

Proponent Testimony
House Bill 61
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Greetings. My name is Dennis Leone. I am a retired superintendent of schools. I worked in that capacity for 23 years in Ohio, most recently for Chillicothe City Schools. I also worked as a high school administrator and as a junior high school principal for school districts like Lancaster City Schools, and Pickerington Local Schools. I really do not know anyone who has seen more junior high and high school athletic contests involving boys and girls than I have.

I wish to say that I care not if anyone reading this is gay, bi-sexual, transgender, or even a cross-dressing drag queen like RuPaul. And if my church won't allow you to worship there because you identify with one of those categories, I do not agree with that. **BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SPORTS, IT IS A DIFFERENT DEAL COMPLETELY !!!**

So-called experts supporting the LBGTQ agenda want you to believe that if a 17-year-old or 18-year-old male has taken estrogen for a year, that this somehow levels the playing field with girls in sports. Are you kidding me? No one wants to talk about how puberty kicks in for males at age 12, and how they are building testosterone-driven strength at ages 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. But you are suppose to believe that if a male takes estrogen for a year, this will neutralize the strength advantage he built up for five or six years previously.

I have data showing that every year in track and field, there are boys – some as young as 15 – who can run faster than ANY WOMAN IN THE WORLD HAS EVER RUN IN HISTORY. The same is true for jumping and throwing.....there are 15-year-old boys who can jump higher and throw farther than any woman has in history, period. And the so-called experts want you to believe that if these boys switch over and become a transgender, this clear advantage will go away if they take estrogen for a year.. How ridiculous !

And it seems that those opposing House Bill 61 do not care about other things, like how in track and field, the girls have an 8-pound shot put, while the boys have a 12-pound shot put.....how the girls have a 4-pound discus implement and the boys have a 6-pound discus implement. The same is true for states where high schoolers compete in the javelin throw and hammer throw. The girls use smaller, lighter, implements. Then we have the fact that girls have 33-inch hurdles, while the boys have 39-inch hurdles. You don't think that makes a difference if a guy competing as a girl is 5-11 or 6-feet tall.....going over the shorter hurdles is like a stroll in the park.

We are going to see examples soon as of a transgender female adding 10-feet to the state record in the girls shot put on the first throw of the competition. What are you going to do then? Have two sets of records? And there are other things – like girls having a smaller basketball (which a lot of guys can hold like a grapefruit) a high diving board that is lower than what the boys use.

I suppose as a high schooler, if I took estrogen for a year, my size 11 shoes would shrink to be a size 7, or if I was 6-6, I would shrink to be 5-foot-6 inches tall, of that my extra large glove size would go down to a size small, and that my fingers would shrink. Really? This is insanity.

Something else that no one wants to talk about is that biologically and medically – look it up if you want – when girls run, they exert more energy than guys do with they breathe. Do you get it? Guys who are running do not exert as much energy as girls do when they breathe. Can you understand the advantage guys automatically have in track, cross country, soccer, basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, etc.

My final point is that this bill also, undeniably, will reduce the likelihood that girls will be hurt physically. Attached to my testimony today is a published report explaining how rugby referees in the United Kingdom have decided to no longer officiate women's rugby matches. Why? They say they are sick and tired of girls getting broken bones at the hands of males keeping as girls. Do you understand! This will happen soon in high school sports if House Bill 61 is NOT passed. Whether there is a collision at home plate in softball, or a charging foul in basketball, or a blocking violation in soccer, girls are going to get hurt seriously for sure. Folks, we are talking about broken bones.

I have read that some LGBTQ activists are saying that supporters of legislation like House Bill 61 simply do not want transgenders to compete in sports. That is an absolute lie. If there is a track meet tomorrow, and a transgender female who is a biological male wants to compete, he can run against the boys.....and if he finishes last, he needs to work harder to get better. THE SOLUTION CANNOT BE: "I WANT TO COMPETE AGAINST THE GIRLS SO I CAN WIN." Ladies and gentlemen, this is happening all across the country. Transgender females getting the acclaim, the recognition, the notoriety, and the medals they could never get when they competed as males.....and in fact, when they competed as males they often came in dead last or they didn't even qualify for the finals.

You possibly have heard of a transgender runner named CeCe Telfer, who was a hurdler recently at Franklin Pierce University, an NCAA Division II school. She was Craig Telfer as a freshman, sophomore, and junior and was a member of the men's track team. As a senior in 2018, she announced that she was a transgender. She became the NCAA national champion in the 400-meter hurdles that year, but the year before, when she was a junior on men's track team, she ranked 390th nationally among her male peers. Let me repeat that, **she ranked 390th nationally as a male, but became a national champion as a transgender female.** Enough said.

Please do what you can to get this legislation passed.

Thank you.

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Broken bones: UK rugby referees quitting after bearded transgender players injure women

October 6, 2019

Biological males, allowed to play as transgender women in the United Kingdom, are ruining the amateur sport of rugby, according to women referees who are quitting the sport in droves. The referees say the biological males are injuring female players and refs are afraid of being sued.

The Sunday Times reports the referees started leaving the sport after the Rugby Football Union began enforcing the admittance of the biologically male athletes into female teams.

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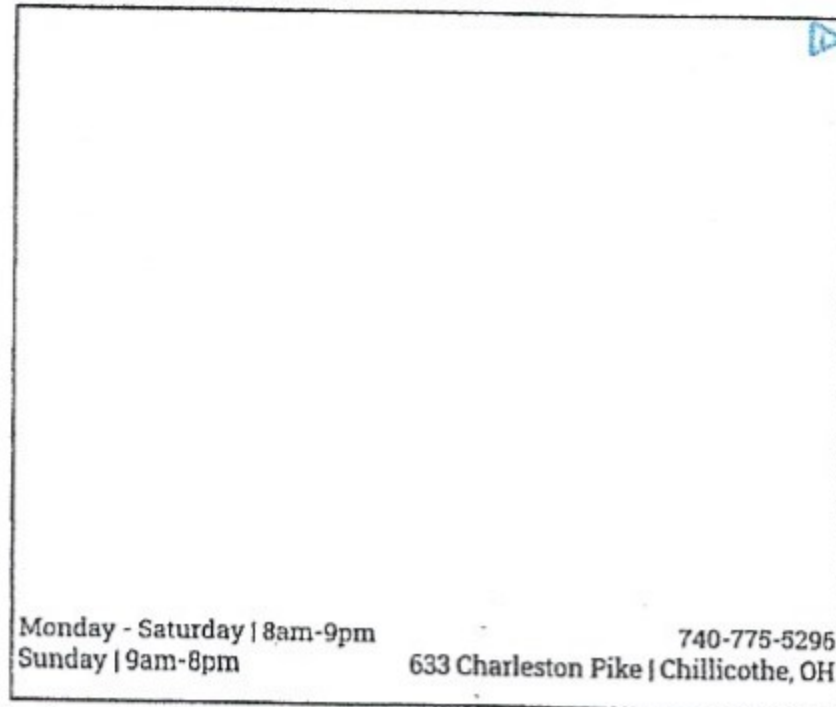
"Being forced to prioritize hurt feelings over broken bones exposes me to personal litigation from female players who have been damaged by players who are biologically male. This is driving female players and referees out of the game," one anonymous referee told the newspaper.

The referees also said they were told not to challenge any bearded or heavily muscled players of any women's team.

The sport does have a testosterone limit. However, referees are told not to check with the league, but to take the players at their word.

READ: How the move to allow transgender athletes is destroying women's sports

"If you even ask the question, you are told you are a bigot," another referee told the UK newspaper, stating that they had witnessed five different women's players with beards over the course of half a season.



The BBC reports one biological male who plays on a women's team after transitioning from male to female is hurting his own teammates. The team captain recalls one time when she folded an opponent "like a deckchair."

The team's coach even told the television network, "She's going to be a good, good player for the next few years, as long as we can stop her injuring players in training."



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Women's Rugby Refs Are Quitting Because Transgender Athletes Are Breaking Players' Bones