

Members of the committee,

My name is Jace and I am a transgender lifelong resident here in Ohio. I am writing to you today in opposition of House Bill 6, AKA the "Save Women's Sports Act." In the bill proposed, it outlines:

"If a participant's sex is disputed, the participant shall establish the participant's sex by presenting a signed physician's statement indicating the participant's sex based upon only the following:

- (1) The participant's internal and external reproductive anatomy;
- (2) The participant's normal endogenously produced levels of testosterone;
- (3) An analysis of the participant's genetic makeup."

These proposed rules to enforce this bill are invasive, unconstitutional, and unsafe. First and foremost, considering the participants "internal and external reproductive anatomy" is an incredibly disturbing idea, especially if the participants in question are children? How might this policy rule play out in reality? Trans and nonbinary people are already at a higher risk ("over four times more likely", according to the UCLA School of Law Williams Institute) than their cisgender peers of being sexually assaulted. How many transgender children may be assaulted by their physicians or other providers (such as a school nurse) to verify this information?

Furthermore, submitted lab results from blood drawn have no grounds to be shared with sports teams and coaches. This is an invasive and insensitive process, and is designed specifically to discourage people from participating in sports. I would like you to consider that there are many reasons why a person may produce "unusual" levels of one hormone or the other, such as predetermined medical conditions such as PCOS (which may result in unusually high testosterone levels in women) or being born intersex. Will this policy also exclude intersex women who have been socialized in circles with women and girls who have no genetic conditions?

I also ask you to consider: for every one (1) participant who is discouraged at competing against another athlete who may have "an advantage", how many would be discouraged to compete when they're told that their friends can't play on the same team anymore?

Does this bill also plan on excluding cisgender participants and teams who may have other “advantages” over their cisgender opponents, such as extra training and practice times, higher metabolism and protein intake, naturally longer or narrower limbs, or quicker reaction times?

Section E of this bill also proposes “Any participant who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers a direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation of this section shall have a private cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, and any other relief available against the school, school district, interscholastic conference, or organization that regulates interscholastic athletics.” This section seems to me to be an excuse for cisgender women to file legal complaints against their transgender peers for no reason other than being trans.

There is no substantial evidence to support that transgender women are better athletes than their cisgender peers, especially in sports such as track and field or cycling. Such as in the case of Hannah Arensman in New York, who “said in her last race, in the elite women’s division of the UCI Cyclocross National Championships in late December, she ‘came in 4th place, flanked on either side by male riders awarded 3rd and 5th places.’” (From the New York Post.)

If Arensman lost to one (1) trans cyclist in the third place in this race, we can deduce that she lost to two other cisgender women who came in first and second place in the race. This also means that she was, in fact, in a winning position over at least one (1) transgender cyclist. Purely from a statistical standpoint, Arensman is still a top performer in her field, and her transgender peers are factually fair competitors for a woman of her skill level. Arensman had been more likely to have lost to an athlete of another race than losing to a transgender athlete, statistically speaking. Will these statistics vary drastically when compared to other competitions and athletes? Highly unlikely.

Another point I raise to you is to consider the context in which this bill is being proposed. Transgender people are under attack in this country right now, when we have committed no wrong except existing in the public eye. This outbreak of anti-transgender legislation is likened to anti-homosexuality laws of the pre-80s and 90s, designed to keep people from living their most authentic and safest lives. These laws and this rise in anti-trans rhetoric and actions against my community can be likened to Jim Crow laws and the events of the Holocaust. They are targeting an incredibly vulnerable group of people who are already suffering daily. They mean to dehumanize us and other us, as if we are not humans with hearts and minds and souls,

who deserve to live freely and love freely just as everybody else does. Transgender people are also at a statistically higher risk for suicide than their cisgender peers. How many transgender children and adults will take their life as more trans-exclusionary legislation passes?

Please do not let the Buckeye State become an unsafe place for people like me – especially for children like me.

Thank you for your time, and please vote with your hearts for the best interest of the Ohio people.