



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

To: Chair Tom Young
Vice Chair Gayle Manning
Ranking Member Joe Miller
House Higher Education Committee

October 18, 2023

Re: Support for HB 183

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Nilani Jawahar and I am here on behalf of Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization, to testify in support of House Bill 183, which aims to protect women and girls in bathrooms, locker rooms, and overnight accommodations.

I made the same statement when I testified before this committee on a bill to protect female athletes and I'll say it again—whenever we ignore the differences between the sexes, it's women who suffer.

The Times in 2018 did a study using public records requests and found that just under 90 percent of complaints regarding changing room sexual assaults, voyeurism, or harassment reported at leisure centers and public swimming pools took place in unisex facilities.¹ This should not surprise us. We have always understood as a society that it was necessary to separate men and women in those spaces in order to protect their dignity, modesty, and privacy, and—especially in the case of women—our safety. In a room where there are no cameras such as a bathroom or changing room, cases of sexual assault are difficult to prove. It's a simple matter of “he said, she said.”

Women's private spaces are not to be subject to social experimentation. The only people who have the right to be in the women's restroom are women. We ought to be very skeptical of any man who is trying to convince us that he should be allowed in a space where young girls are taking off their clothes.

¹ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/unisex-changing-rooms-put-women-in-danger-8lwbp8kgk>



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So again, I ask this committee to prioritize the health and safety of women and girls and to value our lives and experiences over the feelings and desires of men and boys by voting yes on HB 183. Thank you, Chairman and committee members, for listening to my testimony. I'm happy to answer any questions.

The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. www.ccv.org -- (513) 733-5775