

Hi there.

I work and live here in Columbus, Ohio. I've done so for the past 6 years now, and I've been a resident of Ohio all my life. I am writing today to express my opposition to HB6.

I feel like all House legislative initiatives should be under the utmost scrutiny these days. The Householder conviction has reduced my confidence to near zero.

It has been accurately reported that Gary Click didn't consult any actual trans people for his HB454. ([https://urldefense.com/v3/https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2022/07/13/ohio-rep-behind-bill-limiting-transgender-care-had-never-spoken-to-community/!!AC6e5FAR!1urahCZTEjwQkq-zekH-77lxJM6welFi8Wa-sMshBlieBAG9zzTgcxtwCR7RTZUxsyIQB3o4dWOaGAWTFXciHAEoAju983Jdvw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2022/07/13/ohio-rep-behind-bill-limiting-transgender-care-had-never-spoken-to-community/!!AC6e5FAR!1urahCZTEjwQkq-zekH-77lxJM6welFi8Wa-sMshBlieBAG9zzTgcxtwCR7RTZUxsyIQB3o4dWOaGAWTFXciHAEoAju983Jdvw$))

A bill that has been resubmitted as HB 68 for this session (<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb68>)

With the Householder conviction and the evidence of bills being put forth with no actual impacted community consultation, why would I believe any more thought, care, or concern has been put into HB6?

Life is inherently non-binary. Many cultures have ancient histories of non-binary expression. The Hijra's of India, the Muxes of Oaxaca, and the Mahu of Hawaii, just to name a few.

(<https://rpl.hds.harvard.edu/religion-context/case-studies/gender/third-gender-and-hijras>) (<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/muxes-mexico-gender-binary-cec/index.html#:~:text=Muxes%2C%20a%20group%20long%20recognized,deeply%20entrenched%20in%20Western%20society.>) (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/hawaii-museum-revisits-history-gender-fluid-healers-rcna37284>)

This bill is proposed as "saving women's sports". That's an inherently antagonistic lens, casting the problem as all these 'legislative saviors' "saving" women's sports from transgender people. How can we ever actually move forward with love and acceptance when the very language and framing of the current legislature casts transgender individuals as the "enemy"? They are people, we all are people, pride is for everyone.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association and NCAA have policies in place to ensure that sports are fair and accessible to all. I believe the current Ohio High School Athletic Association and NCAA policies are reasonable.

(<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/TransgenderPolicy.pdf>)

Ohio is a step ahead of the most authoritarian states in this union. The current policies on participating in women's sport are reasonably fair when considering Ohio's current level of access to gender affirming youth healthcare.

Studies show that estrogen has a significant impact on the body and its ability to perform physical actions

([https://urldefense.com/v3/https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33648944/!!AC6e5FAr!1urahCZTEjwQkq-zekH-77lxJM6welFi8Wa-sMshBlieBAG9zzTgcxtwCR7RTZUxsyIQB3o4dWOaGAwTFXciHAEoAivseMUbuw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33648944/!!AC6e5FAr!1urahCZTEjwQkq-zekH-77lxJM6welFi8Wa-sMshBlieBAG9zzTgcxtwCR7RTZUxsyIQB3o4dWOaGAwTFXciHAEoAivseMUbuw$)).

It's stated in the study that there was some retention of strength capacity, but here's the thing. This study was done on adults. If transgender youth had access to knowledge and care that allowed them to grow into themselves the way that's right for them, by which I mean hormone therapy, puberty blockers, and the other medically accepted safe tools to allow a young person to grow according to their gender identity, then this whole issue would be moot.

Young transgender people provided access to the appropriate medical options would be able to grow in accordance with the already reasonable OHSAA and NCAA policies. There is no need for HB6 or anything like it if trans youth healthcare is protected in Ohio and the OHSAA and NCAA continue to utilize their current policies.

There's a larger issue here though. I believe it is intended that HB 6 pass and pave the way for HB 68. The two bills, and what they open the doors for, seek to completely erase transness, queerness, and eventually homosexuality broadly, all together, let alone just from sports.

I can appreciate that the above statement could be categorized and dismissed as hysteric so allow me to point to the fresh Missouri AG Bailey's emergency regulation, effective April 27 and expiring next year, bans transgender people of all ages in Missouri from accessing gender-affirming health care without having exhibited three years of a "medically documented, long-lasting, persistent and intense pattern of gender dysphoria" while also requiring health care providers to ensure annually that a patient's gender identity is not being influenced by social media or their peers. In addition, those seeking access to gender-affirming health care must also be screened for autism, and any existing comorbidities like anxiety and depression must be "treated and resolved" before treatment is administered. (<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/3949521-missouri-ag-issues-emergency-order-restricting-gender-affirming-health-care/#:~:text=Under%20Bailey's%20emergency%20regulation%2C%20which,intense%20pattern%20of%20gender%20dysphoria.%E2%80%9D>)

The requirements are obviously written by a group that did not consult any actual trans people. Anxiety and depression are direct results of gender dysphoria, notably in places where transness and queerness are painted in an inherently antagonistic lens.

(<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/gender-dysphoria/#:~:text=Gender%20dysphoria%20is%20a%20term,harmful%20impact%20on%20daily%20life.>)

So no, I do not believe it is appropriate to dismiss the obvious cause and effect of bills like HB6 and HB68 as slippery-slope fallacy. There is a clear precedent of moving from

small transgender youth bans to larger wholesale trans bans. I don't think I need to describe the logical end point of these initiatives, but it certainly isn't acknowledging that trans people are people, and that all people need love, care, support, and acceptance.

Ohio is reasonably a step ahead of the most authoritarian states in this union. The Ohio High School Athletic Association and NCAA policies on participating in women's sport are reasonably fair when considering Ohio's current level of access to trans youth healthcare. They too could become cruel shams of policy depending on things like HB68 coming to pass.

Don't let Ohio become one of the worst places in the union to be a young person, let alone a young trans person. If HB6 passes we all know that HB 68 is not far behind and what does that make us? One of the most dangerous places to be a youth, because every youth is entitled to their own identity, transgender or otherwise.

Thank you for your time.