

Chairmen Young, ranking member Miller, thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify.

My name is Van Holloway and I have been a resident in Greene County for nearly 40 years. I have a Master's Degree in Education and have 30 years of experience teaching science to middle school and high school students. And most important to today's discussion, I am married to a beautiful woman and have four wonderful daughter-in-laws and three precious granddaughters.

Thank you Representatives Bird and Lear for co-sponsoring House Bill 183 which addresses an extremely important problem. The longer my wife and I have been in this battle to protect women, our resolve has grown because we know the truth. Furthermore, just yesterday I read that a federal court in Idaho upheld the constitutionality of a similar bill.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/10/16/legal-claims-based-on-gender-identity-flo-under-in-federal-court/>

Do not become weary, keep fighting for the protections of women and young girls in spaces where they are most vulnerable.

Voyeurism is defined as “the criminal act of surreptitiously viewing a person without their consent in a place where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy (such as a home or public bathroom). The opponents of this bill expect Ohioans to simply decriminalize voyeurism. They expect us to now suddenly accept that it is appropriate for men to be in places where they can view women and young girls while they shower or change.

Even more shocking, in Washington state a male YMCA employee who announced that he was now female was actually assigned to supervise young girls as they changed in the women's locker room.

[\(https://nypost.com/2022/08/09/woman-banned-from-ymca-for-treatment-of-trans-employee/\)](https://nypost.com/2022/08/09/woman-banned-from-ymca-for-treatment-of-trans-employee/)

This is evil. Do you, who are sitting on this committee believe this is appropriate simply because the male employee announced that he was now a girl? Would you want this boy supervising your young daughter or granddaughter as she changed her clothes?

Opponents of this bill expect you to accept their irrational idea that gender is meaningless.

Historically there have always been two, and only two sexes. History books are filled with the accounts of famous men and women. Athletic competition has always had distinct male and female categories. This is not by accident, it is based squarely on reality.

In nature, organisms that reproduce sexually, are divided into two distinct categories - male and female. Even the intricate parts of a flower are defined as either male or female. In middle school biology classes, students are taught to use Punnett Squares as a simple tool for representing genetic traits contributed by male and female gametes.

Only in the last few “moments” of time have some sought to erase gender distinctions.

If a boy daydreams during third period study hall about being a girl, has he suddenly become a girl? Yesterday he was a male track athlete, but today he is going to compete as a female athlete? This morning he used the mens restroom, but this afternoon he will use the female restroom?

The opponents of this bill must ignore the reality of two distinct and beautiful genders. They want us to affirm the lie that one can simply change their gender whenever they feel like it. They ask us to disregard the feelings of a girl who doesn't want a boy in her locker room but at the same time completely validate the feelings of a sexually confused or simply curious middle school student. May I say it again, you are on solid ground if you support this bill.

After my wife's unexpected encounter with a completely naked adult male in the women's locker room at the Xenia YMCA, I learned several things.

I was surprised to learn that the presence of a man in the women's locker room was of no concern to the leadership of the Y. They never even bothered to begin an investigation. Instead their primary concern was to silence us, begging us not to go public with our story. This sure sounds similar to the incidents that the Loudoun County VA schools tried to hide.

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/virginia/judge-orders-loudoun-county-public-schools-release-report-handling-sexual-assaults/65-34887b0f-9c04-4f0f-a7c1-6006e71a9e01>

Every teacher and administrator in Ohio needs the backing of HB 183. Allegations of men in women's restrooms must be investigated and not ignored.

The other side has written the rules to an impossible game and then they demand that we cannot even question them. Even when Darren exposed his naked body on multiple occasions to preteen and teen girls, the YMCA looked the other way.

<https://nypost.com/2023/02/02/transgender-woman-charged-with-indecent-exposure-over-ymca-locker-room-incident/>

From their perspective this is perfectly normal behavior. God help us if this becomes normal behavior in our schools.

In conclusion, as an educator, I have been trained to keep students safe. We run fire drills, tornado drills, and keep the doors of our building secure. How am I supposed to respond when I see a man following an 8-year old girl into the school's restroom? Do I ignore the situation? Should I question him? Do I simply assume that the 8-year old girl will be mature enough to handle the situation?

Opponents of this bill outrageously insist that I must simply allow anyone to use any restroom that they desire, no questions asked. This bill will give educators the support they need to investigate a questionable and perhaps dangerous situation like this.

If the response that I received from the leadership of the YMCA is any indication, we are in desperate need of House Bill 183. For the sake of our most vulnerable ones, please support this bill.

I will be glad to answer any of your questions.

Question...**"through the chair"**...answer