



April 18, 2023

Ohio House of Representatives  
Columbus, Ohio

RE: OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 6

Dear Representatives,

I am the father of three adult children and grandfather to 4 beautiful granddaughters, and the treasurer of PFLAG Cleveland, a local chapter of the National nonprofit organization. PFLAG is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. Our chapter has been active in this effort in the Greater Cleveland area since 1985. Each year of my involvement, I encounter scores of new parents who share their personal stories of their children's gender identity. Whether a child or an adult, each family begins with its fears of harm that could come to them. Our support group, led by volunteer social workers and a psychologist help these families move from fears and overt threats from uncaring individuals, to acceptance and love. These families and the LGBTQ+ individuals need our collective help, not government interference leading to legislative discrimination and hatred.

Therefore, I write to oppose HB6 which would ban trans athletes from participation in organized school sports. In my opinion, I believe this proposed ban would be harmful to young, gender-diverse students and the families that love them.

I urge members of the House to reject this bill based upon the harm it will bring to a minority population in Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Thomson".

Art Thomson  
Treasurer, PFLAG Cleveland



PFLAG Cleveland c/o 615 Prospect Rd., Berea, OH 44017  
mail@pflagcleveland.org

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: APRIL 18, 2023

Name: ARTHUR L. THOMSON

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): PFLAG CLEVELAND

Position/Title: TREASURER

Address: 2332 DELAWARE DR

City: CLEV. HTS State: OH Zip: 44106

Best Contact Telephone: 216.502.7891 Email: THOMSON.ART@GM

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

## Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 6 TRANS ATHLETE BAN

Specific Issue: "

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person  Written-Only

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? ≤ 1 MIN

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

SEE ATTACHED