

Sherry Mix
773 Marlow Bay, Verona, WI 53593

June 21, 2021

Support for Ohio Bills 61 and 132.

As a mother of two young athletic girls, age 11 and 8, and a female athlete, I strongly support these bills.

Sports for girls really haven't been around that long. I'm 40 years old and I was on the first all girls soccer team at my high school. I didn't even realize what a privilege that was at the time. I also received a grass roots sponsorship from Trek bikes for cycling when I was in high school. It was a program they were doing to get more females involved in cycling and they gave me my first racing bike. I was racing at the elite level only after a year of riding because of the help I received from my sponsorship.

Fast forward to two years ago when I had my first experience competing against a male identifying as a woman, and I lost to him. I thought I was competing against women? Where did this man come from? Why was he in my category? I learned afterwards that he started competing with the women in 2019 after he had been previously competing with elite men since 2011. Once an elite male athlete, now he's been on the women's podium and received prize money at every race so far. Why is this OK? Where are my rights? Where are the rights of all the other women who train and compete fairly in their prospective categories? Who's standing up for us?

After the first time I was beat by him, I was confused and didn't know what happened. After the second time I was beat by him, I knew I had to voice my concern and stand up for my rights and the rights of all women, especially for my two young girls. Men competing against women in a women's category is not fair and it infringes on my civil rights as a biological female. Every male on the female podium displaces a deserving female. I do not want women's sports to end because men start beating their best times and start taking away the opportunities that women had fought so hard for over the last 50 years. No matter how hard women train, we are made differently and there is just no comparing our bodies when it comes to sports. We cannot train to have the same advantages that a biological male has naturally. It's a biological fact.

Why would girls want to participate in sports when they know they are going to get beat by a boy? The message to girls is: "You deserve equal opportunities, except in sports."

I am voicing my support of these bills so that my daughters get the same right to opportunities as I had growing up. I urge the committee to pass these bills. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.