

Angelina Drollinger
Testimony to the Higher Education Committee
Request to Support House Bill 183
October 18th, 2023

Greetings Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for serving the people of Ohio. My name is Angelina Drollinger. My husband and I and our 5 children moved to Ohio a little over 7 years ago. We love making beautiful Ohio our home sweet home. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share my story - my family's story - with you.

On Monday, November 7th, 2022, some time after 3 in the afternoon, I encountered a man in the ladies' locker room at the YMCA in Xenia, Ohio.

I and two of my daughters, who were 16 and 13 at the time, had been swimming at the YMCA pool and returned to the locker room for showers. I left the shower stalls (thank God I was fully dressed) before my girls were done and I went to the locker area. There was a naked man in the locker bay across from mine. He was completely naked and facing out. His very large belly covered his privates in the front. Terrified I took a few steps back and called out for my girls to not leave their shower stalls. I began finishing my personal preparations, putting on my shoes, and brushing my hair. I was absolutely shaking inside and for lack of a better word, freaking out. My heart was racing, panicky, being too frightened to speak to him while he was naked, I waited for the man to finish dressing, then I confronted him. In part I told him I thought he would feel more comfortable in the family locker room. He stormed out and said he was going to talk to the director. After waiting a few minutes, when I felt like it was safer, I called to my girls and told them they could come out of the showers.

On Thursday, November 10th my husband Paul, and I, and our girls met with Kim Sheehan, the director of the Xenia YMCA and Dale Brunner, President of the Greater Dayton YMCA. Before meeting with the YMCA leadership I printed a copy of a document I found on their website that gave "5 Steps to Protecting Children." (I have provided a copy of that document for you.) In speaking with them we were trying to make the YMCA aware of how they themselves were violating "Step 2 - minimize opportunity" by allowing men in these enclosed spaces with young girls. During our meeting Mr. Brunner said that they were afraid of lawsuits and basically said that there was nothing they, the YMCA, can do to prevent a man from using the ladies' locker room if he claims to be a woman. He gave us a paper (I have also provided a copy of that document for you.) citing US Supreme Court Case *Bostock v. Clayton City, Georgia* and the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4112 as evidence that they have no legal grounds to prevent that man from using the ladies' locker room, or apparently even asking him to use the family locker room. We later found out that an entire girls swim team (that of Legacy Christian) was not using the ladies locker room for fear of encountering this man there.

On November 25th I filed a complaint with Xenia police department about my encounter with this naked man in the ladies' locker room. March 21st, 2023 I had to testify in the case against him. He was charged with public indecency. The man was later declared not guilty because no one could see his genitalia because he was too obese.

We have kept our YMCA membership and continue to use their facilities but with a great deal of fear. I am afraid this man will be there again. I am afraid another man will be there. I keep an extra guard over my girls when they come, never letting them enter the locker room alone or before me. I always check for men, especially when the girls are there with me. The joy is gone from our YMCA experience. We do not invite friends or family to come with us as guests or to join, because I do not feel safe there myself. I fear for the safety of the many little girls who use the YMCA locker room by themselves. You often see a father or grandfather drop their little girl at the locker room door and meet them on the other side in the pool area. I wonder if parents and grandparents are aware that a full grown man could be in there at any time.

I have heard it said that we have laws against public indecency and that this should be sufficient. It is obviously not. A woman should not have to share these private spaces with a man even if he has all of his clothes on. It is an invasion of our privacy. It goes against common decency. It jeopardizes our safety. It creates a perfect opportunity for abuse. These are areas that are designed to be secluded, and women of all ages, let alone little girls, should not be forced to share these spaces with men. I am asking you to support House Bill 183 so that you can help provide the tools we need to protect women and children's privacy and safety.