

Opponent Testimony for HB6
House Higher Education Committee
April 17, 2023

Carol Rackley, Mom and Teacher

Chairman Young, Representative Powell, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Carol Rackley. I am a wife, mom to two girls and a teacher. I am testifying today as an opponent of HB6 and I wish to share my concerns over this bill. As a mother of two girls my first concern is how this bill will be enforced and as a teacher my second concern is what negative consequences will this inflict on our LGBTQ+ youth.

As a mother, I instill in my two daughters the idea of being fierce and taking up space in this world. I encourage them to pursue their passions without worry about what others will think. My oldest is a theater kid and plays in the band. My youngest has a passion for athletics and animals. As my youngest daughter gets older and begins to excel in sports I worry about what a bill like this might do to her. I see the magic that takes place when a child becomes great at a sport but most sports must be played in competition with others. As she begins to outshine her competition, I fear that a bill like this will be used against her and put her at greater risk.

I am terrified that if this bill continues to be pushed my daughter will be in greater danger. How do you enforce a bill like this? If someone claims my daughter isn't a girl because they are mad that she beat them in the match, how will my child be protected? This bill is basically proposing that we do genitalia checks on our athletes. This does NOT make me feel safer and does NOT make me feel like we are saving women's sports. This bill is taking agency away from women and their bodies and trying to regulate them.

As a teacher, I see all the trauma that can come with being a trans person in a binary world. My students are not trying to become the shining star of a sports team, most of them are just trying to figure out this world and how they fit into it. Being rejected over and over again comes with the territory of being part of the LGBTQ+ community, so having a group of teammates can heal many of those wounds and begin to bring my students into caring relationships. I fear that a bill like this will take away what might be the only strong sense of self and community some of my students have.

I would ask that this bill be voted down as this does not make anyone safer. I cannot believe that anyone who cares about our student athletes could vote for this bill and the genitalia checks on student athletes that will come along with this bill.

Thank you, Carol Rackley