?

Thank you for your consideration in favor of passing HB183.

Jennifer E. Schum
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