

Chair, and members of the committee, my name is Rachel Davis. I would like to begin by thanking you all for allowing me to share why I support HB 6, the Save Women's Sports Act.

Friendly and fair competition is what I grew up participating in as an athlete in Ohio. I spent nearly a decade competing on club swim teams. I know the importance of a 100th of a second. A flash in time that can be the difference between competing or not competing on a relay or at a state meet. When I closed the swimming chapter of my athletic career I joined one of the central Ohio rowing teams. As a high school student I spent countless early morning hours, outside of team practice, on the Scioto river at Griggs Reservoir rowing my single (boat) alongside the top ranked Division 1 team in the nation, Ohio State. The 5 am alarms, varying weather conditions and blisters on my hands were not a hindrance to me because I knew that with enough hard work and discipline I could make my dreams of competing as an elite athlete with a scholarship a reality. My story may be unique in that I was able to position myself in such close proximity to the athletes and coaches I looked up to the most, but what is not unique about my story is the goal I had set before me. Each year countless biological girls go through grueling training in hopes of entering the recruiting pool and coming out with a signed document securing their scholarship and a place on a collegiate sports team.

When I was voted team captain of The Ohio State women's rowing team my senior year of college I made a vow to advocate for my teammates. Today I am holding true to that vow by standing up for the protection of women's sports. The passing of this bill gives me the peace of mind to know that my two young daughters will be able to pursue their athletic goals on an equal and level playing field with no concern that a biological male will take their place on the podium, their seat in a boat, or their scholarship on a collegiate varsity sports team.

To comprehend the gap between men and women in sports, specifically rowing and swimming, you simply have to compare times. The NCSA, a prominent recruiting

resource for highschoolers, states on their website that the 2,000 meter erg score is the primary piece that a coach will look at during the recruitment process. When looking through the results of the 2023 Midwest Championship Erg Sprints, an indoor rowing competition held in Ohio each year, there is a blatant discrepancy between the results of the men's competition and the women's. In the men's junior varsity race the 1st place athlete finished their 2k with a time of 6:26. In the women's jr varsity race the 1st place athlete finished with a time of 7:30. Not only is there over a 1 minute gap between the top place finishers but if the first place female athlete was placed in the men's category she would have placed 36th. To put this into perspective at the NCAA championship regatta only 20 rowers compete from each team. The enormous gap in 2k scores alone would easily place a biological male athlete in contention for a spot in that top 20 if allowed on a women's team.

We see this gap once again when looking at the results for the 2022 Ned Reeb Invitational, a highly competitive swim meet where high schoolers across the state of Ohio compete each December. In the 100 freestyle the top male finisher had a time 5 seconds faster than the top place female. Five seconds may not seem like a lot, but that five second gap would have put the first place female in 30th place if she were to compete against the men. To put these numbers into perspective only 32 competitors of each event make it to the state meet each year, if one of those top 30 males were competing against the women he would be standing on the top tier of the podium, replacing a woman.

When looking at swimming or rowing the numbers do not lie, women's sports need a clear and defining line to keep the playing field fair. The athletic scholarship opportunities for women's varsity athletic sports are limited, and young girls should not have to be concerned that their opportunity to compete and receive higher education could potentially be snatched up by a biological male. As a parent to two young girls I want the peace of mind knowing that my own daughters will be able to pursue their athletic goals without coming up against a biological male.

I believe the next step to protect women in sports is to pass HB 6. The inherent physical differences between biological males and females affects their athletic performance. Transgender girls are biological men, and they will still be able to compete on men's

sports teams. This division between biological sexes in sport allows women's sports to remain a safe place for our daughters to pursue their dreams on a level playing field in the state of Ohio.

Thank you, committee, for allowing me to testify today.