

Parker Parker, Testimony HB 68

Thank you chairperson Roegner and the Senate oversight committee for your time today and reading this testimony.

My name is Parker, I am a student athlete at Merrimack College in Massachusetts, and sports are one of the most valuable things in my life. I have been playing field hockey for almost my entire life, and to be honest the sport has become my life. I am on the D1 field hockey team at Merrimack and I am so grateful to pursue my athletic career there. Before Merrimack I played field hockey at Olentangy high school in Lewis center Ohio. There I was a 4 year varsity letterer, Offensive MVP, and voted All league, and I played for the 13th best club team in the country. I have spent countless hours devoted to this sport and am so grateful to pursue my dreams of being a D1 athlete.

But all of these accomplishments, awards, and hard work doesn't matter because I am a trans athlete. To the sponsors of this bill I am seen to have a "competitive advantage" and "taking away roster spots" for cisgender athletes.

I could stand here and talk about the science supporting the facts that the OHSAA policy works and shouldn't be challenged. I could stand here and tell my story of what being an athlete is. I could beg for you to not take away the one of the things in my life that had given me purpose.

But I won't.

Because contrary to this belief this bill isn't just about banning transgender athletes. Truly this bill is about the consent tournament our Ohio State Legislator is putting trans kids like me under for the mere political support it gives from your party.

It is evident that you are not "saving womens sports," I mean while else would the sponsors of the bill be following on the bandwagon of the many trans athlete bans that have already been passed. It is your job as state legislators to do what is best for the state of Ohio, not follow the status quo of your political party.

I can tell you that the best thing to do for the state of Ohio is to allow trans athletes to play. We already have policies in place by the OHSAA that have worked for years. Don't take the opportunity for trans youth like me to play as their full authentic self. Most importantly, please have some dignity within yourself to do what is best for the state of Ohio - not for yourself. Thank you for your time.