

Ohio House Bill 183
Wednesday, December 6, 10am
Ohio Statehouse, Room 017

Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller and members of The House Higher Education Committee, my name is Kat Scaglione and I am submitting written testimony in opposition of House Bill 183.

House Bill 183 is government over reach and a direct violation of Title IX. This bill sets a dangerous precedent for 'self-deputizing' and increased likelihood of violence against women. It puts not only cisgender women and girls but also transgender women and girls directly in harm's way. The majority of violent acts against all of them are committed by white men. If that is the case, in no way does this bill address the problem it claims to target.

As a parent I can only imagine the danger this bill presents. There seems to be an image-a frightening figure conjured up that ignited a fear and need for this legislation. It's almost as if this legislation revolves around a sort of 'boogeyman' but there's no real evidence of the so called monster nor evidence to back up the necessity. As a mother of three kids I understand the drive to protect children from harm-which is exactly why I'm writing to you. The idea that anyone can make accusations based on a glance at a person is dangerous. No one fits neatly in a box. The world is comprised of humans who display vastly different degrees of characteristics. The majority of people do not simply fit into the stereotypes society has conditioned us to. This bill allows for paranoia, unjust accusations and harassment of not only trans women and girls but cis women and girls. This bill rests on the idea that anyone can glance at someone and make a serious, potentially life threatening judgement.

As the parent of a ten year old transgender daughter, can you imagine sending a small girl like that into the bathroom with sixth grade boys? That's exactly what will happen if this legislation passes. She is terrified.

It is concerning knowing that anyone I know female presenting, including myself, my daughters, my friends, my family could fall subject to unnecessary scrutiny, hostility, violence for trying to practice a basic human need and right. Please reconsider passing this dangerous piece of legislation.

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